

MPC Community Needs Assessment

Preliminary Results – 10/8/02

In Spring 2002, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) at MPC conducted a survey to determine the educational and support service needs of residents in our service area. The OIR sent approximately 7,500 surveys to a random, representative sample of households in MPC's service area. The OIR received 495 surveys, which is a typical response rate for mail surveys. The following pages review the survey questions and briefly describe the preliminary survey results. To facilitate Fort Ord planning, survey results are presented not only for the entire sample but also for Marina & Seaside separately.

If you have any questions about the survey results, please contact Rosaleen Ryan at 646-4035 or at ryan@mpc.edu.

1. Monterey Peninsula College is interested in learning about the types of courses you would like to take. Please review the courses below and indicate the courses you would be interested in taking now or in the future.

The table below shows the number of responses for each course area. Courses are listed according to the number of responses in descending order. The column on the left reflects all respondents, and the next column reflects Marina & Seaside residents only. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one course area.

All	Marina & Seaside	
409	146	General Education Courses
273	90	<i>Arts</i>
273	90	<i>Foreign Language</i>
268	99	<i>English</i>
261	98	<i>Math</i>
250	83	<i>Humanities</i>
225	78	<i>Physical Sciences</i>
220	75	<i>Social Sciences</i>
219	76	<i>Life Sciences</i>
382	135	Occupational Courses
219	80	<i>Computer Science and Information Systems</i>
196	69	<i>Photography</i>
191	63	<i>Business, Real Estate, Retail Management, Office Technology</i>
184	66	<i>Health Occupations</i> <i>Nursing, Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting,</i> <i>Emergency Medical Training, Medical Office Administration</i>
173	60	<i>Child Development</i>
167	53	<i>Graphic Arts, Drafting</i>
166	54	<i>Administration of Justice/ Law Enforcement</i>
159	52	<i>Family and Consumer Science</i> <i>Interior Design, Fashion, Nutrition</i>
156	56	<i>Fitness Instructor Training, Massage Therapy</i>
154	47	<i>Hospitality, Restaurant Management, Golf Management</i>
151	47	<i>Ornamental Horticulture</i>
149	53	<i>Human and Social Services</i>
146	43	<i>Auto Technology, Aviation</i>
145	44	<i>Genealogy</i>
143	41	<i>Engineering</i>
142	45	<i>Marine Science & Technology</i>
135	39	<i>Fire Academy</i>
131	39	<i>Parks and Recreation</i>
354	117	Personal Development Courses
269	93	<i>Physical Fitness</i> <i>Aerobics, Weight Training, T'ai Chi, Yoga,</i> <i>Circuit Training, Swimming, Triathlon Training</i>
181	43	<i>Gentrain – Interdisciplinary Courses in Western History</i>
161	49	<i>English as a Second Language</i>
148	52	<i>Study and Learning Skills Development</i>
145	38	<i>Travel Study</i>
143	49	<i>Basic Skills Development</i>
110	35	<i>Childbirth</i>

2. What time of day and days of the week would you like classes offered? (mark all that apply)

The tables below show when respondents would like courses offered. The first table reflects all respondents, and the second table reflects Marina & Seaside residents only. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one day and time.

The most popular time was Monday through Thursday evenings, followed by Friday evening. Saturday morning was the next choice, followed by Monday through Thursday mornings.

All respondents

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Early morning (before 8:00)	56	56	56	58	53	53	36
Morning (8:00 – 12:00)	152	148	152	145	133	154	80
Afternoon (12:00 – 5:00)	125	125	126	128	104	112	65
Evening (after 5:00)	261	263	260	261	211	93	66

Marina & Seaside only

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Early morning (before 8:00)	21	23	24	24	21	24	15
Morning (8:00 – 12:00)	52	48	50	47	43	54	33
Afternoon (12:00 – 5:00)	38	37	36	36	29	39	22
Evening (after 5:00)	109	108	108	109	92	40	26

3. How long would you prefer courses to run? (mark all that apply)

The table below indicates how long respondents would like courses to run. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one course length. The most popular choice was 8 weeks, followed closely by semester length courses. Courses of 4 weeks duration also rated fairly well.

	1 day	1 week	4 weeks	8 weeks	Semester (16 weeks)
All	88	76	181	253	239
Marina/Seaside	22	18	57	95	87

4. Where would you be willing to take classes? (mark all that apply)

The table below indicates that respondents, in general, would prefer courses at MPC than at Fort Ord. However, there was more support for a Fort Ord location among Marina and Seaside residents. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one location.

	MPC	Fort Ord area
All	437	210
Marina/Seaside	145	126

5. How far would you be willing to travel to take a course?

The table below indicates that most residents would be willing to travel less than 10 miles to take a course.

	2 miles or less	3 – 5 miles	6 – 10 miles	More than 10 miles
All	28	133	184	89
Marina/Seaside	13	39	71	32

6. How would you prefer courses offered? (mark all that apply)

The table below shows the course format that respondents prefer. On campus offerings were the most popular choice, followed by off campus offerings, then by online courses. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one day and time.

	On campus	Off campus	Televised	Online
All	391	229	125	172
Marina/Seaside	131	88	48	69

7. Why would you like to take courses? (mark all that apply)

The table below shows the number of responses for each reason. Reasons for taking courses are listed according to the number of responses in descending order. The column on the left reflects all respondents, and the next column reflects Marina & Seaside residents only. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one course area.

Overall, intellectual development & enrichment was the most frequently cited reason for taking courses, followed by physical fitness & well-being. Job and career reasons also rated high, especially among Marina and Seaside residents.

All	Marina & Seaside	
326	104	Intellectual development & enrichment
201	66	Physical fitness and well-being
190	71	Update or acquire new job skills
115	51	Explore career goals or interests
76	37	Transfer to a 4-year college
73	43	Earn an Associate degree
51	28	Earn a vocational Associate degree
44	26	Improve basic skills in English, reading or math
31	15	Earn a vocational certificate
24	11	Earn college credits while in high school

8. What support services would you need to take classes? (mark all that apply)

Overall, there was high awareness of the support services offered at MPC (results not shown here). The table below shows the need for student support services. Services are listed according to the number of responses in descending order. The column on the left reflects all respondents, and the next column reflects Marina & Seaside residents only. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one course area.

Among all respondents, library/online information resources was the area of highest need; however, financial aid was the highest need area among Marina and Seaside residents.

All	Marina & Seaside	
83	36	<i>Library/Online Information Resources</i>
77	37	<i>Academic Counseling</i>
74	42	<i>Financial Aid</i>
70	26	<i>Learning Assistance and Computer Labs</i>
69	31	<i>Career Counseling and Development</i>
47	19	<i>Re-entry, Multicultural & Women's Programs</i>
43	22	<i>Job Placement Services</i>
36	18	<i>Transfer Support Center</i>
35	20	<i>Child Care (ages 2 – 5)</i>
30	17	<i>Veterans' Services</i>
15	4	<i>Disabled Student Services</i>

11. If you are not interested in taking college courses, why not? (mark all that apply)

Overall, there was high interest in courses offered at MPC. Residents not interested in courses at MPC probably did not respond to the survey. Among respondents who indicated they were not interested in taking courses, the most frequently cited reason was “too busy”, followed by “course days and times not convenient”. Please note that this is a multiple response item and that respondents may have indicated more than one course area.

All	Marina & Seaside	
13	6	Not interested in course offerings
55	18	Too busy
42	19	Course days and times not convenient
9	7	Course location(s) not convenient
11	9	No childcare
11	8	Too expensive
7	1	No transportation

Characteristics of Respondents (N = 495)

Education level

- HS grad or below – 9%
- Some college – 22%
- Associate degree or Vocational certificate – 10%
- Bachelors degree – 27%
- Graduate degree – 30%
- Educ. level not indicated – 2%

City of Residence

- Marina – 16%
- Seaside/Sand City – 19%
- Monterey/Del Rey Oaks – 29%
- Pacific Grove – 9%
- Pebble Beach – 1%
- Carmel – 14%
- Carmel Valley – 7%
- Other/ZIP not indicated – 5%

Gender

- Male – 27%
- Female – 69%
- Gender not indicated – 4%

Age

- Under 18 years – 2%
- 18-24 years – 8%
- 25-34 years – 16%
- 35-44 years – 17%
- 45-54 years – 21%
- 55-64 years – 17%
- 65 years and over – 16%
- Age not indicated – 3%

Employment

- Student – 1%
- Military – 7%
- Work FT – 43%
- Work PT – 17%
- Freelance/Self-employed – 1%
- Not employed or SSI – 6%
- Stay-at-home parent/Homemaker – 2%
- Retired – 18%
- Employment status not indicated – 5%