



Graduating Student Survey

Fall 2021

Executive Summary

Purpose

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 Graduating Student Survey was conducted electronically using the Qualtrics survey system. It included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent to non-respondents every three days before the close of the survey.

What is in the summary?

The following summary outlines strengths, areas of improvement, activities students may be interested in after graduating, and how students would like to be contacted as alumni.

Scoring, Interpretation, and Rationale

- Items with 80% or more positive responses (agree or strongly agree) are considered strengths. This is because 80% indicates scoring at least a "B" on these items.
- Items with more than 20% negative responses (disagree or strongly disagree) are considered areas of potential improvement. This is because these items have lower than 80% positive responses, indicating a "C" or lower.

Highlights

- Ninety-eight percent of the respondents said that library resources were sufficient to meet their needs.
- Eighty-five percent of students reported feeling safe while on campus.
- Eighty-three percent of students agreed that being in a student organization added value to their experience as a student at USA.

Sample

The sample consisted of students who were graduating in the Fall 2021 semester. In total, there were 1,383 graduating students; 638 students responded to the survey for a response rate of 46%. N = number of respondents. Of these respondents, approximately 79% were female and 35% were minorities. Respondent demographics are shown below.

Key Findings - Strengths

- More than **82%** of students planning to start a new job after graduation said that their major or field prepared them for the new position.
- About **92%** agreed that the information their advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.
- Approximately **81%** said they were satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.
- Of students who have had experience with Career Services, **84%** were satisfied with their services.
- About **98%** agreed that library resources were sufficient to meet their needs.
- About **88%** felt the variety of electives available within their major were sufficient.
- Approximately **91%** agreed that, in general, faculty were interested in their academic success.
- About **92%** agreed that faculty were accessible outside of class.
- About **91%** of students felt there was ample opportunity to apply what they were learning to real-world problems or jobs.
- More than **92%** of graduate students who were doing a thesis or dissertation agreed that their thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged their intellectual growth and curiosity.
- Approximately **84%** agreed that being involved in a student organization added value to their experience as a student at USA.
- About **85%** of students felt safe while on campus.
- If given the opportunity to do it over again, **83%** of students said they would still choose to attend USA.

Key Findings – Areas of Potential Improvement

- About **26%** of students felt there was not enough opportunity to work with faculty on research outside of class.
- About **21%** felt there was not enough opportunity to partake in service-learning.
- Less than **5%** of students reported visiting the office of Career Services in the past year.
- Approximately **23%** of students felt the frequency with which they met their advisor was insufficient.
- About **30%** of students are graduating later than they thought they expected.

Opportunities – Staying Connected After Graduation

- Students reported that, as alumni, they would like to participate in the following activities: tailgates and football games (**24%**); concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount (**21%**); concerts and exhibitions around town at a discount (**23%**); and through mentoring current students (**22%**).
- Over **64%** of students agreed the best way for USA to keep in touch with them is through email.