



RESEARCH NOTES

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FACULTY ACTIVITY SURVEY SUMMARY FALL 2001

The Office of Institutional Research at James Madison University conducts every other year a survey of faculty activity. 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, the SACS self-study, support of grant applications, and the clarification of the public's understanding of faculty workload and responsibilities.

Full-time faculty and all other individuals who taught a course for credit completed the Fall 2001 survey. The Office of Institutional Research identified a total of 663 full-time faculty as being eligible for inclusion in the survey. Of these, 589 returned usable survey forms for a response rate of 89 percent, a significant improvement from 71 percent in 1999 and 86 percent in 1997. This was the second year the survey was conducted online.

Full-time faculty reported an average of 54.2 weekly hours of activity, slightly down from 55.1 in 1999 (See tables 1, 6 and 7). In Fall 1985 the average was 52.4 hours. Departmental means ranged from a low of 45.7 to a high of 60.4 weekly hours. The average number of weekly hours devoted to direct contact with students in class meetings was 10.0 (11.4 in 1985) and the average number of hours spent in preparing for class was 15.7 (15.3 in 1985). This equates to about 1.6 hours of preparation for each hour spent in the classroom. In 1997 the survey was modified to more clearly delineate instructional activity beyond class meetings and preparation for class. Faculty reported an average of 3.2 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 3.4 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 37.9 hours per week (31.3 in 1985), or 70.0 percent (59.8 in 1985).

The proportion of time devoted to research, professional development, and scholarly activities by full-time faculty was down from 18.7 percent in 1995 to 16.0 percent in the Fall 2001 survey. In Fall 1985 the percentage devoted to research, professional development, and scholarly activities was 17.9. However, some of the decline in research, professional development, and scholarly activities may be due to the fact that the proportion of full-time faculty whose rank is instructor has increased from 5.5 percent in 1995 to 9.9 percent in 2001, and instructors typically devote the majority of their time to instruction. As a group, professors, associate professors, and assistant professors devoted 17.0 percent of their time to these activities. Professional development of faculty is part of the University's planning priorities. For the third time we asked faculty to report the average number of hours spent in professional development. The average full-time faculty member spent 1.6 hours (3.0 percent of total time) per week in professional development. The percent of hours devoted to research, professional development, and scholarly activity has been relatively consistent for more than ten years; however, it has moved up from 5.6 percent of reported time in 1972.

For the first time, an analysis was made of the average hours and percent of effort by academic rank (tables 4 and 5). Professors tend to spend a higher percentage of their time in Academic Support and Institutional Support. This is to be expected because department heads tend to be Professors and spend more time in managing the departments and working on committees. Also as expected, instructors tend to spend the vast majority of their time on instructional activities (83.8 percent). Instructors are hired to teach and typically do not have research and scholarly activity expectations.

An additional 147 individuals with faculty responsibilities returned usable survey forms (See tables 8 and 9). Of these, 79 were part-time faculty who averaged 8.0 weekly hours of direct contact with students in class meetings and 24.6 hours in all instructional activities. The 38 administrators who responded to the survey spent an average of 3.5 hours per week in direct contact with students in class meetings and 20.2 hours per week in instructional activities.

Questions regarding this and previous faculty activity surveys should be deferred to the James Madison University Office of [Institutional Research](#).

TABLE 1
AVERAGE HOURS BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Year	Respondents	Class Meet	Class Prep.	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Total
1976	369	11.8	17.1	5.5	34.4	7.6	2.2	4.6	3.3	2.7	54.8
1978	403	12.2	17.2	4.8	34.2	8.7	2.2	4.5	1.8	3.2	54.6
1981	421	12.0	16.3	4.5	32.8	8.3	2.2	4.1	1.9	3.0	52.3
1985	419	11.4	15.3	4.6	31.3	9.4	2.4	4.5	1.9	2.9	52.4
1987	437	10.7	15.1	5.0	30.9	10.7	2.2	4.9	1.8	3.4	53.8
1988	452	11.0	14.6	7.2	32.7	9.5	1.9	4.6	1.7	3.8	54.3
1991	467	10.5	17.9	5.0	33.4	9.5	1.8	4.3	1.6	3.4	54.0
1993	483	10.3	18.2	4.7	33.2	9.9	1.8	4.9	1.0	2.8	53.5
1995	493	10.6	18.1	4.6	33.3	10.0	1.5	4.8	1.1	2.9	53.7
1997 ¹	495	10.0	15.2	11.7	36.9	9.5	1.4	3.9	0.7	2.7	55.2
1999	457	9.0	17.0	12.9	38.9	7.7	1.5	3.0	0.7	3.2	55.1
2001	589	10.0	15.7	12.2	37.9	8.7	1.2	3.4	0.6	2.3	54.2

¹ A more precise definition of “Other Instruction” introduced in the 1997 survey may have resulted in the shifting of the number of hours from “Academic Support” and “Student Support” to “Other Instruction.” The revised definition allowed JMU’s data to be compared to a faculty study conducted by SCHEV.

TABLE 2**PERCENT OF TOTAL TIME BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY**

Year	Respondents	Class Meet	Class Preparation	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Total
1976	369	21.6	31.2	10.0	62.8	13.9	4.0	8.4	6.0	4.0	100.0
1978	403	22.4	31.4	8.7	62.5	15.9	4.1	8.2	3.4	5.9	100.0
1981	421	22.9	31.1	8.7	62.7	15.9	4.1	7.9	3.7	5.7	100.0
1985	419	21.8	29.2	8.8	59.8	17.9	4.6	8.6	3.6	5.5	100.0
1987	437	19.9	28.0	9.4	57.4	19.9	4.1	9.0	3.3	6.3	100.0
1988	452	20.3	26.8	13.2	60.3	17.5	3.5	8.5	3.2	7.0	100.0
1991	467	19.5	33.2	9.2	61.9	17.6	3.3	7.9	2.9	6.3	100.0
1993	483	19.2	34.0	8.8	62.0	18.4	3.3	9.1	1.9	5.2	100.0
1995	493	19.8	33.7	8.6	62.1	18.7	2.8	9.0	2.1	5.3	100.0
1997	495	18.1	27.6	21.2	66.9	17.2	2.6	7.1	1.4	4.8	100.0
1999	457	16.2	30.7	23.2	70.1	14.1	2.7	5.6	1.2	6.4	100.0
2001	589	18.5	29.0	22.5	70.0	16.0	2.3	6.3	1.1	4.3	100.0

TABLE 3**PERCENT OF TOTAL TIME BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY
BY COLLEGE, FALL 2001**

College	Respondents	Class Meet	Class Preparation	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Total
Arts & Letters	229	20.1	29.8	20.9	70.9	17.0	1.7	5.5	1.2	3.5	100.0
Business	101	17.6	30.3	20.9	68.8	16.2	2.5	5.2	1.5	5.8	100.0
Education	30	16.2	24.4	24.1	64.7	17.0	4.8	7.4	1.3	4.8	100.0
Science & Mathematics	86	18.9	28.0	22.9	69.8	17.6	1.6	7.0	0.8	3.3	100.0
Integrated Science & Technology	143	16.8	28.1	25.5	70.4	13.1	3.0	7.8	0.9	4.9	100.0
Total	589	18.5	29.0	22.5	70.0	16.0	2.3	6.3	1.1	4.3	100.0

TABLE 4**AVERAGE HOURS BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY
BY RANK, FALL 2001**

Rank	Respondents	Class Meet	Class Preparation	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Total
Professor	193	9.2	14.4	11.3	35.0	9.7	1.5	4.7	0.5	3.4	54.7
Associate Professor	150	9.8	15.3	13.5	38.6	8.2	1.5	3.8	0.5	2.5	55.1
Assistant Professor	181	10.4	16.3	12.4	39.2	9.9	0.9	2.4	0.7	1.5	54.6
Instructor	65	12.0	18.8	11.0	41.8	3.5	1.1	1.8	0.7	1.0	49.9
Total	589	10.0	15.7	12.2	37.9	8.7	1.2	3.4	0.6	2.3	54.2

TABLE 5**PERCENT OF TOTAL TIME BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY
BY RANK, FALL 2001**

Rank	Respondents	Class Meet	Class Preparation	Other Instruction	Total Instruction	Research/Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Institutional Support	Total
Professor	193	16.9	26.4	20.7	63.9	17.7	2.7	8.7	0.9	6.1	100.0
Associate Professor	150	17.8	27.8	24.5	70.1	14.8	2.7	6.9	1.0	4.5	100.0
Assistant Professor	181	19.0	29.9	22.8	71.8	18.2	1.6	4.3	1.3	2.8	100.0
Instructor	65	24.0	37.7	22.1	83.8	6.9	2.3	3.5	1.4	2.1	100.0
Total	589	18.5	29.0	22.5	70.0	16.0	2.3	6.3	1.1	4.3	100.0

TABLE 6

**DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT BY COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT
IN AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK, FALL 2001**

	No.	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instr.	Total Instr.	Research/ Prof. Dev./	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Instit. Support	Grand Total
Collage of Arts and Letters											
English Department	20	10.3	22.9	8.9	(42.1)	8.2	0.5	1.5	0.3	1.7	54.6
Foreign Language Dept	13	10.5	13.6	12.1	(36.2)	11.7	1.1	4.3	0.3	1.2	54.7
History Department	25	9.9	18.4	11.9	(40.2)	12.0	1.0	2.0	0.7	2.2	58.1
Phil and Rel Dept	16	8.6	15.4	8.1	(32.1)	12.4	0.9	2.5	0.4	2.7	51.0
Political Sci Dept	12	10.0	15.8	10.6	(36.4)	11.8	1.0	2.8	0.2	2.3	54.4
Sch Art & Art Hist	24	12.2	15.0	14.9	(42.0)	10.8	1.0	3.9	0.7	2.0	60.4
Sch Media Arts	19	8.9	17.7	9.9	(36.6)	6.4	1.0	3.4	1.1	2.1	50.6
Sch of Comm Studies (COMM)	20	11.4	17.4	11.5	(40.3)	5.8	1.2	2.4	1.4	1.2	52.2
Sch Of Music	31	15.8	11.4	12.6	(39.8)	10.3	1.4	3.3	0.5	2.7	58.0
Sch Theatr & Danc	11	10.3	11.4	11.5	(33.2)	7.8	1.4	4.5	0.7	2.0	49.6
Sociology & Anth	16	8.9	15.9	10.8	(35.6)	10.5	0.7	4.3	0.8	1.6	53.4
Tech & Science Comm	5	10.8	14.8	17.4	(43.0)	7.0	0.4	3.4	1.0	2.4	57.2
Writing Program	17	12.3	23.1	11.5	(46.9)	6.1	0.4	2.9	0.3	0.9	57.4
COLLEGE MEAN	229	11.1	16.5	11.5	(39.1)	9.4	1.0	3.1	0.6	1.9	55.2
College of Business											
College of Business-Instructn	101	9.3	16.0	11.0	(36.3)	8.5	1.3	2.8	0.8	3.1	52.7
COLLEGE MEAN	101	9.3	16.0	11.0	(36.3)	8.5	1.3	2.8	0.8	3.1	52.7
College of Education											
Sch Education	30	8.3	12.5	12.3	(33.1)	8.7	2.4	3.8	0.7	2.5	51.1
COLLEGE MEAN	30	8.3	12.5	12.3	(33.1)	8.7	2.4	3.8	0.7	2.5	51.1
College of Integrated Science and Technology											
Communication Science and Di	11	7.5	13.5	13.1	(34.2)	7.2	1.7	4.6	0.1	2.1	49.9
Computer Science	12	8.5	17.8	13.8	(40.1)	8.0	1.3	5.9	0.4	3.5	59.2
Health Science	26	8.4	15.6	12.7	(36.7)	6.4	2.1	3.2	0.5	3.1	52.0
Integrated Science and Technol	35	9.3	17.7	15.4	(42.3)	6.6	2.0	4.5	0.7	2.5	58.6
Kinesiology	11	9.5	16.6	16.6	(42.8)	5.7	1.0	4.3	0.7	3.1	57.6
Nursing Department	8	15.4	14.0	12.3	(41.6)	3.4	0.9	3.8	1.5	2.9	54.0
Psychology Dept	33	8.9	13.4	13.7	(36.1)	9.7	1.5	4.2	0.2	2.4	54.0
Social Work	7	10.7	13.7	14.0	(38.4)	7.6	1.6	4.9	0.6	2.3	55.3
COLLEGE MEAN	143	9.3	15.5	14.1	(38.9)	7.2	1.7	4.3	0.5	2.7	55.2
College of Science and Mathematics											
Biology Department	26	9.5	13.5	11.8	(34.9)	12.0	0.3	4.0	0.7	2.2	54.1
Chemistry Department	12	10.1	15.6	11.1	(36.8)	8.4	1.2	5.6	0.3	1.5	53.7
Geology	7	8.7	10.6	10.0	(29.3)	11.9	0.9	1.9	0.1	1.7	45.7
Math Dept	28	11.4	16.6	13.4	(41.4)	6.5	0.8	3.2	0.3	1.5	53.8
Physics Department	13	8.5	15.3	11.9	(35.8)	9.2	1.7	3.7	0.2	1.6	52.2
COLLEGE MEAN	86	10.0	14.8	12.1	(37.0)	9.3	0.8	3.7	0.4	1.7	53.0
UNIVERSITY MEAN	589	10.0	15.7	12.2	(37.9)	8.7	1.2	3.4	0.6	2.3	54.2

TABLE 7

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT
BY COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT, FALL 2001**

	No.	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instr.	Total Instr.	Research/ Prof Dev/ Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Instit. Support	Grand Total
College of Arts and Letters											
English Department	20	18.9	42.0	16.3	(77.2)	14.3	0.9	2.7	0.5	3.1	100.0
Foreign Language Dept	13	19.1	24.9	22.1	(66.1)	21.4	2.0	7.9	0.6	2.1	100.0
History Department	25	17.0	31.6	20.5	(69.1)	20.6	1.7	3.4	1.2	3.9	100.0
Phil and Rel Dept	16	16.9	30.1	15.9	(63.0)	24.3	1.7	4.9	0.9	5.3	100.0
Political Sci Dept	12	18.4	29.1	19.4	(66.9)	21.6	1.8	5.2	0.3	4.1	100.0
Sch Art & Art Hist	24	20.2	24.8	24.6	(69.6)	17.9	1.6	6.4	1.2	3.4	100.0
Sch Media Arts	19	17.7	35.0	19.6	(72.3)	12.6	2.0	6.8	2.2	4.2	100.0
Sch of Comm Studies (COMM)	20	21.8	33.4	22.1	(77.2)	11.1	2.3	4.6	2.6	2.2	100.0
Sch Of Music	31	27.3	19.6	21.8	(68.7)	17.7	2.4	5.6	0.9	4.7	100.0
Sch Theatr & Danc	11	20.7	22.9	23.3	(66.8)	15.8	2.7	9.2	1.5	4.0	100.0
Sociology & Anth	16	16.6	29.7	20.3	(66.6)	19.7	1.3	8.0	1.4	3.0	100.0
Tech & Science Comm	5	18.9	25.9	30.4	(75.2)	12.2	0.7	5.9	1.7	4.2	100.0
Writing Program	17	21.4	40.2	20.1	(81.7)	10.6	0.6	5.1	0.5	1.5	100.0
COLLEGE MEAN	229	20.1	29.8	20.9	(70.9)	17.0	1.7	5.5	1.2	3.5	100.0
College of Business											
College of Business-Instructn	101	17.6	30.3	20.9	(68.8)	16.2	2.5	5.2	1.5	5.8	100.0
COLLEGE MEAN	101	17.6	30.3	20.9	(68.8)	16.2	2.5	5.2	1.5	5.8	100.0
College of Education											
Sch Education	30	16.2	24.4	24.1	(64.7)	17.0	4.8	7.4	1.3	4.8	100.0
COLLEGE MEAN	30	16.2	24.4	24.1	(64.7)	17.0	4.8	7.4	1.3	4.8	100.0
College of Integrated Science and Technology											
Communication Science and Di	11	15.1	27.1	26.2	(68.5)	14.4	3.5	9.3	0.2	4.2	100.0
Computer Science	12	14.4	30.1	23.2	(67.7)	13.5	2.1	10.0	0.7	5.9	100.0
Health Science	26	16.2	30.1	24.4	(70.7)	12.3	4.0	6.2	0.9	5.9	100.0
Integrated Science and Technol	35	15.8	30.2	26.3	(72.2)	11.2	3.5	7.7	1.2	4.2	100.0
Kinesiology	11	16.6	28.9	28.9	(74.3)	9.9	1.7	7.4	1.3	5.4	100.0
Nursing Department	8	28.5	25.9	22.7	(77.1)	6.3	1.6	6.9	2.8	5.3	100.0
Psychology Dept	33	16.6	24.8	25.4	(66.8)	18.0	2.7	7.7	0.3	4.5	100.0
Social Work	7	19.4	24.8	25.3	(69.5)	13.7	2.8	8.8	1.0	4.1	100.0
COLLEGE MEAN	143	16.8	28.1	25.5	(70.4)	13.1	3.0	7.8	0.9	4.9	100.0
College of Science and Mathematics											
Biology Department	26	17.6	25.0	21.9	(64.5)	22.3	0.6	7.3	1.4	4.0	100.0
Chemistry Department	12	18.8	29.0	20.7	(68.5)	15.7	2.2	10.4	0.5	2.8	100.0
Geology	7	19.1	23.1	21.9	(64.1)	25.9	1.9	4.1	0.3	3.8	100.0
Math Dept	28	21.2	31.0	24.9	(77.1)	12.2	1.5	5.9	0.6	2.8	100.0
Physics Department	13	16.3	29.3	22.8	(68.5)	17.7	3.2	7.1	0.4	3.1	100.0
COLLEGE MEAN	86	18.9	28.0	22.9	(69.8)	17.6	1.6	7.0	0.8	3.3	100.0
UNIVERSITY MEAN	589	18.5	29.0	22.5	(70.0)	16.0	2.3	6.3	1.1	4.3	100.0

TABLE 8**DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT IN AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK:
OTHER PERSONNEL WITH INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES,
FALL 2001**

	No.	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instr.	Total Instr.	Research/ Prof Dev/ Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Instit. Support	Grand Total
Administrator	38	3.5	6.2	10.5	(20.2)	4.2	3.2	4.6	2.7	11.9	46.8
Athletic Staff	2	2.0	2.0	20.5	(24.5)	0.5	0.5	0.0	30.0	1.5	57.0
Classified Staff	10	3.7	5.3	7.1	(16.1)	1.2	2.7	10.0	0.5	1.0	31.5
Graduate Teaching Assistant	10	5.3	8.5	3.7	(17.5)	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.1	18.6
Military Science Staff	4	6.3	9.3	29.0	(44.5)	2.0	0.0	1.3	2.5	1.3	51.5
On Leave	4	1.5	1.3	4.8	(7.5)	25.5	4.5	1.8	0.3	2.8	42.3
Part-Time Instructor	79	8.0	10.8	5.8	(24.6)	6.1	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	32.9

TABLE 9

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT:
OTHER PERSONNEL WITH INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES,
FALL 2001**

	No.	Class Contact	Class Prep.	Other Instr.	Total Instr.	Research/ Prof Dev/ Scholarly	Public Service	Academic Support	Student Support	Instit. Support	Grand Total
Administrator	38	7.4	13.3	22.4	(43.2)	8.9	6.7	9.8	5.8	25.5	100.0
Athletic Staff	2	3.5	3.5	36.0	(43.0)	0.9	0.9	0.0	52.6	2.6	100.0
Classified Staff	10	11.7	16.8	22.5	(51.1)	3.8	8.6	31.7	1.6	3.2	100.0
Graduate Teaching Assistant	10	28.5	45.7	19.9	(94.1)	1.6	1.1	0.0	2.7	0.5	100.0
Military Science Staff	4	12.1	18.0	56.3	(86.4)	3.9	0.0	2.4	4.9	2.4	100.0
On Leave	4	3.6	3.0	11.2	(17.8)	60.4	10.7	4.1	0.6	6.5	100.0
Part-Time Instructor	79	24.3	32.7	17.7	(74.8)	18.5	3.3	0.8	1.0	1.6	100.0