

November 29, 2002

Dear Student:

As the end of the semester approaches, we are interested in your opinions about your educational experience this semester. We are systematically surveying all learning community students. Results from this study will be used to improve the student experience at Iowa State University. Please provide us with this important information by completing and returning the enclosed survey.

We know that your time is valuable. To thank you for participating in this study, we would like to enter your name in a drawing for one of five **\$100.00 prizes**. We will randomly select **five winners** from all those who complete and return a survey by December 13, 2002. Only those individuals who complete and return the survey will be included in the drawing. Your odds of winning will be approximately 1 in 700. You will be notified by mail, email, or phone if you have won the \$100.00 prize. The drawing will be held on December 18, 2002. You should receive notification between December 18 and December 20, 2002.

Please help us out by completing the enclosed survey. If you are willing to participate;

- **Remove** the General Purpose Answer Sheet from this packet;
- **Write** your University ID on the ISU Undergraduate Education Survey in the space provided and on the General Purpose Answer Sheet beginning with the first box of the Identification Number section (there will be one box left empty);
- **Fill-in** the appropriate circle on the answer sheet in the column below each box;
- **Darken** with a number 2 pencil the corresponding circle on the answer sheet indicating the one answer you select for each question;
- **Record** on the survey itself your written answers for the questions on the back page.

Your University ID is needed only to link this survey to demographic information not obtained from the survey. Your identity and individual responses will be kept confidential and only group data will be reported. You can withdraw from the study at any time. The survey should take approximately 25 minutes to complete.

Please return the survey to your Learning Community Coordinator or person administering the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Cook via phone (294-2545) or email (mcook@iastate.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation. Results from this study may highlight and identify ways we can improve student experiences at Iowa State!

Sincerely,

Howard N. Shapiro
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs

Teresa Branch
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

ISU Undergraduate Education Survey

Record the information requested below in the space provided

University ID: _____

Items 1-28. Listed below are a number of knowledge and ability domains related to your education at Iowa State University. Please rate your current level of skill functioning in each domain using the scale below.

Very Weak 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Very Strong

1. Knowledge of university policies and procedures relevant to undergraduate students
2. Knowledge of university resources for undergraduate students (e.g., Academic Success Center, Student Counseling Center, etc.)
3. Knowledge in your anticipated discipline or field of study
4. Knowledge of career choices and options in your anticipated discipline or field of study
5. Knowledge of other cultures and/or ethnic groups
6. Ability to produce well-written term papers that would receive a grade of "B+" or better
7. Ability to write the types of technical, critical, review, or creative papers typical for your discipline with a grade of "B+" or better
8. Ability to edit a document or paper for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
9. Ability to analyze and evaluate ideas systematically and critically from different perspectives
10. Ability to apply academic knowledge and reason to current problems
11. Ability to think of different ways to solve problems
12. Ability to work cooperatively and productively with others
13. Ability to effectively listen to others enabling you to clearly understand what is being said and reflect that understanding back to the speaker
14. Ability to interact with others and contribute to group discussions
15. Ability to put team goals above your own personal goals
16. Ability to make formal class presentations
17. Ability to argue a point of view assertively
18. Ability to persuade others to follow your lead
19. Ability to effectively and comfortably interact with people from other cultures or ethnic groups
20. Ability to speak up when you see bigotry
21. Ability to accept religious differences
22. Ability to manage your time effectively
23. Ability to prioritize tasks to be performed for a project
24. Ability to coordinate multiple concurrent tasks or projects
25. Ability to study effectively
26. Ability to inspire others through your leadership
27. Ability to bring people with different viewpoints together to cooperate on a project
28. Ability to facilitate group interactions

Items 29 - 35. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements by using the following rating scale.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Strongly Agree

- 29. I was able to see connections among my classes (e.g., learning in one class supported or augmented learning in another class)
- 30. I was able to see connections between personal experiences and class learning
- 31. I was able to earn high grades in classes
- 32. My professors had high expectations for me
- 33. I better understand the nature of my anticipated major
- 34. I have had experiences this semester that "fit together" in helping me meet my goals as a student
- 35. I have received prompt feedback about my progress in classes

Items 36 - 48. Please indicate your degree of satisfaction this semester on each of the following dimensions.

Strongly Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Strongly Satisfied

- 36. Opportunities to interact closely with faculty
- 37. Level of individual support, encouragement, or advice from faculty members
- 38. Opportunities to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds
- 39. Opportunities to participate in a department club, residence government, or other organization
- 40. Opportunities to work collaboratively with other students on class projects
- 41. Opportunities to develop or participate in study groups
- 42. Opportunities to apply learning to real world problems
- 43. Opportunities to practice the skills you are learning or have learned
- 44. Overall quality of instruction that you received this semester
- 45. Overall quality of your classmates
- 46. Availability of your academic advisor
- 47. Helpfulness of your academic advisor
- 48. Overall experiences at Iowa State

Items 49 - 57. During the fall semester, how many hours per week did you spend on the following activities?

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 = 0 hours | 5 = 7 to 8 hours | 9 = 15 to 16 hours |
| 2 = 1 to 2 hours | 6 = 9 to 10 hours | 10 = 17 or more hours |
| 3 = 3 to 4 hours | 7 = 11 to 12 hours | |
| 4 = 5 to 6 hours | 8 = 13 to 14 hours | |

- 49. Classes and labs
- 50. Studying alone

- 51. Studying in groups
- 52. Talking with your advisor
- 53. Talking with instructors outside of class
- 54. Community service/volunteer work
- 55. Recreational/social activities
- 56. Leadership activities
- 57. Paid work

Items 58 – 60. For each learning community dimension described in items 58 through 60, record your satisfaction on the answer sheet, using the scale below.

Very Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Strongly Satisfied

- 58. Overall learning community experience
- 59. Social activities in the learning community
- 60. Peer mentor (If did not have a peer mentor, choose 10 for your response)

Items 61- 62. On the answer sheet, record the one answer you select for items 61 and 62. If the other option is selected, please darken the corresponding circle on the answer sheet and write your answer in the space provided below.

- 61. Of the following, who had the greatest impact on your decision to join a learning community?
 - a. Iowa State representative who visited my high school
 - b. High school guidance counselor
 - c. Academic Adviser at Iowa State
 - d. Friend
 - e. Parent/Guardian
 - f. Other (Please specify): _____

- 62. Which of the following promotional materials was most effective in informing you about Iowa State learning communities?
 - a. Correspondence from department or college
 - b. Learning Community brochure
 - c. Learning Community Website
 - d. Admissions CD
 - e. Display at Experience Iowa State (EIS)
 - f. Display at Orientation
 - g. Other (Please specify): _____

Please continue to the back page.

Respond to the following questions in the space provided.

A. What was your greatest success or positive academic experience this semester?

B. What was your greatest difficulty or negative academic experience this semester?

C. Why did you choose to join a learning community?

D. What was the most satisfying aspect of your learning community?

E. What was the most disappointing aspect of your learning community?

Thanks!