

2004 CSBV INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY

141600

Mississippi State University Total First-time Full-time	# Res- pondents	Your Institution			All Public Insts			All Bacc Insts		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Number of Respondents		471	416	887	10,657	12,883	23,540	39,729	58,864	98,593
Students reporting it is "essential" or "very important" that this college:										
Helps you develop your ability to think critically	811	83.2	83.8	83.5	81.9	84.9	83.5	83.1	86.5	85.0
Prepares you for employment after college	814	94.9	96.1	95.5	91.4	95.6	93.7	91.1	95.4	93.5
Prepares you for graduate or advanced education	810	79.2	89.3	84.0	74.6	84.8	80.2	76.3	85.1	81.1
Provides for your emotional development	808	55.4	75.3	64.7	51.8	66.4	59.8	54.8	70.0	63.2
Helps you develop your personal values	803	63.8	75.9	69.5	59.1	68.9	64.5	61.4	72.2	67.4
Enhances your self-understanding	803	61.3	75.5	68.0	61.0	70.3	66.1	63.1	73.3	68.8
Prepares you for responsible citizenship	798	64.7	77.4	70.7	61.2	69.4	65.7	62.3	71.5	67.4
Encourages personal expression of spirituality	800	52.8	65.4	58.8	39.5	48.7	44.6	42.4	52.8	48.1
Respects diverse perspectives	793	65.8	75.3	70.2	61.4	75.0	68.9	63.8	77.7	71.5
Objectives considered to be "essential" or "very important":										
Reducing pain and suffering in the world	798	40.3	60.4	50.0	45.9	60.7	54.0	47.0	61.9	55.3
Attaining inner harmony	792	42.0	49.5	45.6	44.0	49.3	46.9	45.4	51.8	48.9
Attaining wisdom	790	77.3	75.9	76.6	74.4	77.0	75.8	75.1	78.5	77.0
Seeking out opportunities to help me grow spiritually	791	54.0	68.8	61.2	39.4	48.6	44.4	41.3	51.2	46.8
Seeking beauty in my life	789	42.1	58.2	49.8	46.0	57.5	52.3	47.7	59.0	53.9
Finding answers to the mysteries of life	793	41.2	48.3	44.6	45.0	45.1	45.0	45.9	45.0	45.4
Becoming a more loving person	786	54.7	74.5	64.2	56.0	72.9	65.2	57.7	74.4	66.9
Seeking to follow religious teachings in my everyday life	789	51.7	68.0	59.6	35.1	41.6	38.7	36.3	43.4	40.2
Improving the human condition	785	47.3	55.7	51.3	47.5	55.4	51.8	49.0	57.6	53.8
Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":										
Love is at the root of all the great religions	747	78.6	87.3	82.7	67.5	75.7	72.0	67.8	75.7	72.2
All life is interconnected	721	71.7	76.5	73.9	73.8	80.9	77.7	74.5	82.2	78.7
Believing in supernatural phenomena is foolish	718	37.4	37.2	37.3	32.4	29.5	30.8	32.2	28.4	30.1
We are all spiritual beings	694	75.0	80.8	77.7	64.9	70.6	68.0	65.6	71.8	69.0
It is futile to try to discover the purpose of existence	693	39.9	47.6	43.4	39.1	41.4	40.4	38.9	40.4	39.7
People can reach a higher spiritual plane of consciousness through meditation or prayer	714	74.4	85.7	79.7	62.7	70.2	66.8	63.5	71.4	67.8
The evil in this world seems to outweigh the good	713	52.5	50.0	51.3	45.8	44.0	44.8	45.8	42.5	43.9
Most people can grow spiritually without being religious	701	49.2	48.9	49.1	63.0	64.1	63.6	63.2	64.0	63.7
People who don't believe in God will be punished	701	64.1	64.9	64.5	37.5	37.3	37.4	37.0	36.4	36.7
Non-religious people can lead lives that are just as moral as those of religious believers	705	78.4	74.8	76.7	82.1	82.0	82.1	82.3	82.6	82.5
Pain and suffering are essential to becoming a better person	711	64.0	71.2	67.4	63.6	65.6	64.7	63.4	65.4	64.5

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Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":										
The universe arose by chance	695	18.8	14.8	17.0	30.7	22.6	26.3	30.6	22.0	25.8
In the future, science will be able to explain everything	708	23.8	18.2	21.2	34.2	29.7	31.7	34.0	28.2	30.8
While science can provide important information about the physical world, only religion can truly explain existence	706	71.6	80.9	75.9	51.9	55.7	53.9	52.2	56.4	54.5
For me, the relationship between science and religion is one of:	753									
Conflict; I consider myself to be on the side of religion		31.9	42.4	36.8	17.3	20.7	19.1	16.4	19.5	18.1
Conflict; I consider myself to be on the side of science		7.2	1.7	4.6	17.4	8.9	12.7	17.3	9.0	12.7
Independence; they refer to different aspects of reality		21.5	20.3	21.0	30.0	33.9	32.1	30.2	33.2	31.9
Collaboration; each can be used to help support the other		39.4	35.5	37.6	35.3	36.5	36.0	36.1	38.3	37.3
Do you pray?	823									
Yes		83.9	95.9	89.6	62.1	74.6	68.9	61.9	74.6	68.9
No		16.1	4.1	10.4	37.9	25.4	31.1	38.1	25.4	31.1
Students report "frequently" praying:										
For help in solving problems	698	55.6	75.4	65.8	50.3	61.2	56.7	51.3	62.3	57.9
To be in communion with God	697	55.0	72.5	64.0	46.1	51.7	49.4	46.7	52.6	50.2
To express gratitude	698	59.3	74.7	67.2	52.0	61.4	57.6	52.9	62.7	58.8
For emotional strength	698	51.5	74.9	63.5	47.1	62.5	56.2	47.6	63.5	57.1
For forgiveness	698	64.1	77.7	71.1	53.2	61.3	58.0	53.5	61.0	58.0
To relieve the suffering of others	698	41.8	65.6	54.0	39.8	54.3	48.4	40.5	54.7	49.0
For loved ones	697	58.7	80.2	69.7	58.3	73.6	67.4	59.0	73.8	67.9
For wisdom	696	49.1	61.5	55.5	40.8	45.5	43.6	41.3	46.7	44.5
To praise God	698	55.9	72.9	64.6	48.0	54.7	52.0	48.2	54.8	52.1
Student engages at least weekly in:										
Self-reflection	744	64.6	67.3	65.9	61.0	63.7	62.5	61.9	65.8	64.1
Prayer	756	74.3	89.0	81.2	54.6	65.1	60.4	54.8	65.7	60.9
Meditation	741	26.1	28.0	27.0	21.0	20.8	20.9	22.0	22.5	22.3
Yoga, Tai Chi, or similar practice	741	4.6	6.6	5.5	6.0	9.1	7.7	6.1	9.4	8.0
Religious singing/chanting	730	40.7	52.2	46.0	24.6	31.3	28.2	25.7	33.5	30.0
Reading sacred texts	740	36.0	46.8	41.1	23.4	25.7	24.6	24.5	28.1	26.5
Other reading on religion/spirituality	734	29.4	39.7	34.2	18.7	21.2	20.0	19.9	22.4	21.2
The following statements describe student "to a great extent":										
Having an interest in spirituality	688	41.6	56.6	48.5	26.7	31.4	29.3	28.0	34.1	31.4
Believing in the sacredness of life	677	41.6	50.0	45.5	29.1	33.4	31.4	30.2	36.3	33.6
Feeling unsettled about spiritual and religious matters	677	17.5	15.4	16.5	13.4	14.8	14.2	14.0	15.4	14.8
Feeling good about the direction in which my life is headed	675	49.3	58.3	53.5	45.4	49.6	47.7	46.3	51.4	49.1
Feeling a sense of connection with God/Higher Power that transcends my personal self	676	42.7	55.2	48.5	25.8	31.8	29.1	26.5	33.4	30.3

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		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
The following statements describe student "to a great extent":										
Feeling a strong connection to all humanity	668	18.7	23.9	21.1	14.3	15.5	15.0	14.8	16.4	15.7
Feeling disillusioned with my religious upbringing	661	13.6	10.7	12.3	8.7	7.5	8.1	8.8	7.6	8.1
Having an interest in different religious traditions	659	13.0	15.0	14.0	12.0	15.1	13.7	12.8	16.6	14.9
Being committed to introducing people to my faith	670	25.7	37.5	31.2	12.8	15.4	14.2	13.6	16.3	15.1
Believing in the goodness of all people	664	29.2	43.5	35.8	24.5	35.0	30.3	24.9	35.5	30.8
Being thankful for all that has happened to me	674	49.3	68.3	58.2	44.2	56.5	51.0	45.5	58.0	52.4
Seeing each day, good or bad, as a gift	673	44.4	63.5	53.3	32.5	44.4	39.0	33.2	45.1	39.8
Believing in life after death	666	57.4	67.6	62.2	43.5	50.3	47.2	43.7	51.7	48.1
Feeling obligated to follow my parents' religious practices	658	15.0	16.7	15.8	9.6	10.0	9.8	9.3	9.2	9.2
Which of the following best characterizes your conception of or experience with God?										
	887									
Universal Spirit		32.1	38.0	34.8	30.5	31.7	31.1	31.1	32.8	32.0
Love		61.1	76.4	68.3	47.4	61.8	55.2	48.1	62.7	56.1
Father-figure		43.7	54.8	48.9	31.7	36.7	34.4	32.2	38.0	35.4
Mother-figure		9.6	15.6	12.4	8.2	10.8	9.6	8.5	11.0	9.9
Teacher		46.9	55.3	50.8	32.3	39.4	36.1	33.0	40.6	37.2
Part of me		41.4	55.0	47.8	29.6	39.4	35.0	30.1	40.1	35.6
Divine Mystery		23.4	22.6	23.0	24.6	26.5	25.6	24.8	27.7	26.4
Protector		54.4	69.0	61.2	41.7	54.2	48.5	42.1	55.3	49.3
Creator		62.2	76.0	68.7	49.6	61.5	56.1	49.5	61.7	56.2
Nature		23.8	27.2	25.4	19.4	23.8	21.8	19.8	24.9	22.6
Supreme Being		52.0	55.5	53.7	41.6	42.1	41.9	41.6	43.4	42.6
Judge		45.4	44.2	44.9	30.2	30.3	30.2	30.4	31.5	31.0
Enlightenment		28.0	30.5	29.2	24.0	28.0	26.2	24.5	28.6	26.8
None of the above		7.9	2.4	5.3	16.3	11.3	13.5	16.8	11.1	13.7
Have you ever had a spiritual experience while: [1]										
In a house of worship	642	76.0	87.0	81.3	57.7	65.1	61.9	58.7	66.8	63.2
Listening to beautiful music	639	66.3	79.2	72.5	50.8	60.3	56.1	52.6	62.8	58.3
Viewing a great work of art	602	35.5	34.6	35.0	29.2	35.8	32.9	30.6	38.0	34.8
Participating in a musical or artistic performance	597	44.7	53.1	48.7	31.7	38.1	35.3	33.5	40.9	37.7
Engaging in athletics	587	44.5	37.3	41.1	38.6	31.0	34.4	39.4	31.3	35.0
Witnessing the beauty and harmony of nature	619	67.7	66.0	66.9	56.2	62.5	59.7	57.6	65.3	62.0
Meditating	573	41.9	43.3	42.6	33.1	34.4	33.8	34.6	37.0	35.9
Praying	643	79.1	89.1	84.0	60.5	70.9	66.4	61.3	72.0	67.4
Participating in a retreat	602	60.9	67.6	64.1	42.6	50.7	47.1	44.1	53.3	49.2
Other	147	38.9	42.3	40.1	36.1	37.2	36.6	37.2	40.3	38.6
Do you believe in God?										
Yes	763	89.6	97.5	93.4	74.6	82.5	79.0	74.2	81.9	78.5
Not sure		7.1	2.2	4.7	16.7	13.0	14.6	16.9	13.3	14.9
No		3.3	0.3	1.8	8.7	4.5	6.4	8.9	4.8	6.6

[1] Respondents marking "Not Applicable" not included in the calculation of these results.

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The ultimate spiritual quest for me is:	744									
To discover who I really am		13.3	12.2	12.8	17.1	19.8	18.5	17.5	19.7	18.7
To follow God's plan for me		47.9	59.4	53.5	24.8	29.3	27.3	25.0	29.8	27.7
To become a better person		7.8	7.8	7.8	15.4	16.3	15.9	14.9	15.7	15.3
To know my purpose in life		5.7	5.6	5.6	9.6	9.9	9.8	9.2	9.7	9.5
To make the world a better place		2.3	1.7	2.0	5.0	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.0	5.1
To know God		11.5	8.9	10.2	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.6
I do not consider myself to be on a spiritual quest		11.5	4.4	8.1	21.5	14.1	17.4	21.3	13.7	17.1
Student reports the following experiences "strengthened" his/her religious/spiritual beliefs: [1]										
New ideas encountered in classes	597	29.9	37.9	33.8	25.6	29.7	27.9	28.0	32.8	30.7
Romantic relationship	588	31.8	47.6	39.5	32.8	37.6	35.5	33.3	37.7	35.8
Personal injury or illness	549	27.7	46.5	36.6	28.6	37.9	33.7	29.2	38.4	34.3
Parents' divorce or separation	366	17.9	32.9	24.9	13.9	20.7	17.6	14.4	21.3	18.1
Death of a close friend or family member	549	44.4	65.0	54.6	36.9	50.2	44.4	37.7	50.5	44.9
Natural disaster	500	22.7	44.6	33.2	18.6	28.5	24.0	19.0	28.3	24.1
The events of September 11, 2001	607	43.0	65.4	54.0	34.7	47.4	41.9	34.9	47.4	42.0
The war in Iraq	601	32.7	51.9	42.1	23.1	34.1	29.3	22.7	33.1	28.6
Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":										
What happens in my life is determined by forces larger than myself	660	71.3	82.2	76.4	56.8	67.8	62.8	57.4	68.0	63.3
Whether or not there is a Supreme Being doesn't matter to me	649	24.3	12.4	18.8	29.4	23.4	26.1	29.4	22.6	25.6
I gain spiritual strength by trusting in a Higher Power	645	76.2	90.0	82.6	59.3	68.7	64.5	59.8	69.2	65.0
It doesn't matter what I believe as long as I lead a moral life	644	39.3	26.5	33.4	54.2	50.9	52.4	53.8	50.1	51.8
I have never felt a sense of sacredness	634	31.2	21.1	26.5	34.2	29.6	31.7	34.3	28.7	31.2
I find religion to be personally helpful	628	76.3	90.5	83.0	62.2	71.8	67.5	62.7	72.2	68.0
I know someone I can turn to for spiritual guidance	639	79.7	91.0	85.0	67.2	74.2	71.0	67.6	74.9	71.6
I am uncomfortable discussing religious matters	637	41.9	37.5	39.9	36.8	36.2	36.5	35.8	35.2	35.5
My spirituality is a source of joy	621	71.9	87.8	79.2	57.3	67.9	63.1	58.5	68.8	64.1
It is difficult to reconcile the existence of a loving God with all the pain and suffering in the world	637	36.8	25.6	31.6	36.9	35.7	36.3	37.2	35.7	36.3
I do not expect my religious convictions to change in the next few years	639	76.8	79.2	77.9	72.9	73.4	73.2	71.9	72.5	72.2
To be truly religious, a person must accept all the teachings of his/her faith	637	62.2	65.8	63.9	42.6	42.9	42.8	41.8	41.7	41.7

[1] Respondents marking "Not Applicable" not included in the calculation of these results.

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How would you describe your current views about spiritual/religious matters?	887									
Conflicted		10.4	9.4	9.9	13.1	15.1	14.2	13.6	15.4	14.6
Secure		46.3	54.8	50.3	39.6	43.3	41.6	39.7	43.6	41.8
Doubting		5.7	5.0	5.4	9.5	10.1	9.9	9.5	9.9	9.7
Seeking		19.7	24.0	21.8	19.0	22.5	20.9	20.2	24.4	22.6
Not interested		7.9	2.9	5.5	18.1	13.6	15.6	18.0	13.1	15.3
My spiritual/religious beliefs:										
Have helped me develop my identity	645	79.7	86.8	83.1	62.2	68.7	65.8	63.4	69.9	67.0
Are one of the most important things in my life	641	76.6	89.0	82.5	53.6	60.6	57.5	54.3	61.5	58.3
Give meaning/purpose to my life	640	77.4	88.3	82.7	56.8	66.2	62.0	57.7	67.1	62.9
Help define the goals I set for myself	641	72.9	89.0	80.7	54.8	64.0	59.9	55.6	64.8	60.7
Provide me with strength, support and guidance	638	78.9	92.5	85.4	62.0	72.5	67.8	62.6	73.5	68.6
Lie behind my whole approach to life	634	66.7	79.9	73.0	49.1	56.2	53.0	50.1	57.2	54.0
Have been formed through much personal reflection and searching	635	73.6	81.6	77.5	56.7	61.5	59.4	57.8	62.9	60.6
"Most" or "all" of your close friends:										
Share your religious/spiritual views	728	57.6	74.9	66.1	41.0	47.8	44.8	42.0	48.6	45.7
Are searching for meaning/purpose in life	710	36.5	51.2	43.7	30.0	37.7	34.2	31.3	39.2	35.7
Go to church/temple/other house of worship	721	68.7	82.5	75.5	41.0	48.7	45.3	41.0	48.9	45.4
Student engages to "some" or "a great extent" in the following activities:										
Searching for meaning/purpose in life	652	80.3	82.1	81.1	70.5	77.5	74.3	71.6	78.8	75.6
Trying to change things that are unfair in the world	650	72.4	70.9	71.7	64.9	70.8	68.2	66.3	72.4	69.7
Accepting others as they are	645	92.1	97.7	94.7	91.2	96.1	93.8	91.5	96.4	94.2
Having discussions about the meaning of life with my friends	650	76.4	83.1	79.5	69.0	76.3	73.0	70.1	76.9	73.9
Being honest in my relationships with others	650	93.9	97.1	95.4	92.9	97.0	95.1	93.0	97.2	95.3
During the past year, have you:										
Participated in community food or clothing drives	667	60.8	75.1	67.8	53.2	66.7	60.6	55.3	68.5	62.7
Helped friends with personal problems	668	92.7	98.8	95.7	92.1	98.1	95.4	92.7	98.3	95.8
Donated money to charity	663	72.6	73.7	73.2	64.3	71.8	68.4	65.7	72.5	69.5
Felt distant from God	653	68.7	69.8	69.2	61.0	66.4	64.0	62.0	67.2	64.9
Struggled to understand evil, suffering and death	654	65.0	66.2	65.6	58.9	69.8	64.9	60.5	70.9	66.3
Questioned your religious/spiritual beliefs	650	59.2	54.3	56.8	54.7	57.2	56.1	55.9	58.2	57.2
Felt loved by God [2]	648	54.1	79.7	66.5	36.3	49.3	43.5	36.7	50.3	44.3
Disagreed with your family about religious matters	645	53.9	41.5	47.9	52.1	51.3	51.7	53.1	51.3	52.1
Spent time with people who share your religious views	646	88.0	94.6	91.2	80.5	85.1	83.1	81.1	86.1	83.9

[2] Percentage marking "Frequently" only. All other results in this section represent the percentage marking "Frequently" or "Occasionally".

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		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
During the past year, have you:										
Felt angry with God	642	47.9	45.8	46.9	45.5	48.9	47.4	46.1	49.2	47.9
Felt that your life is filled with stress and anxiety	638	74.8	83.1	78.8	75.6	87.4	82.1	76.1	87.9	82.6
Been able to find meaning in times of hardship	642	86.4	90.4	88.3	79.6	87.2	83.8	80.3	87.9	84.6
Expressed gratitude to others [2]	646	41.3	58.3	49.5	41.9	54.9	49.0	42.5	57.2	50.6
Felt at peace/centered [2]	642	34.9	42.3	38.5	28.5	29.1	28.8	29.2	31.1	30.3
Explored religion online	638	40.7	27.8	34.5	34.0	29.1	31.3	35.0	29.5	31.9
Attended a class, workshop, or retreat on matters related to religion/spirituality	638	60.1	57.1	58.6	46.2	47.0	46.6	48.0	49.4	48.8
Student scored "high" on the following factors: [3]										
Spirituality	560	21.0	32.7	26.4	13.6	16.2	15.0	14.9	19.1	17.2
Religious Commitment	472	42.7	60.8	51.9	31.3	37.6	35.1	32.8	40.5	37.4
Equanimity	575	23.6	39.3	31.0	18.1	23.3	21.0	18.9	25.1	22.4
Spiritual Struggle	575	12.6	8.4	10.6	10.0	11.1	10.6	10.3	11.3	10.8
Religious Engagement	138	20.5	55.4	37.0	14.6	19.1	17.1	16.4	22.0	19.5
Religious Skepticism	577	10.5	1.9	6.6	21.0	14.1	17.2	20.9	14.2	17.2
Spiritual Quest	594	20.4	31.5	25.6	20.2	25.0	22.9	22.0	27.3	25.0
Compassionate Self-Concept	853	23.6	34.5	28.7	26.9	30.7	29.0	27.9	31.3	29.8
Charitable Involvement	143	17.6	15.9	16.8	8.6	17.0	13.3	9.7	20.0	15.4
Religious/Social Conservatism	497	32.5	47.0	39.8	19.5	22.8	21.4	21.0	24.8	23.3
Social Activism	609	11.8	15.0	13.3	11.6	12.0	11.8	12.5	13.6	13.1
Pluralistic Worldview	114	9.4	14.0	11.4	9.0	13.8	11.6	10.1	16.3	13.6