

Graduating Student Survey: 20 20 Spring Semester Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Executive Summary

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 postgraduation plans. The Graduate Student Survey was conducted electronically using the Qualtrics survey system. It included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. The survey launched on April 10, 2020 and closed on May 10, 2020. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent to non-respondents every three days before the close of the survey.

Sample

The sample consisted of students who graduated in Spring 2020. The final sample of graduating students consisted of 1,506 students; 817 participants completed the survey for a response rate of 54%. Respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables (n = number of respondents).

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

Sex	n	Percent
Male	238	29.7
Female	564	70.3
Total	802	100

Table 1.2: Race

Race	n	Percent
African American	162	20.2
Asian American	24	3.0
Hispanic American	27	3.4
Multiracial	29	3.6
Native American	4	.5

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:	801	69.41	2.12	28.46

Table 2.2: Entry Status

Question	n	First-time college student (%)	Transfer student (%)	Returning USA student (%)
For this degree, what was your status when you entered USA?	780	48.72	36.54	14.74

Table 2.3: Work for Pay Hours/Week

Question	n	0 (%)	1 to 10 (%)	11 to 20 (%)	21 to 30 (%)	More than 30 hours
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Table 2.4: Enrollment Status

Question - <i>While attending USA, on average you were a:</i>	n	Percent
Full-time undergraduate student I took 12 or more hours per semester	528	66.50
Part-time Undergraduate student I took less than 12 hours per semester	34	4.28
Full-time graduate student I took 6 or more hours per semester	212	26.70
Part-time graduate student I took less than 6 hours per semester	20	2.52
Total	794	100

4. Employment after Graduation

Table 4.1: Employment Post -Graduation

Question - <i>After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?</i>	n	Percent
Stay in my current job	153	19.37
Start a new job	223	28.23
Look for a new job	311	39.37

Table 4.3: Current Job Satisfaction

Question	n	Not at all satisfied with my current position. (%)	Somewhat satisfied with my current position. (%)	Satisfied with my current position. (%)	Very satisfied with my current position. (%)
Would you say you are:	414	13.77	30.19	34.78	21.26

Table 4.4: Start Date

Question	n	Within the first month after graduation (%)	Two to three months after graduation (%)	Four to
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5. Education after Graduation

Table 5.1: Education Plans

Question - <i>What are your plans after graduation in regards to continuing your education?</i>	n	Percent
I have been accepted to graduate or professional school	95	12.58
I have applied to graduate or professional school, but haven't heard about my acceptance yet	43	5.70
I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree	7	.93
I plan on continuing my education in the next year, but I haven't applied yet	290	38.41
I don't plan on continuing my education within the next year	320	42.38
Total	755	100

Table 5.3: Highest Degree Desired

Question - What is the highest degree you plan to obtain?	n	Percent
Bachelor's	11	2.64
Master's	228	54.68
Professional-J.D./M.D.	46	11.03
Ed.S.	5	1.20
Ph.D. or doctoral level	127	30.46
Total	417	100

6. Advising

Table 6.1: Advising

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.	714	2.52	4.62	40.48	43.14
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	712	6.88	13.20	33.01	33.15
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for graduate/professional school.	713	6.31	10.52	27.07	29.45
The frequency with which I met with an advisor was sufficient.	712	5.48	8.71	39.61	31.88
I had adequate access to my advisor.	711	3.23	6.61	41.07	41.35

Table 6.2: Advisor Complaints

Complaint	n	Percent
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education	64	18.99
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements	68	20.18
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements	28	8.31
Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures	18	5.34
Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me	36	10.68
Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students (%)	8.90	30
Other	93	

7. Career Services

Table 7.1: Career services Participation

Question - *What services available at
USA Career Services did you use to*

7. Academic Experiences

Table 7.1 Overall Academic Experiences

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
Library resources were sufficient to meet my needs.	680	.44	1.62	63.24	32.70

The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper level courses.	659	2.28	7.44	46.43	36.57
I felt well prepared to take the licensure exam. (Respond only if a licensure exam is required for you to practice)	608	2.47	5.43	28.13	22.86

Table 7.1 Other Educational Opportunities

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
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There was ample opportunity to

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8. Co-op and Internship

Table 8.1: Internship/Co-Op Participation

growth and curiosity.					
My thesis/dissertation advisor provided regular, constructive feedback to me regarding my progress.	192	1.04	2.60	11.98	33.33
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	191	1.57	5.24	22.51	38.22

The graduate program included instruction that

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My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately.	192	0	1.56	26.04	32.81
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	192	0	2.08	40.10	41.15

Table 8.5: Overall Experiences with Student Organizations

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
Being involved in a student organization added value to my experiences as a student at USA	614	1.14	5.21	23.78	31.11

9. Overall Student Experiences

Table 9.1: Safety

Question	n	Not Safe (%)	Somewhat safe (%)	Safe (%)	Very Safe (%)
Overall, how safe did you feel while on campus?	632	2.37	11.08	37.34	38.13

Table 9.2: Retrospective Attitudes

Question	n	Definitely no (%)	Probably no (%)	Probably yes (%)	Definitely yes (%)
If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA?	633	3.32	10.74	39.49	46.45
If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major?	628	4.94	13.38	27.07	54.62

10. Alumni Connection

Table 10.1: Alumni Activities

Table 10.3: Alumni Preferences for Contact

Question	n	Email (%)	Phone (%)	Address (%)
What's the best way for your college/school to keep in touch with you (select all that apply)?	862	63.46	15.43	21.11