

## What's Important to Me Student Values Assessment

During the Fall Semester, we've had our students to take this quick values self-assessment, "What's Important to Me." We've asked them to identify the five most important values in their lives at the present moment. Over the past three years (2017, 2018, and 2019) and over 1,000 student responses, we have found consistent responses for the top five most important values for (mostly) first-year students.

Below is the original assessment given in 2017.

<b>Most Important Things in My Life Right Now</b> (identify your top five most important)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting and spending time with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Having fun/having a good time
<input type="checkbox"/> Practicing my religion/spirituality	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping/serving others in a meaningful way
<input type="checkbox"/> Having money, money, and more money	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning/trying new things
<input type="checkbox"/> Being healthy (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually)	<input type="checkbox"/> Being great at something/being known for something special
<input type="checkbox"/> Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets	<input type="checkbox"/> Making a positive difference in the world
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting my degree/getting a good education	<input type="checkbox"/> Proving people/naysayers wrong
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting a job/being employed/having a career	<input type="checkbox"/> Being successful in life
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting and spending time with family	<input type="checkbox"/> Creating/starting my own business
<input type="checkbox"/> Being happy/enjoying life	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing/creating a safe and secure future
<input type="checkbox"/> Having the freedom to choose	<input type="checkbox"/> Living a life of adventure/exploration/risk
<input type="checkbox"/> Being part of a community/tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

In 2018, we decided to switch the list to see if there would be bias in the answers, since four of the five top answers were in the left column. Here's the revised assessment given to one-half the sections in 2018 and all of the sections in 2019:

<b>Most Important Things in My Life Right Now</b> (identify your top five most important)	
If you had to identify the things that are most important in your life right now, the things that drive your actions and decisions on a daily basis today, what would they be? From the list of 22 items below, place a checkmark next to the FIVE most important things in your life right now. Only choose your top five most important; if something is important but not listed, feel free to list it under the "Other" category and write a brief description.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Having fun/having a good time	<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting and spending time with friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Helping/serving others in a meaningful way	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicing my religion/spirituality
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning/trying new things	<input type="checkbox"/> Having money, money, and more money
<input type="checkbox"/> Being great at something/being known for something special	<input type="checkbox"/> Being healthy (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually)
<input type="checkbox"/> Making a positive difference in the world	<input type="checkbox"/> Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets
<input type="checkbox"/> Proving people/naysayers wrong	<input type="checkbox"/> Getting my degree/getting a good education
<input type="checkbox"/> Being successful in life	<input type="checkbox"/> Getting a job/being employed/having a career
<input type="checkbox"/> Creating/starting my own business	<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting and spending time with family
<input type="checkbox"/> Developing/creating a safe and secure future	<input type="checkbox"/> Being happy/enjoying life
<input type="checkbox"/> Living a life of adventure/exploration/risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Having the freedom to choose	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Being part of a community/tribe	_____

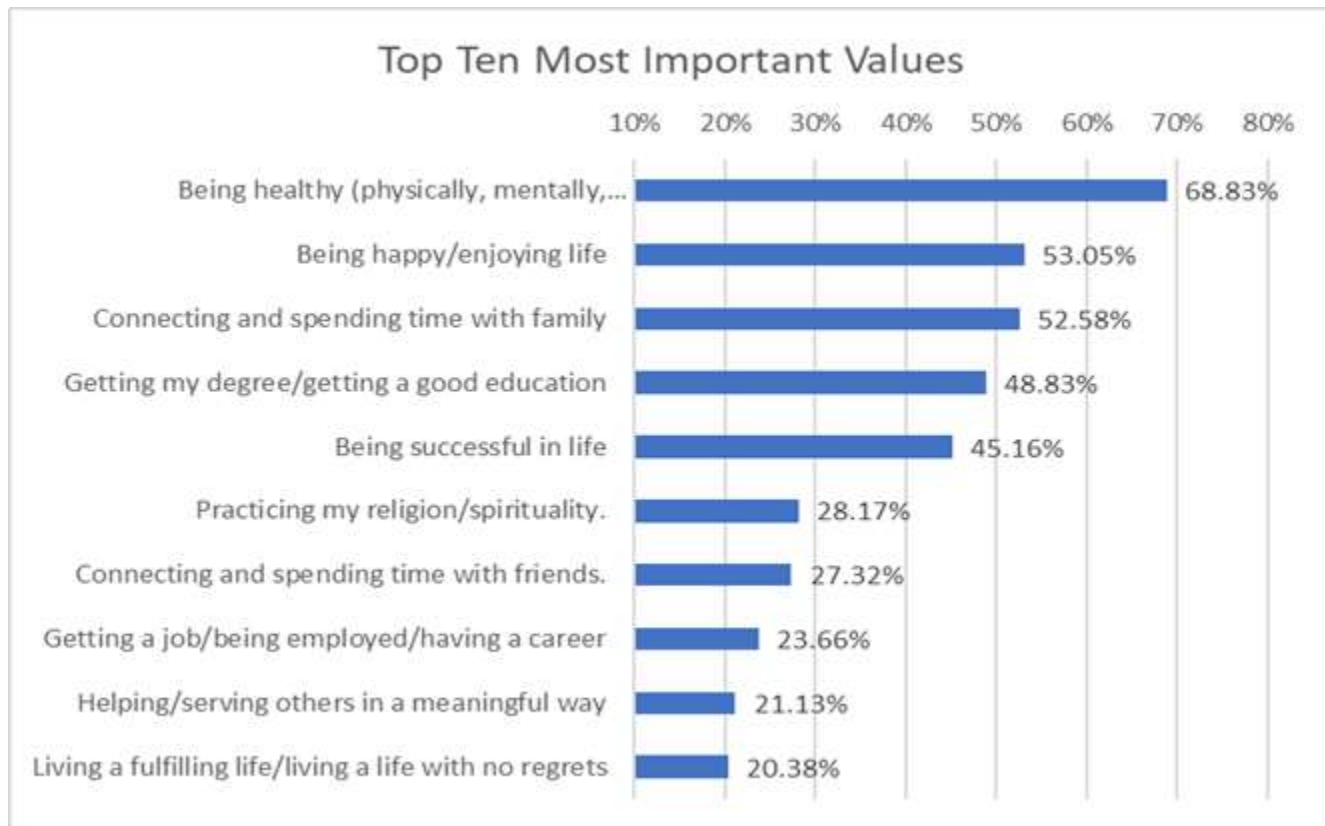
Results show that there was no difference, especially for the top five most important, regardless of the order of the listing of values.

## Results of “What’s Important to Me” Values Assessment

The chart below shows the number of responses to each of the 21 values (and the “Other” category) from 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Statement of Importance (1,065 Total Responses)  (Note: For each value listed below, the number at the top corresponds to the total responses for that particular value; the number below is the percentage of responses for that value.)	Fall 2017 (260)	Fall 2018 (371)	Fall 2019 (434)	Total for (3 years (1,065)
Connecting and spending time with friends.	<b>67</b> 25.8%	<b>109</b> 29.4%	<b>115</b> 26.5%	<b>291</b> 27.3%
Practicing my religion/spirituality.	<b>82</b> 31.5%	<b>124</b> 33.4%	<b>94</b> 21.7%	<b>300</b> 28.2%
Having money, money, and more money.	<b>45</b> 17.3%	<b>62</b> 16.7%	<b>67</b> 15.4%	<b>174</b> 16.3%
Being healthy (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually).	<b>177</b> 68.1%	<b>254</b> 68.5%	<b>302</b> 69.6%	<b>733</b> 68.8%
Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets	<b>59</b> 22.7%	<b>77</b> 20.8%	<b>81</b> 18.7%	<b>217</b> 20.4%
Getting my degree/getting a good education	<b>118</b> 45.4%	<b>191</b> 51.5%	<b>211</b> 48.6%	<b>520</b> 48.8%
Getting a job/being employed/having a career	<b>75</b> 28.8%	<b>92</b> 24.8%	<b>85</b> 19.6%	<b>252</b> 23.7%
Connecting and spending time with family	<b>146</b> 56.1%	<b>201</b> 55.8%	<b>213</b> 49.1%	<b>560</b> 52.6%
Being happy/enjoying life	<b>149</b> 57.3%	<b>198</b> 53.4%	<b>218</b> 50.2%	<b>565</b> 53.1%
Having fun/having a good time	<b>28</b> 10.8%	<b>50</b> 13.5%	<b>97</b> 22.4%	<b>175</b> 16.4%
Helping/serving others in a meaningful way	<b>57</b> 21.9%	<b>66</b> 17.8%	<b>102</b> 23.5%	<b>225</b> 21.1%
Learning/trying new things	<b>17</b> 6.5%	<b>36</b> 9.7%	<b>58</b> 13.4%	<b>111</b> 10.4%
Being great at something/being known for something special	<b>14</b> 5.4%	<b>17</b> 4.6%	<b>26</b> 6.0%	<b>57</b> 5.4%
Making a positive difference in the world	<b>57</b> 21.9%	<b>58</b> 15.6%	<b>75</b> 17.3%	<b>190</b> 17.8%
Proving people/naysayers wrong	<b>2</b> 0.7%	<b>8</b> 2.2%	<b>17</b> 3.9%	<b>27</b> 2.5%
Being successful in life	<b>117</b> 45.0%	<b>155</b> 41.8%	<b>209</b> 48.2%	<b>481</b> 45.2%
Creating/starting my own business	<b>6</b> 2.3%	<b>7</b> 1.9%	<b>9</b> 2.1%	<b>22</b> 2.1%
Developing/creating a safe and secure future	<b>34</b> 13.1%	<b>57</b> 15.4%	<b>68</b> 15.7%	<b>159</b> 14.9%
Living a life of adventure/exploration/risk	<b>26</b> 10.0%	<b>31</b> 8.4%	<b>47</b> 10.8%	<b>104</b> 9.8%
Having the freedom to choose	<b>18</b> 6.9%	<b>43</b> 11.6%	<b>49</b> 11.3%	<b>110</b> 10.3%
Being part of a community/tribe	<b>2</b> 1.2%	<b>15</b> 2.7%	<b>8</b> 1.8%	<b>25</b> 2.4%

Statement of Importance (1,065 Total Responses)	Fall 2017 (260)	Fall 2018 (371)	Fall 2019 (434)	Total for (3 years) (1,065)
(Note: For each value listed below, the number at the top corresponds to the total responses for that particular value; the number below is the percentage of responses for that value.)				
Other:				
2016:	<b>4</b> 1.5%	<b>14</b> 3.8%	<b>22</b> 5.1%	<b>40</b> 3.8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a good teammate (1)</li> <li>• Taking care of family (1)</li> <li>• Being stable in all ways (financial, mental, physical, emotional, etc.) (1)</li> <li>• Growing with Mark (partner) and sharing our life (1).</li> </ul>				
2017:				
2018:				



## Rankings of Responses

The results show that there's a clear distinction between the #1 ranked value (Being Healthy) and the grouping of #2 through #5 ranked values. You will also see another distinct separation between the #2 through #5 ranked values and the rest of the values ranked between #6 through #10.

	<b>2017 (260)</b>	<b>2018 (371)</b>	<b>2019 (434)</b>	<b>Total (3 years) (1,065)</b>
<b>Rankings of #1 through #5 Highest Values</b>				
#1	Being healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually <b>(68.1%)</b>	Being healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually <b>(68.5%)</b>	Being healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually <b>(69.6%)</b>	Being healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually <b>(68.8%)</b>
#2	Being happy/enjoying life <b>(57.3%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with family <b>(55.8%)</b>	Being happy/enjoying life <b>(50.2%)</b>	Being happy/enjoying life <b>(53.1%)</b>
#3	Connecting and spending time with family <b>(56.1%)</b>	Being happy/enjoying life <b>(53.4%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with family <b>(49.1%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with family <b>(52.58%)</b>
#4	Getting my degree/getting a good education <b>(45.4%)</b>	Getting my degree/getting a good education <b>(51.5%)</b>	Getting my degree/getting a good education <b>(48.6%)</b>	Getting my degree/getting a good education <b>(48.8%)</b>
#5	Being successful in life <b>(45.0%)</b>	Being successful in life <b>(41.8%)</b>	Being successful in life <b>(48.2%)</b>	Being successful in life <b>(45.2%)</b>
<b>Rankings of #6 through #11 Highest Values</b>				
#6	Practicing my religion/spirituality <b>(31.5%)</b>	Practicing my religion/spirituality <b>(33.4%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with friends <b>(26.5%)</b>	Practicing my religion/spirituality <b>(28.2%)</b>
#7	Getting a job/being employed/having a career <b>(28.8%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with friends <b>(29.4%)</b>	Helping/serving others in a meaningful way <b>(23.5%)</b>	Connecting and spending time with friends <b>(27.3%)</b>
#8	Connecting and spending time with friends <b>(25.8%)</b>	Getting a job/being employed/having a career <b>(24.8%)</b>	Having fun/having a good time <b>(22.4%)</b>	Getting a job/being employed/having a career <b>(23.6%)</b>
#9	Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets <b>(22.7%)</b>	Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets <b>(20.8%)</b>	Practicing my religion/spirituality <b>(21.7%)</b>	Helping/serving others in a meaningful way <b>(21.1%)</b>
#10 (tie)	Helping/serving others in a meaningful way <b>(21.9%)</b> and Making a positive difference in the world <b>(21.9%)</b>	Helping/serving others in a meaningful way <b>(17.8%)</b>	Getting a job/being employed/having a career <b>(19.6%)</b>	Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets <b>(20.4%)</b>
(#11)		Having money, money, and more money <b>(16.7%)</b>	Living a fulfilling life/living a life with no regrets <b>(18.7%)</b>	