

Graduating Student Survey: 2020 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 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 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
Non-Resident Alien	19	2.4
Pacific Islander	1	.1
White	510	64
Unknown	23	2.9
Total	802	100

Table 1.3: Classification

Level	n	Percent
Undergraduate	570	71.1
Graduate	232	28.9
Total	802	100

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 (%)
How many hours a week do you work for pay (on & off campus)?	792	21.72	9.85	22.2	19.57	26.64

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
Serve in the Armed Forces	13	1.65
Serve in an international or national volunteer organization	0	0
Do volunteer work	5	.63
Other	85	10.76
Total	782	100

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 six months after graduation (%)	More than six months after graduation (%)	Other time frame (%)
What is your start date?	217	40.09	38.25	7.83	1.84	11.98

Table 4.5: Relevancy of Coursework to Future Job

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)	Somewhat (%)
Did your major or field of study prepare you for your new position?	194	85.05	3.61	11.34

Table 4.6: Location of Job

Question	n	In the state of Alabama (%)	In another state (%)	Other (%)
Do you plan on working:	304	48.68	42.76	8.55

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	27.60
Total	337	100

7. Career Services

Table 7.1: Career services Participation

Question - <i>What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (select all that apply)</i>	n	Percent
Attended career fairs	207	22.38
Attended career related seminars/events	114	12.32
Facebook	56	6.05
Met with Career Advisor	66	7.14
Participated in a mock interview	66	7.14
Pinterest	17	1.84
Received assistance with resume/interview preparation	125	13.51
Searched postings in the job binders	39	4.22
Twitter	12	1.30
Used the career resource library	27	2.92
Used Career Services website	136	14.70
Other	60	6.49
Total	925	100

Table 7.2: Career Services visitation

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Have you visited the Office of Career Services in the past years?	705	13.48	86.52

Table 7.3: Overall Experience with Career Services

Question	n	Poor (%)	Fair (%)	Good (%)	Excellent (%)
How would you rate your overall experience with Career Services?	94	2.13	11.70	43.62	41.49

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	37.35	49.85
Labs, studios, and other academic spaces were sufficient to meet my needs.	680	.44	3.68	37.94	38.97
Computing resources (labs, machines, software) were sufficient to meet my needs.	679	1.62	4.12	38.29	40.50
Available technology/instrumentation/equipment were sufficient to meet my needs.	674	1.63	5.93	39.32	40.80
Courses in my major were offered with sufficient frequency.	672	3.42	11.31	43.15	38.84
I felt the variety of electives available to me in my major were sufficient.	672	5.36	11.76	40.18	31.99
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	663	1.51	3.77	48.72	44.49
Faculty were accessible outside of class.	663	.60	4.22	49.77	42.82
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	661	6.81	13.46	29.80	24.66
The coursework for my program was engaging.	661	.91	6.05	51.29	39.33
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	659	.46	4.25	44.76	49.47

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 (%)
There was ample opportunity to apply what I was learning to real-world problems or jobs.	634	2.21	9.32	46.85	36.28
There was ample opportunity to take part in an internship or co-op.	634	3.15	12.46	33.12	30.91
There was ample opportunity to take part in service learning.	631	3.49	10.46	32.65	26.15
There was ample opportunity to take work with faculty on research outside of class.	634	3.00	11.51	33.75	27.76
There was ample opportunity to engage in independent research outside of class.	633	3.32	10.58	34.60	28.75

8. Co-op and Internship

Table 8.1: Internship/Co-Op Participation

Question - Have you participated in any of the following (select all that apply):	n	Percent
Internship (paid)	139	21.62
Internship (unpaid)	146	22.71
Cooperative Education Program	31	4.82
I have not participated.	327	50.86
Total	643	100

Table 8.2: Procurement of Internship

Question	n	Faculty member (%)	Family (%)	Friends (%)	Staff member (%)	Other (%)
How did you find out about your internship?	293	46.76	7.51	11.60	8.53	25.60

Table 8.3: Academic Credit for Internship

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Did you receive academic credit for your internships?	292	70.89	29.11

Table 8.4: Graduate Academic Experiences

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
My thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged my intellectual	192	.52	2.08	13.02	33.33

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 emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	192	.52	.52	36.98	53.65
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	192	.52	2.08	33.33	54.69
My interactions with the Department Graduate coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	192	1.56	1.56	36.98	36.46

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**

Question - <i>As an alumnus/a, what kinds of activities would you like to participate in (select all that apply)?</i>	n	Percent
Tailgates at football games	287	26.50
Concerts and exhibitions around town at a discount	241	22.25
Concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount	256	23.64
Mentoring current students	217	20.04
Other	82	7.57
Total	1083	100

Table 10.2: Alumni Information Preferences

Question - <i>As an alumnus/a, how would you like to keep informed about activities and events at USA (select all that apply)?</i>	n	Percent
Email	496	50.36
Postal Mail	207	21.06
Facebook	167	16.99
LinkedIn	60	6.10
Twitter	36	3.66
Other	18	1.83
Total	983	100

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