# Graduating Student Survey: 2014 – 2015 Academic Year

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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**Overview**

The Graduating Student Survey was designed to gather opinions of graduating students related to various components of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama and their post-graduation plans. The Graduate Student Survey was conducted electronically using the Class Climate survey system. The Graduating Student survey included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. The survey was left open from April 30, 2015 to May 14, 2015. Although participation was voluntary, reminder emails were sent every five days before the close of the survey.

**Sample**

The sample consisted of students who graduated in either Fall 2014 or Spring 2015 semesters. The final sample of graduating students consisted of 2,604 students. 511 participants completed the survey for a response rate of 20%. The respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables (*n* = number of respondents). One respondent was missing in Table 1.2.

**1. Demographics**

Table 1.1: Sex

| **Sex** | ***n*** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Female | 336 | 65.8 |
| Male | 175 | 34.2 |
| Total | 511 | 100.0 |

Table 1.2: Race

| **Race** | ***n*** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Asian | 40 | 7.8 |
| Black | 83 | 16.2 |
| Hispanic | 12 | 2.3 |
| Multiracial | 1 | 0.2 |
| Native American/Alaska Native | 3 | 0.6 |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 4 | 0.8 |
| Unknown | 15 | 2.9 |
| White | 352 | 68.9 |
| Total | 510 | 99.7 |

Table 1.3: Classification Level

| **Level** | ***n*** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Allied Health Professional | 7 | 1.4 |
| Graduate | 162 | 31.7 |
| Doctor of Medicine | 15 | 2.9 |
| Undergraduate | 327 | 64.0 |
| Total | 511 | 100.0 |

Table 1.4 Graduation Semester

| **Semester** | ***n*** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2014 | 80 | 15.7 |
| Spring 2015 | 431 | 84.3 |
| Total | 511 | 100.0 |

**Analysis and Charts**

Various components of the student educational experience and post-graduation plans will be presented in the following charts. The tables include the percentage of responses for each option. The tables also include the written question and number of respondents for each specific question (represented by *n*).

**2. General Questions**

Table 2.1: Graduation Timeline Expectation

| **Question** | ***n*** | **On time (%)** | **Earlier than I thought I would (%)** | **Later than I thought I would (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I am graduating: | 271 | 66.8 | 2.6 | 30.6 |

Table 2.2: Enrollment Status

| **Question** | ***n*** | **Full-time undergraduate student - I took 12 or more hours per semester (%)** | **Part-time undergraduate student - I took less than 12 hours per semester (%)** | **Full-time graduate student - I took 6 or more hours per semester (%)** | **Part-time graduate student - I took less than 6 hours per semester (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| While attending USA, on average, you were a | 268 | 70.1 | 9.0 | 19.0 | 1.9 |

Table 2.3: Change of Major

| **Question** | ***n*** | **Yes (%)** | **No (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Did you change your major while attending USA? | 268 | 37.7 | 62.3 |

**3. Employment after Graduation**

Table 3.1: Employment Post-Graduation

| Question | *n* | Stay in my current job (%) | Start a new job (%) | Look for a new job (%) | Serve in the Armed Forces (%) | Serve in an international or national volunteer organization (%) | Do volunteer work (%) | Other (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment? | 509 | 20.8 | 24.4 | 41.5 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 11 |

Table 3.2: Relevancy of Coursework to Job

| Question | *n* | Yes (%) | No (%) | Somewhat (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Is this position related to your major? | 121 | 86.0 | 5.0 | 9.1 |

Table 3.3: Preference to Work in Major

| Question | *n* | Yes (%) | No (%) | It doesn't matter (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Do you want to work in an area related to your major? | 210 | 91.9 | 1.4 | 6.7 |

**4. Education after Graduation**

Table 4.1: Education Plans

| Question | *n* | I have been accepted to graduate or professional school (%) | I have applied to graduate or professional school, but haven't heard about my acceptance yet (%) | I will be pursing another undergraduate degree (%) | I plan on continuing my education in the next year, but haven't applied yet (%) | I don't plan on continuing my education within the next year (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| What are your plans after graduation in regards to continuing your education? | 502 | 16.1 | 7.8 | 1.0 | 27.9 | 47.2 |

Table 4.2: Highest Degree Desired

| Question | *n* | Bachelor's (%) | Master's (%) | Professional - J.D. /M.D. (%) | Ed.S. (%) | Ph.D. or doctoral level (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| What is the highest degree you plan to obtain? | 502 | 13.1 | 48.2 | 8.4 | 0.2 | 30.1 |

**5. Advising**

Table 5.1: Advising

| Question | *n* | Strongly disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Agree (%) | Strongly agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate | 457 | 3.9 | 5.0 | 43.8 | 47.3 |
| I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning | 436 | 7.8 | 12.2 | 42.9 | 37.2 |
| I was satisfied with the quality of advising for graduate/professional school | 371 | 7.5 | 11.6 | 44.7 | 36.1 |
| The frequency with which I met with an advisor was sufficient | 437 | 6.2 | 11.0 | 45.1 | 37.8 |
| I had adequate access to my advisor | 458 | 6.1 | 8.1 | 45.4 | 40.4 |

Table 5.2: Advisor Complaints

| Question | *n* | Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education requirements (%) | Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements (%) | Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements (%) | Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures (%) | Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me (%) | Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Did you encounter any of the following problems with your advisor? | 511 | 8.2 | 10.2 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 6.1 |

**6. Career Services/Co-op and Internship**

Table 6.1: Cooperative Education Participation

| Question | *n* | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Did you participate in the Cooperative Education program at USA? | 495 | 7.5 | 92.5 |

Table 6.2: Internship Participation

| Question | *n* | I participated in an internship arranged by USA Career Services Co-op/Internship program (%) | I participated in an internship arranged by the college/school or department (%) | I participated in an internship I found on my own (%) | I didn't participate in an internship (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Did you participate in an internship at USA? | 499 | 2.8 | 15.6 | 12.4 | 69.1 |

Table 6.3: Compensation for Internship

| Question | *n* | Paid (%) | Unpaid (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| My internship was | 154 | 44.2 | 55.8 |

Table 6.4: Academic Credit for Internship

| Question | *n* | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Did you receive academic credit for your internship? | 154 | 61.7 | 38.3 |

**7. Academic Experiences**

Table 7.1: Overall Academic Experiences

| Question | *n* | Strongly disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Agree (%) | Strongly agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| There was ample opportunity to apply what I was learning to real-world problems or jobs | 470 | 2.8 | 8.1 | 55.7 | 33.4 |
| In general, faculty were interested in my academic success | 491 | 2.9 | 4.9 | 48.9 | 43.4 |
| As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major | 288 | 6.9 | 17.7 | 49 | 26.4 |
| The coursework for my program was engaging | 490 | 1.4 | 4.9 | 55.1 | 38.6 |
| Overall, my coursework was challenging | 493 | 1.2 | 3.7 | 53.1 | 42.0 |
| The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper level courses | 466 | 3.0 | 5.8 | 57.9 | 33.3 |

Table 7.2: Graduate Academic Experiences

| Question | *n* | Strongly disagree (%) | Disagree (%) | Agree (%) | Strongly agree (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication | 123 | 5.7 | 7.3 | 46.3 | 40.7 |
| The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics | 158 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 47.5 | 49.4 |
| The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning | 153 | 1.3 | 3.9 | 46.4 | 48.4 |
| My interactions with the Department Graduate Coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately | 121 | 0.8 | 5.8 | 47.1 | 46.3 |
| My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately | 107 | 0.9 | 5.6 | 46.7 | 46.7 |
| My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately | 142 | 0.7 | 7.0 | 48.6 | 43.7 |

**8. Overall Student Experiences**

Table 8.1: Retrospective Attitudes

| **Question** | ***n*** | **Definitely no (%)** | **Probably no (%)** | **Probably yes (%)** | **Definitely yes (%)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA? | 499 | 5.4 | 10.0 | 37.1 | 47.5 |
| If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major? | 497 | 3.6 | 13.7 | 25.4 | 57.3 |