# UNI Summer School Survey 



Kristin M. Moser, Research Analyst Office of Information Management and Analysis University of Northern Iowa

441 Rod Library
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0005
(319) 273-3050

May 2004

## Table of Contents

## Page

## Section I

Introduction ..... 1
Method ..... 1
Results ..... 3
Summary of Responses
Q1 I prefer summer school courses offered (time of day) ..... 5
Q2 I prefer summer school courses offered during (month) ..... 6
Q3 My primary reason for enrolling in summer school is ..... 7
Q4 My secondary reason for enrolling in summer school is ..... 8
Q5 Financial aid is a very important part of my decision to enroll in summer school ..... 9
Q6 Local employment is a very important part of my decision to enroll in summer school ..... 10
Q7 The courses available in summer school this year meet my needs ..... 11
Q8 The time at which courses are offered this summer meets my needs ..... 12
Q9 Now that a new May summer session is offered, how useful is this session for you. ..... 13
Q10 I prefer summer school courses offered during (length of session) ..... 14
Section II
Multiple Year Comparison of Summer School Data: 2000-2004 ..... 15
List of Figures and Tables
Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by College ..... 1
Table 1: Demographic Characteristics by College ..... 2

## Section I

## Introduction

This report represents a summary of the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Summer School Survey given to students participating in advanced registration for summer school on March 10-12, 2004. The questions on the Summer School Survey were designed to help gain a better understanding of the patterns of usage of summer school courses and student's preferences for scheduling. The survey was completed by 2,685 students. On average, 537 students answered each question (see Figure 1 for the distribution of respondents by college).

Figure 1. Distribution of Respondents by College


Method
All students participating in electronic registration for Summer 2004 were presented with two paired questions randomly selected from a list of ten items prior to advancing to the registration screen during the summer registration process. Respondents were asked to specify their preferences for the summer school session at UNI by indicating the extent to which they agreed or disagreed to the survey statements on a Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Some of the items required the student to indicate a "yes" or "no" response, while others required a specific date or time selection.

Table 1 presents demographic information for student respondents to the UNI Summer School Survey. For the purposes of this study, demographic information consisted of sex, race, grade classification, residency status, and age. We were unable to obtain demographic information for some respondents. This missing data is reflected in the decreased total $N$ for each category. Throughout this report, most percentages were rounded to the nearest one tenth of a percent. Therefore, due to this rounding, the values in some of the tables may not equal precisely 100 percent.

| Table 1. Demographic Characteristics by College |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Business Admin. |  | Education |  | Humanities and Fine Arts |  | Natural Sciences |  | Social and Behavioral Sciences |  | Unknown |  | Total |  |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 319 | 52.1 | 136 | 19.0 | 115 | 27.8 | 202 | 60.3 | 127 | 26.3 | 8 | 23.5 | 907 | 35.0 |
| Female | 293 | 47.9 | 580 | 81.0 | 299 | 72.2 | 133 | 39.7 | 355 | 73.7 | 26 | 76.5 | 1686 | 65.0 |
| Total | 612 | 100 | 716 | 100 | 414 | 100 | 335 | 100 | 482 | 100 | 34 | 34 | 2593 | 100 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 or under | 2 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.6 | 4 | 1.4 | 1 | 0.3 | 2 | 9.5 | 14 | 0.7 |
| 20-23 | 429 | 86.7 | 418 | 68.9 | 268 | 78.8 | 184 | 65.7 | 311 | 78.3 | 16 | 76.2 | 1626 | 76.0 |
| 24-29 | 51 | 10.3 | 99 | 16.3 | 45 | 13.2 | 52 | 18.6 | 56 | 14.1 | 1 | 4.8 | 304 | 14.2 |
| 30-39 | 9 | 1.8 | 41 | 6.8 | 14 | 4.1 | 26 | 9.3 | 17 | 4.3 | 0 | 0 | 107 | 5.0 |
| 40-55 | 4 | 0.8 | 42 | 6.9 | 10 | 2.9 | 13 | 4.6 | 11 | 2.8 | 2 | 9.5 | 82 | 3.8 |
| Over 55 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0.3 |
| Total | 495 | 100 | 607 | 100 | 340 | 100 | 280 | 100 | 397 | 100 | 21 | 100 | 2140 | 100 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Caucasian | 557 | 93.0 | 663 | 95.3 | 351 | 89.5 | 287 | 88.9 | 411 | 90.1 | 29 | 93.5 | 2298 | 92.0 |
| African American | 13 | 2.2 | 18 | 2.6 | 18 | 4.6 | 15 | 4.6 | 25 | 5.5 | 2 | 6.5 | 91 | 3.6 |
| Native American | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.9 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0.4 |
| Asian/ Pac. Island | 7 | 1.2 | 2 | 0.3 | 10 | 2.6 | 6 | 1.9 | 5 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 1.2 |
| Hispanic | 3 | 0.5 | 8 | 1.1 | 9 | 2.3 | 7 | 2.2 | 10 | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 1.5 |
| Non-resident Alien | 17 | 2.8 | 4 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.5 | 7 | 2.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 1.2 |
| Total | 599 | 100 | 696 | 100 | 392 | 100 | 323 | 100 | 456 | 100 | 31 | 100 | 2497 | 100 |
| Classification |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Freshman | 23 | 3.8 | 23 | 3.2 | 14 | 3.4 | 19 | 5.7 | 14 | 2.9 | 12 | 35.3 | 105 | 4.0 |
| Sophomore | 95 | 15.5 | 76 | 10.6 | 65 | 15.7 | 52 | 15.5 | 75 | 15.6 | 12 | 35.3 | 375 | 14.5 |
| Junior | 245 | 40.0 | 236 | 33.0 | 143 | 34.5 | 117 | 34.9 | 207 | 42.9 | 8 | 23.5 | 956 | 36.9 |
| Senior | 245 | 40.0 | 226 | 31.6 | 149 | 36.0 | 131 | 39.1 | 167 | 34.6 | 2 | 5.9 | 920 | 35.5 |
| Graduate | 4 | 0.7 | 155 | 21.6 | 43 | 10.4 | 16 | 4.8 | 19 | 3.9 | 0 | 0 | 237 | 9.1 |
| Total | 612 | 100 | 716 | 100 | 414 | 100 | 335 | 100 | 482 | 100 | 34 | 100 | 2593 | 100 |
| Residence Status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Resident | 579 | 94.6 | 686 | 95.9 | 388 | 93.9 | 309 | 92.2 | 469 | 97.3 | 34 | 100 | 2465 | 95.1 |
| Non-Resident | 33 | 5.4 | 29 | 4.1 | 25 | 6.1 | 26 | 7.8 | 13 | 2.7 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 4.9 |
| Total | 612 | 100 | 715 | 100 | 413 | 100 | 335 | 100 | 482 | 100 | 34 | 100 | 2591 | 100 |

## Results

The subsequent summary tables and charts of responses to the survey questions show the number and the percent responding to each question broken down by college. College designation for some respondents was unavailable; therefore, some percentages reflect this missing data. A summary of data from 2000 to 2004 is also presented. The following list presents some of the key observations of the survey. Certain patterns of response may indicate a need for future examination of these relationships in the university environment. Please note that agreement is presented in terms of individuals who responded either "agree" or "strongly agree" to the survey items.

- A large number of students (63.1\%) indicated that they prefer summer school courses to be offered between 9:50 AM and 12:00 PM. The majority of the respondents (83.8\%) indicated that they prefer to attend summer school classes before 12:00 noon.
- Approximately seventy percent of all respondents (72.7\%) indicated that they prefer to take summer school courses during the month of May, while 24.3\% prefer June, and only 3.0\% prefer to take courses in July.
- The majority of respondents (72.5\%) stated that their primary reason for enrolling in a summer course was to stay on schedule.
- Well over three fourths of respondents (81.3\%) indicated that they prefer to have summer school courses offered in 4-week sessions.
- $44.3 \%$ of respondents indicated that financial aid was an important part of their decision to enroll in summer school (16.3\% agree and 28.0\% strongly agree to this statement). This is almost a five percent increase from the 2003 Summer School Survey, and almost a10\% increase from the 2002 Summer School Survey.
- Respondents indicated that local employment was an important part of their decision to enroll in summer school (51.3\%).
- 41.1\% of respondents agreed that the courses available in summer school this year met their needs, and 38.5\% agreed that the time at which summer school courses are offered this summer met their needs.
- Now that a May session is offered during the summer, 71.7\% of respondents found it useful to have this session (55.6\% of respondents found this session very useful and $16.1 \%$ of respondents found this session useful).


## Summary of Responses

Q1. I prefer summer school courses offered (time of day):

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 7:30 AM to } \\ \text { 9:40 AM } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 9:50 AM to } \\ & \text { 12:00 PM } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1:00 PM to } \\ \text { 3:20 PM } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 5:30 PM to } \\ & \text { 10:00 PM } \end{aligned}$ |  | Weekends Only |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Business <br> Administration | 28 | 21.5 | 84 | 64.6 | 11 | 8.5 | 7 | 5.4 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 100 |
| Education | 36 | 24.5 | 83 | 56.5 | 10 | 6.8 | 15 | 10.2 | 3 | 2.0 | 147 | 100 |
| Humanities and Fine Arts | 10 | 13.3 | 57 | 76.0 | 4 | 5.3 | 4 | 5.3 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 100 |
| Natural Sciences | 13 | 20.0 | 32 | 49.2 | 7 | 10.8 | 11 | 16.9 | 2 | 3.1 | 65 | 100 |
| Social and Behavioral Sci. | 20 | 22.2 | 59 | 65.6 | 8 | 8.9 | 2 | 2.2 | 1 | 1.1 | 90 | 100 |
| Unknown | 1 | 10.0 | 8 | 80.0 | 1 | 10.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 100 |
| Total | 108 | 20.9 | 323 | 62.5 | 41 | 7.9 | 39 | 7.5 | 6 | 1.2 | 517 | 100 |



Q2. I prefer summer school courses offered during (month):

|  | May |  | June |  | July |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 98 | 75.4 | 27 | 20.8 | 5 | 3.8 | 130 | 100 |
| Education | 102 | 69.4 | 40 | 27.2 | 5 | 3.4 | 147 | 100 |
| Humanities and Fine <br> Arts | 64 | 85.3 | 10 | 13.3 | 1 | 1.3 | 75 | 100 |
| Natural Sciences | 41 | 63.1 | 22 | 33.8 | 2 | 3.1 | 65 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sciences | 63 | 70.0 | 24 | 26.7 | 3 | 3.3 | 90 | 100 |
| Unknown | 8 | 80.0 | 2 | 20.0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 100 |
| Total | 376 | 72.7 | 125 | 24.2 | 16 | 3.1 | 517 | 100 |



Q3. My primary reason for enrolling in summer school is:

|  | Stay on <br> Schedule |  | Improve <br> GPA |  | Graduate <br> Early |  | New <br> Interests |  | 2nd Major <br> or Minor |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 81 | 67.5 | 9 | 7.5 | 16 | 13.3 | 7 | 5.8 | 7 | 5.8 | 120 | 100 |
| Education | 114 | 78.6 | 3 | 2.1 | 13 | 9.0 | 6 | 4.1 | 9 | 6.2 | 145 | 100 |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 61 | 77.2 | 6 | 7.6 | 10 | 12.7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2.5 | 79 | 100 |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 45 | 70.3 | 5 | 7.8 | 9 | 14.1 | 1 | 1.6 | 4 | 6.3 | 64 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 72 | 69.2 | 8 | 7.7 | 14 | 13.5 | 3 | 2.9 | 7 | 6.7 | 104 | 100 |
| Unknown | 5 | 83.3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16.7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 100 |
| Total | 378 | 73.0 | 31 | 6.0 | 63 | 12.2 | 17 | 3.3 | 29 | 5.6 | 518 | 100 |



Q4. My secondary reason for enrolling in summer school is:

|  | Stay on <br> Schedule |  | Improve <br> GPA |  | Graduate <br> Early |  | New <br> Interests |  | 2nd Major <br> or Minor |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 43 | 35.8 | 38 | 31.7 | 26 | 21.7 | 6 | 5.0 | 7 | 5.8 | 120 | 100 |
| Education | 52 | 35.9 | 28 | 19.3 | 36 | 24.8 | 9 | 6.2 | 20 | 13.8 | 145 | 100 |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 27 | 34.2 | 16 | 20.3 | 20 | 25.3 | 6 | 7.6 | 10 | 12.7 | 79 | 100 |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 25 | 39.1 | 15 | 23.4 | 18 | 28.1 | 3 | 4.7 | 3 | 4.7 | 64 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 35 | 33.7 | 24 | 23.1 | 27 | 26.0 | 6 | 5.8 | 12 | 11.5 | 104 | 100 |
| Unknown | 3 | 50.0 | 1 | 16.7 | 1 | 16.7 | 1 | 16.7 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 100 |
| Total | 185 | 35.7 | 122 | 23.6 | 128 | 24.7 | 31 | 6.0 | 52 | 10.0 | 518 | 100 |



Q5. Financial aid is a very important part of my decision to enroll in summer school.

|  | Strongly Disagree |  | Disagree |  | NoOpinion |  | Agree |  | Strongly Agree |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Business Administration | 24 | 18.8 | 14 | 10.9 | 47 | 36.7 | 19 | 14.8 | 24 | 18.8 | 128 | 100 |
| Education | 26 | 19.4 | 22 | 16.4 | 18 | 13.4 | 25 | 18.7 | 43 | 32.1 | 134 | 100 |
| Humanities and Fine Arts | 12 | 15.2 | 7 | 8.9 | 21 | 26.6 | 12 | 15.2 | 27 | 34.2 | 79 | 100 |
| Natural Sciences | 15 | 20.3 | 5 | 6.8 | 25 | 33.8 | 10 | 13.5 | 19 | 25.7 | 74 | 100 |
| Social and Behavioral Sci. | 27 | 26.2 | 6 | 5.8 | 17 | 16.5 | 19 | 18.4 | 34 | 33.0 | 103 | 100 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20.0 | 2 | 40.0 | 1 | 20.0 | 1 | 20.0 | 5 | 100 |
| Total | 104 | 19.9 | 55 | 10.5 | 130 | 24.9 | 86 | 16.4 | 148 | 28.3 | 523 | 100 |



Q6. Local employment is a very important part of my decision to enroll in summer school.

|  | Strongly <br> Disagree |  | Disagree |  | No <br> Opinion |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> Agree |  | Total |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |  |
| Business <br> Administration | 19 | 14.8 | 9 | 7.0 | 35 | 27.3 | 33 | 25.8 | 32 | 25.0 | 128 | 100 |  |
| Education | 27 | 20.1 | 14 | 10.4 | 23 | 17.2 | 23 | 17.2 | 47 | 35.1 | 134 | 100 |  |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 13 | 16.5 | 2 | 2.5 | 20 | 25.3 | 18 | 22.8 | 26 | 32.9 | 79 | 100 |  |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 14 | 18.9 | 8 | 10.8 | 14 | 18.9 | 12 | 16.2 | 26 | 35.1 | 74 | 100 |  |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 17 | 16.5 | 15 | 14.6 | 19 | 18.4 | 18 | 17.5 | 34 | 33.0 | 103 | 100 |  |
| Unknown | 1 | 20.0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20.0 | 1 | 20.0 | 2 | 40.0 | 5 | 100 |  |
| Total | 91 | 17.4 | 48 | 9.2 | 112 | 21.4 | 105 | 20.1 | 167 | 31.9 | 523 | 100 |  |



Q7. The courses available in summer school this year meet my needs.

|  | Strongly <br> Disagree | Disagree |  | No <br> Opinion |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> Agree |  | Total |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 14 | 10.9 | 24 | 18.6 | 36 | 27.9 | 45 | 34.9 | 10 | 7.8 | 129 | 100 |
| Education | 16 | 11.8 | 18 | 13.2 | 33 | 24.3 | 52 | 38.2 | 17 | 12.5 | 136 | 100 |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 13 | 15.7 | 29 | 34.9 | 16 | 19.3 | 21 | 25.3 | 4 | 4.8 | 83 | 100 |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 11 | 18.0 | 9 | 14.8 | 14 | 23.0 | 20 | 32.8 | 7 | 11.5 | 61 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 20 | 20.8 | 15 | 15.6 | 29 | 30.2 | 21 | 21.9 | 11 | 11.5 | 96 | 100 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 2 | 25.0 | 1 | 12.5 | 4 | 50.0 | 1 | 12.5 | 8 | 100 |
| Total | 74 | 14.4 | 97 | 18.9 | 129 | 25.1 | 163 | 31.8 | 50 | 9.7 | 513 | 100 |



Q8. The time at which courses are offered this summer meets my needs.

|  | Strongly <br> Disagree | Disagree |  | No <br> Opinion |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> Agree |  | Total |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 14 | 10.9 | 21 | 16.3 | 51 | 39.5 | 34 | 26.4 | 9 | 7.0 | 129 | 100 |
| Education | 12 | 8.8 | 28 | 20.6 | 41 | 30.1 | 44 | 32.4 | 11 | 8.1 | 136 | 100 |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 9 | 10.8 | 15 | 18.1 | 29 | 34.9 | 24 | 28.9 | 6 | 7.2 | 83 | 100 |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 8 | 13.1 | 6 | 9.8 | 15 | 24.6 | 24 | 39.3 | 8 | 13.1 | 61 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 10 | 10.4 | 13 | 13.5 | 38 | 39.6 | 24 | 25.0 | 11 | 11.5 | 96 | 100 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12.5 | 5 | 62.5 | 2 | 25.0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 100 |
| Total | 53 | 10.3 | 84 | 16.4 | 179 | 34.9 | 152 | 29.6 | 45 | 8.8 | 513 | 100 |



Q9. Now that a new May summer session is offered, how useful is this session for you?



Q10. I prefer summer school courses offered during (length of session):

|  | 4 Week <br> Session |  | 6 Week <br> Session |  | 8 Week <br> Session |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ | N | $\%$ |
| Business <br> Administration | 80 | 76.2 | 21 | 20.0 | 4 | 3.8 | 105 | 100 |
| Education | 116 | 75.3 | 32 | 20.8 | 6 | 3.9 | 154 | 100 |
| Humanities <br> and Fine Arts | 84 | 85.7 | 13 | 13.3 | 1 | 1.0 | 98 | 100 |
| Natural <br> Sciences | 55 | 77.5 | 10 | 14.1 | 6 | 8.5 | 71 | 100 |
| Social and <br> Behavioral Sci. | 83 | 93.3 | 5 | 5.6 | 1 | 1.1 | 89 | 100 |
| Unknown | 4 | 80.0 | 1 | 20.0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Total | 422 | 80.8 | 82 | 15.7 | 18 | 3.4 | 522 | 100 |



## Section II

Multiple Year Comparison of Summer School Data: 2000-2004











