Missouri Valley College Senior Exit Survey

Year: 2014-15  Total number of respondents: 185  Response rate: 76%

Taking into consideration their experiences at Missouri Valley College, students were asked to rate how well they thought the college has accomplished the following institutional goals.

(Note: Some totals for percents may not be exactly 100 due to rounding)

Goal 1. Missouri Valley College nurtures a campus culture to embrace all individuals with compassion, civility, and respect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not rated</td>
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Goal 2. Missouri Valley College gathers a demographically diverse student body embracing differences in ethnicity, gender, culture, economic status, and regional and national origin.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
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<td>Disagree</td>
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<td>2%</td>
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Goal 3. Missouri Valley College extends access to higher education to students from all educational backgrounds with support to achieve success.

Goal 4. Missouri Valley College ensures high academic standards in all baccalaureate, graduate, and professional programs.
Goal 5. Missouri Valley College recruits and retains a dedicated, diverse staff and faculty well-educated and current in their fields.

Goal 6. Missouri Valley College focuses curricula on developing interdisciplinary analytical and communicative skills, historical and cultural awareness, and critical and creative thinking.
Goal 7. Missouri Valley College maintains a safe, healthy campus environment conducive to learning and research based on academic freedom, innovative teaching, and intellectual inquiry.

Goal 8. Missouri Valley College expands opportunities for applying academic learning in real-world settings and study abroad.
Goal 9. Missouri Valley College supports extracurricular activities to develop teamwork and leadership in arts, academics, and athletics.

Goal 10. Missouri Valley College promotes civic engagement through service to the community, special programming for the common good, continuing education for career development, and facilities for public gatherings.
Included in the survey were some open-ended questions. Responses to the following three questions fell mainly into general categories. These response categories, along with the percent of student responses in each, are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you feel are the strengths of Missouri Valley College?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small class size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics/intramurals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friendly/family environment/staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/staff caring/relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small campus/student body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good academic support services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personalized education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff and Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment conducive to learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for involvement/extracurricular</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location/campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tradition/history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal improvement/awareness</td>
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</table>

Types of comments included in the **STRENGTHS** categories:

- **Diversity**—Over a third of students listed diversity as one of Valley’s strengths. “The diverse community helps you gain a feel for different cultures.”
- **Faculty**—Students mentioned that faculty members were caring, accessible, knowledgeable, and supportive. “Faculty are very approachable.” “The teachers are dedicated to my success.”
- **Small class size**—Students feel more at ease asking questions and interacting in the classroom.
- **Athletics/Intramurals**—Students commented on the variety and success of the athletic programs. “Student life/intramurals does a great of providing safe and entertaining activities for the student body.”
- **Friendly/family environment/friendly staff**—Students commented on the caring and friendliness of the staff and faculty, in addition to the friendly environment. “The friendly staff is always willing to help.” “MVC made me feel like I was part of a family away from home.”
- **Faculty/staff caring/relationship**—Students mentioned how the faculty and staff are very caring and build relationships with students.
- **Small campus/small student body**—Comments were focused on the feeling that the small size was conducive to learning and allowed students to make connections, build relationships, and get personal attention from instructors.
- **Good academic support services**—
- **Personalized education**—Many students identified receiving individual help and having one-on-one time with teachers.
- **Staff/Administration**—Students mentioned the administration’s willingness to listen and act. Staff were noted to be helpful and able to answer questions.
- **Environment conducive to learning**—Comments related to the overall environment.
- **Academics**—Students identified strong academic programs and support of program personnel.
- **Opportunities for involvement/extracurricular activities**—Students appreciated activities on campus.
- **Location/campus**—Comments were about the beauty of campus and services available in Marshall, Missouri.
- **Facility improvements**—Progress on facilities was mentioned, specifically the Malcolm Center
- **Technology**—Students mentioned specific aspects of technology, like wifi.
- **Tradition/history**—Comments were about the college’s longevity and history as an institution.
- **Financial assistance**—Students mentioned affordability and financial support.
- **Safe campus**—Comments were about feeling safe on campus.
- **Personal improvement/awareness**—“Gives every student an opportunity at attaining an education.”
Missouri Valley College Senior Exit Survey 2014-2015
Number of respondents: 185  Response rate: 76%

What do you feel are the weaknesses of Missouri Valley College?

- Food service: 24%
- Educational aspects (other than faculty): 22%
- Housing: 16%
- Lack of activities/engagement: 14%
- Facilities (other than housing): 10%
- Cost/scholarships: 7%
- Faculty: 6%
- Advising/Career services: 5%
- Restrictions and rules: 5%
- Location/community: 5%
- Communication: 4%
- Athletics: 6%
- Offices/staff: 4%
- Technology: 3%
- Student services (non-academic): 3%
- Retention rate: 2%
- Campus job availability: 1%
- Level of safety/security: 1%
- Voice for students: 1%
- Lack of master’s programs: 1%

Types of comments included in the **WEAKNESSES** categories:

- **Food service**—Students voiced dissatisfaction with the quality and variety of food served in the cafeteria, the hours the cafeteria is open, and the lack of meal plan options.

- **Educational aspects (other than faculty)**—The majority of these comments were related to the level of academic rigor not being high enough in some classes. Other comments were related to desire for increased availability of classes and variety of internships and the need for additional funding for some programs.

- **Housing**—Comments reflected general dissatisfaction with the condition of housing with some specifically mentioning the lack of maintenance and cleanliness. Others commented on the need for more housing options.

- **Lack of Activities**—Comments were about an inadequate number of recreational activities on campus.

- **Facilities (other than housing)**—The condition of old buildings were frequently mentioned in the comments, as well as the desire to have more extensive hours for some facilities, such as the library and Learning Center. Other students expressed a desire for more “hang-out” and study areas.

- **Cost**—Students commented that they felt some things cost too much.

- **Faculty**—Students commented that some faculty are not good teachers or specialists in the area.

- **Advising/Career Services**—Students were dissatisfied with academic advising and communication about their progress toward graduation.

- **Restrictions and rules**—Comments related to the rules being too restrictive.

- **Location/community**—Students said that Marshall is a small town without many activities for them.

- **Communication**—Students said that at times they were given the “run around.”

- **Athletics**—Many mentioned that more emphasis is placed on athletics than academics.

- **Offices/Staff**—Students mentioned disorganization and that some offices did not seem to be able to answer their questions or help with an issue.

- **Technology**—Students mentioned weakness in available technology.

- **Student Services (non-academic)**—Comments related to parking and laundry facilities.

- **Retention rate**—Students were concerned about a low retention rate.

- **Campus job availability**—Comments were about the variety and availability of campus jobs for students.

- **Level of safety/security**—Students were concerned about safety and security on campus, particularly at night.

- **Voice for students**—One student commented on feeling like students are not listened to.

- **Lack of masters programs**—One student mentioned wanting there to be more masters-level programs.
Missouri Valley College Senior Exit Survey 2014-2015
Number of respondents: 185 Response rate: 76%

Types of comments in the categories:

- **Sports**—Most students mentioned a specific sport or sports.
- **Scholarship**—These comments specifically mentioned scholarships.
- **Academics**—Most of these responses were about specific programs in which they were interested.
- **Proximity to home/family/friends**—Many mentioned that Valley was close to home and/or family or friends were nearby.
- **Encouragement from family/friends**—Students reported that they received encouragement to come to Valley from friends or family, some of whom are current students and alumni.
- **Small school/classes/campus**—Comments were specific to the small size of the college, classes and general campus environment.
- **Affordable**—This comment was about comparison to other institutions.
- **New start**—This comment was about being given an opportunity for education.
The graph below summarizes the results of a question for which students were given choices from which to select.
(Note: Some students checked more than one option.)

The graph below summarizes student responses about their status when they entered Missouri Valley College.