

Graduating Student Survey: Spring 2020

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 post-graduation 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 is typically launched four weeks prior to the end of the semester, and remains open until the semester ends. 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 1,494 students; 819 participants completed the survey for a response rate of 54%. Respondent demographics are displayed ([link to tables](#))

Strengths

- 71% of students who responded to the question reported that they are graduating on time or earlier than previously expected.
- *67% percent of undergraduates reported that they were full-time students.*
- 76% students were satisfied with computing, lab and technological and library resources.
- *56% of the sample expressed interest in continuing their education, with 18% already having applied or been accepted to graduate or professional school.*
- 94% of students reported that classwork was engaging, and 91% reported that classwork was challenging.
- Overall, graduate students were satisfied with their thesis/dissertation advisors.
- 86% of students reported if they had to do it over again, they would still choose South, and 82% reported they would choose the same major.

Weaknesses

- Student Advising: 41% of respondents had some type of complaint about their advisor.
- 20% of undergraduates, or 132 students out of 660, did not feel as if their general education courses prepared them for their major courses.
- 17% of students or 114, out of 660 felt the variety of electives available to them in their major were insufficient.
- Around 12-15% of students did not think there was ample opportunity to participate in the co-operative education program, service learning, *independent research*, internships.
- Safety: Around 85 students out of 632 students (13%) reported either not feeling safe on campus or only somewhat safe on campus.

Opportunities:

- 217 students reported that they would be interested in mentoring current students as *alumni*.
- Students reported that as alumni they would also be interested in participating in the following Tailgate at football games (27%), concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount (22%), and concerts and exhibits around town at a discount (24%).