Graduating Student Survey: [Summer Semester 2020]

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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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 [Insert Opening Date] and closed on [Insert Closing Date]. 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 Summer 2020. The final sample of graduating students consisted of **597** students; **344** participants completed the survey for a response rate of **57%**. Respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables (n = number of respondents).

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

Sex	n	Percent
Male	89	28.4
Female	224	71.6
Total	314	100

Table 1.2: Race

Race	n	Percent
African American	57	18.2
Asian American	7	2.2
Hispanic American	8	2.6
Multiracial	7	2.2
Native American	3	1
Non-Resident Alien	20	6.4
Pacific Islander	1	.3
White	199	63.6
Unknown	11	3.5
Total	313	100

Table 1.3: Classification

Level	n	Percent
Undergraduate	198	63.3
Graduate	115	36.7
Total	313	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:	337	55.46	7.37	37.17

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?	331	40.18	39.27	20.54

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)?	338	24.56	5.92	16.27	18.64	34.62

Table 2.4: Enrollment Status

Question - *While attending USA, on average you were a:*	**n**	**Percent**
Full-time undergraduate student- I took 12 or more hours per semester	198	58.58
Part-time Undergraduate student- I took less than 12 hours per semester	21	6.21
Full-time graduate student- I took 6 or more hours per semester	108	31.95
Part-time graduate student- I took less than 6 hours per semester	11	3.25
Total	338	100

4. Employment after Graduation

Table 4.1: Employment Post-Graduation

Question - *After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?*	**n**	**Percent**
Stay in my current job	84	25
Start a new job	104	30.95
Look for a new job	114	33.93
Serve in the Armed Forces	5	1.49
Serve in an international or national volunteer organization	0	0
Do volunteer work	0	0
Other	29	8.63
Total	336	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:	189	12.17	38.10	29.63	20.11

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?	99	45.45	38.38	1.01	2.02	13.13

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?	191	62.83	19.9	17.28

Table 4.6: Location of Job

Question	n	In the state of Alabama (%)	In another state (%)	Other (%)
Do you plan on working:	113	55.75	35.40	8.85

5. Education after Graduation

Table 5.1: Education Plans

Question - *What are your plans after graduation in regards to continuing your education?*	**n**	**Percent**
I have been accepted to graduate or professional school	38	11.84
I have applied to graduate or professional school, but haven't heard about my acceptance yet	2.80	9
I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree	2.80	9
I plan on continuing my education in the next year, but I haven't applied yet	40.81	131
I don't plan on continuing my education within the next year	41.74	134
Total	321	100

Table 5.3: Highest Degree Desired

Question - What is the highest degree you plan to obtain?	**n**	**Percent**
Bachelor's	7	3.91
Master's	102	56.98
Professional-J.D./M.D.	12	6.70
Ed.S.	2	1.12
Ph.D. or doctoral level	56	31.28
Total	179	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.	307	3.26	4.23	35.83	43.97
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	308	5.19	11.04	29.53	36.36
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for graduate/professional school.	308	4.22	10.06	27.27	32.79
The frequency with which I met with an advisor was sufficient.	307	6.84	8.79	34.20	33.5
I had adequate access to my advisor.	308	4.55	6.17	37.66	40.58

Table 6.2: Advisor Complaints

Complaint	n	Percent
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education	28	21.71
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements	22	17.05
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements	5	3.88
Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures	5	3.88
Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me	20	15.5
Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students (%)	16	12.4
Other	33	25.58
Total	129	100

7. Career Services

Table 7.1: Career services Participation

Question - *What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (select all that apply)*	**n**	**Percent**
Attended career fairs	57	16.96
Attended career related seminars/events	25	7.44
Facebook	27	8.04
Met with Career Advisor	24	7.14
Participated in a mock interview	24	7.14
Pinterest	5	1.49
Received assistance with resume/interview preparation	45	13.39
Searched postings in the job binders	17	5.06
Twitter	5	1.49
Used the career resource library	15	4.46
Used Career Services website	49	14.58
Other	43	12.8
Total	336	100

Table 7.2: Career Services visitation

Question	**n**	**Yes (%)**	**No (%)**
Have you visited the Office of Career Services in the past years?	298	14.09	85.91

Table 7.3: Overall Experience with Career Services

Question	**n**	**Poor (%)**	**Fair (%)**	**Good (%)**	**Excellent (%)**
How would you rate your overall experience with Career Services?	41	2.44	12.2	36.59	48.78

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.	288	0.69	1.74	36.81	52.08
Labs, studios, and other academic spaces were sufficient to meet my needs.	287	43..35	2.79	34.84	43.55
Computing resources (labs, machines, software) were sufficient to meet my needs.	287	0.35	2.44	37.63	41.46
Available technology/instrumentation/equipment were sufficient to meet my needs.	285	0.35	1.75	39.65	41.75
Courses in my major were offered with sufficient frequency.	284	2.46	9.51	39.08	44.01
I felt the variety of electives available to me in my major were sufficient.	283	1.77	9.89	38.16	37.46
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	284	1.06	3.17	45.77	47.18
Faculty were accessible outside of class.	286	0	3.85	46.5	45.8
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	284	5.28	8.1	27.11	31.69
The coursework for my program was engaging.	284	1.06	4.58	46.83	44.37
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	286	0.35	4.20	41.96	51.05

The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper level courses.	285	1.05	4.56	42.11	44.56
I felt well prepared to take the licensure exam. (Respond only if a licensure exam is required for you to practice)	267	0.75	5.24	27.72	26.97

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.	273	1.47	8.42	41.76	41.03
There was ample opportunity to take part in an internship or co-op.	273	4.4	9.52	27.11	32.23
There was ample opportunity to take part in service learning.	271	3.69	8.49	31.37	25.83
There was ample opportunity to take work with faculty on research outside of class.	272	5.15	9.56	24.26	30.15
There was ample opportunity to engage in independent research outside of class.	272	4.04	9.93	30.51	30.15

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)	38	13.82
Internship (unpaid)	57	20.73
Cooperative Education Program	16	5.82
I have not participated.	164	59.64
Total	275	100

Table 8.2: Procurement of Internship

Question	**n**	**Faculty member (%)**	**Family (%)**	**Friends (%)**	**Staff member (%)**	**Other (%)**
How did you find out about your internship?	103	33.98	7.77	14.56	8.74	34.95

Table 8.3: Academic Credit for Internship

Question	**n**	**Yes (%)**	**No (%)**
Did you receive academic credit for your internships?	103	72.82	27.18

Table 8.4: Graduate Academic Experiences

Question	**n**	**Strongly disagree (%)**	**Disagree (%)**	**Agree (%)**	**Strongly agree (%)**
My thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged my intellectual	97	1.03	2.06	24.74	27.84

growth and curiosity.					
My thesis/dissertation advisor provided regular, constructive feedback to me regarding my progress.	96	4.17	3.13	23.96	23.96
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	96	2.08	8.33	29.17	30.21
The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	97	0	2.06	43.30	50.52
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	97	0	1.03	41.24	53.61
My interactions with the Department Graduate coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	97	3.09	1.03	41.24	32.99

My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately.	96	1.04	1.04	32.29	31.25
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	97	0	3.09	45.36	39.18

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	263	2.28	4.18	22.81	25.48

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?	272	1.47	10.66	34.56	37.13

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?	273	2.93	9.89	41.39	45.79
If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major?	272	4.04	11.76	30.51	53.68

10. Alumni Connection

Table 10.1: Alumni Activities

Question - *As an alumnus/a, what kinds of activities would you like to participate in (select all that apply)?*	n	Percent
Tailgates at football games	119	27.87
Concerts and exhibitions around town at a discount	94	22.01
Concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount	103	24.12
Mentoring current students	76	17.8
Other	35	8.2
Total	427	100

Table 10.2: Alumni Information Preferences

Question - *As an alumnus/a, how would you like to keep informed about activities and events at USA (select all that apply)?*	n	Percent
Email	204	53.68
Postal Mail	68	17.89
Facebook	59	15.53
LinkedIn	26	6.84
Twitter	13	3.42
Other	10	2.63
Total	380	

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)?	370	62.43	16.22	21.35