

FALL 1999 FACULTY ACTIVITY SURVEY

The Office of Institutional Research at James Madison University conducts a survey of faculty activity every other year. While minor changes have been made to the survey forms from year to year, essentially the same information has been collected since 1972. Information from these surveys has been used for a variety of purposes, including accreditation studies, support of grant applications, and the clarification of the public's understanding of faculty workload and responsibilities. Fall 1999 was the first time the survey was conducted online instead of by paper/pencil.

Full-time faculty and all other individuals who taught a course for credit were asked to complete the Fall 1999 survey. The Office of Institutional Research identified a total of 641 full-time faculty as being eligible for inclusion in the survey. Of these, 457 returned usable survey forms for a response rate of 71 percent, down significantly from the 86 percent reporting in 1997. See Table 1 and Table 2 for summaries for full-time faculty.

Full-time faculty reported an average of 55.1 weekly hours of activity, essentially the same as the 55.2 in 1997. Departmental means with five or more faculty reporting ranged from a low of 43.1 to a high of 67.7 weekly hours. The average number of weekly hours devoted to direct contact with students in class meetings was 9.0 (10.0 in 1997) and the average number of hours spent in preparing for class was 17.0 (15.2 in 1997). This equates to about 1.9 hours of preparation for each hour spent in the classroom compared to 1.5 in 1997.

Faculty reported an average of 12.9 hours (up from 11.7 in 1997) for other instructional activities including other contact activities, pedagogical development, and advising and counseling. Faculty reported an average of 3.5 hours in other contact activities such as individual study supervision, review sessions, thesis and dissertation advising, supervision of graduate student research, and supervising internships and student teachers. Faculty spent an average of 3.8 hours in pedagogical development, including curriculum development, mentoring junior faculty and teaching assistants, and activities related to enhancing their own teaching effectiveness. Faculty spent an average of 5.6 hours in advising and counseling, including office hours, academic program advising, writing recommendation letters, and non-credit instruction. Overall, instructional activities consumed 38.9 hours per week (36.9 in 1997), or 70.1 percent (66.9 in 1997).

The proportion of time being devoted to research, professional development, and scholarly activities by full-time faculty was down from 17.2 percent in 1997 to 14.1 percent in the Fall 1999 survey. The 14.1 percent reported this year was down from 19.9 percent in 1987, which was the highest proportion reported thus far. Prior to this year's survey, the percent of hours devoted to research, professional development, and scholarly activity has been relatively consistent for more than ten years. Faculty reported an average of 0.9 hours per week devoted to research, 1.8 hours devoted to professional development, and 5.0 hours devoted to scholarly activity.

The proportion of time faculty devoted to public service and student support, 2.7 and 1.2 percent respectively, was essentially the same as in 1997 (2.6 and 1.4 percent respectively), while the

proportion of time spent for academic support dropped from 7.1 percent in 1997 to 5.6 in 1999. At the same time, a large increase was seen in the proportion of time spent on institutional support (6.4 percent in 1999 versus 4.8 percent in 1997).

An additional 103 (of 236 or 43.6%) individuals with faculty responsibilities returned usable survey forms. Of these, 52 (down from 129 in 1997) were part-time faculty who averaged 6.8 (compared to 7.0 in 1997) weekly hours of direct contact with students in class meetings. The 34 administrators (up from 16) who responded to the survey spent 47.7 (up from 31.3 in 1997) percent of their time in instructional activities. Classified staff (N=5) reported spending an average of 53.3 percent of their time on instructional activities and part-time instructors reported an average of 77.9 percent devoted to instructional activities. Overall other personnel with instructional responsibilities reported an average of 45.5 weekly hours of activity.

The distribution of effort in average hours per week and the percentage distribution of effort for full-time faculty and for other personnel are indicated in the tables that follow this narrative. See Table 4 and Table 5 for summaries for all other reporting staff.

**TABLE 1
HISTORICAL TRENDS IN FACULTY ACTIVITY SURVEY**

Year	Instruction	Research/ Scholarly Activity	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support
1972	68.9	5.6	2.5			
1974	65.1	10.4	4.5			
1975	58.2	11.8	1.9			
1976	62.8	13.9	4.0			
1977	61.8	14.1	3.9			
1978	62.5	15.9	4.1			
1979	61.4	16.6	4.2			
1980	61.7	15.9	4.1			
1981	62.7	15.9	4.1			
1982	62.9	16.3	4.0			
1983	62.3	16.2	4.7			
1984	61.7	17.3	4.2			
1985	59.7	17.9	4.6			
1986	58.9	17.8	4.4			
1987	57.4	19.9	4.1			
1988	60.3	17.5	3.5	8.5	3.2	7.0
1991	61.9	17.6	3.3	7.9	2.9	6.3
1993	62.0	18.4	3.3	9.1	1.9	5.2
1995	62.1	18.7	2.8	9.0	2.1	5.3
1997	66.9	17.2	2.6	7.1	1.4	4.8
1999	70.1	14.1	2.7	5.6	1.2	6.4

Questions regarding this and previous faculty activity surveys should be referred to the James Madison University Office of Institutional Research (540) 568-6830 or ASK_OIR@JMU.EDU.

**TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT BY COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT
FOR FULL-TIME FACULTY
IN AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK, FALL 1999**

College	Number Respondents	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/ Professional Development	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Grand Total
Arts & Letters	151	10.8	19.3	13.2	43.3	9.8	1.1	2.8	1.0	2.2	60.2
Business	70	8.7	18.3	10.9	37.9	8.4	2.6	2.9	1.5	3.4	56.7
Education & Psychology	65	9.1	15.4	15.3	39.8	6.3	2.0	3.9	0.7	3.0	55.7
CISAT	92	10.3	16.9	14.0	41.2	7.5	2.0	3.5	0.6	2.0	56.7
Science & Mathematics	72	10.1	15.5	11.7	37.3	9.0	1.1	3.1	0.3	1.9	52.8
Other	7	5.2	16.6	12.1	33.9	5.4	0.4	2.2	0.0	6.5	48.3
University	457	9.0	17.0	12.9	38.9	7.7	1.5	3.0	0.7	3.2	55.1

**TABLE 3
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT
FOR FULL-TIME FACULTY
BY COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT, FALL 1999**

College	Number Respondents	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/ Professional Development	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Grand Total
Arts & Letters	151	18.0	32.0	21.8	71.8	16.2	1.9	4.6	1.7	3.7	100.0
Business	70	15.5	32.3	19.3	67.0	15.0	4.2	5.2	2.4	6.1	100.0
Education & Psychology	65	16.3	27.4	27.3	71.1	11.5	3.6	7.0	1.3	5.5	100.0
CISAT	92	17.8	29.5	24.8	72.2	13.7	3.3	6.2	1.0	3.6	100.0
Science & Mathematics	72	19.3	29.3	22.1	70.7	17.1	2.2	5.9	0.6	3.5	100.0
Other	7	10.2	33.9	23.6	67.7	11.1	0.7	4.6	0.0	15.8	100.0
University	457	16.2	30.7	23.2	70.1	14.1	2.7	5.6	1.2	6.4	100.0

**TABLE 4
DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT IN AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK:
OTHER PERSONNEL WITH INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, FALL 1999**

Type	Number Respondents	Class Contact	Class Preparation	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/ Professional Development	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Grand Total
Administrator	34	4.8	8.9	11.7	25.4	5.2	2.0	9.4	0.6	10.6	53.2
Classified Staff	5	5.6	6.8	13.2	25.6	4.4	0.4	8.8	0.6	8.2	48.0
Military Science Staff	2	7.5	20.0	5.0	32.5	7.0	2.0	2.5	0.0	2.0	46.0
Part-Time Instructor	52	9.0	15.3	8.2	32.5	5.3	2.5	0.6	0.2	0.7	41.8
Other	10	6.9	11.6	9.4	27.9	5.2	0.7	3.2	0.2	1.4	38.6
Total	103	6.8	12.5	9.5	28.8	5.4	1.5	4.9	0.3	4.6	45.5

**TABLE 5
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT:
OTHER PERSONNEL WITH INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, FALL 1999**

Type	Number Respondents	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/ Professional Development	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Grand Total
Administrator	34	9.0	16.7	22.0	47.7	9.8	3.8	17.7	1.1	19.9	100.0
Classified Staff	5	11.7	14.2	27.5	53.3	9.2	0.8	18.3	1.3	17.1	100.0
Military Science Staff	2	16.3	43.5	10.9	70.7	15.2	4.3	5.4	0.0	4.3	100.0
Part-Time Instructor	52	21.6	36.6	19.6	77.8	12.7	6.0	1.4	0.4	1.6	100.0
Other	10	17.9	30.1	24.4	72.3	13.5	1.8	8.3	0.5	3.6	100.0
Total	103	15.3	28.2	20.9	64.4	12.1	3.3	10.2	0.7	9.3	100.0