



# Graduating Student Survey: 2015 – 2016 Academic Year

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Missy Kern

## Overview

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 Class Climate survey system. It included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. The survey was left open the last four weeks of each semester. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent every five days before the close of the survey.

## Sample

The sample consisted of students who graduated in Fall 2015, Spring 2016, and Summer 2016. The final sample of graduating students consisted of 3,698 students, 1,833 participants completed the survey for a response rate of 49.6%. Respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables (*n* = number of respondents).

### 1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

Sex	<i>n</i>	%
Female	737	66.2
Male	376	33.8
Total	1113	100.0

Table 1.2: Race

Race	<i>n</i>	%
Asian	39	3.8
Black	197	19.1
Hispanic	26	2.5
Multiracial	20	1.9
Native American/Alaska Native	7	.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.3
Unknown	22	2.1
White	720	69.6
Total	1034	100.0

Table 1.3: Classification Level

Level	<i>n</i>	%
Allied Health Professional	26	2.3
Graduate	398	35.8

Doctor of Medicine	6	.5
Undergraduate	683	61.4
Total	1113	100.0

Table 1.4 Graduation Semester

Semester	n	%
Fall 2015	363	19.8
Spring 2016	704	38.4
Summer 2016	766	41.8
Total	1833	100.0

## 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:	866	58.8	7.9	33.4

Table 2.2: Enrollment Status

Question	n	Full-time undergraduate student - I took 12 or more hours per semester (%)	Part-time undergraduate student - I took less than 12 hours per semester (%)	Full-time graduate student - I took 6 or more hours per semester (%)	Part-time graduate student - I took less than 6 hours per semester (%)
While attending USA, on average, you were a:	861	65.4	7.8	24.3	2.6

Table 2.3: Change of Major

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Did you change your major while attending USA?	863	30.8	69.2

## 3. Employment after Graduation

Table 3.1: Employment Post-Graduation

Question	<i>n</i>	Stay in my current job (%)	Start a new job (%)	Look for a new job (%)	Serve in the Armed Forces (%)	Serve in an international or national volunteer organization (%)	Do volunteer work (%)	Other (%)
After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?	1819	18.1	26.4	46.6	1.3	0.4	0.9	6.2

Table 3.2: Relevancy of Coursework to Job

Question	<i>n</i>	Yes (%)	No (%)	Somewhat (%)
Is this position related to your major?	464	85.6	5.0	9.5

Table 3.3: Preference to Work in Major

Question	<i>n</i>	Yes (%)	No (%)	It doesn't matter (%)
Do you want to work in an area related to your major?	847	90.8	1.4	7.8

#### 4. Education after Graduation

Table 4.1: Education Plans

Question	<i>n</i>	I have been accepted to graduate or professional school (%)	I have applied to graduate or professional school, but haven't heard about my acceptance yet (%)	I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree (%)	I plan on continuing my education in the next year, but haven't applied yet (%)	I don't plan on continuing my education within the next year (%)
What are your plans after graduation in regards to continuing your education?	1806	11.8	5.6	1.5	28.1	53.0

Table 4.2: Highest Degree Desired

Question	<i>n</i>	Bachelor's (%)	Master's (%)	Professional - J.D. /M.D. (%)	Ed.S. (%)	Ph.D. or doctoral level (%)
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What is the highest degree you plan to obtain?	1701	14.6	50.7	3.6	1.0	30.0
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## 5. Advising

Table 5.1: Advising

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.	1612	4.0	4.9	48.2	42.9
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	1527	6.7	13.8	43.9	35.6
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for graduate/professional school.	1387	7.6	13.0	44.3	35.1
The frequency with which I met with an advisor was sufficient.	1484	5.9	11.1	49.1	34.0
I had adequate access to my advisor.	1586	5.0	8.8	46.8	39.4

Table 5.2: Advisor Complaints

Question	n	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures (%)	Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me (%)	Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students (%)
Did you encounter any of the following problems with your advisor?	1833	5.7	7.4	3.0	2.8	4.4	5.7

## 6. Career Services/Co-op and Internship

Table 6.1: Cooperative Education Participation

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
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Did you participate in the Cooperative Education program at USA?	1779	7.8	92.2
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Table 6.2: Internship Participation

Question	n	I participated in an internship arranged by USA Career Services Co-op/Internship program (%)	I participated in an internship arranged by the college/school or department (%)	I participated in an internship I found on my own (%)	I didn't participate in an internship (%)
Did you participate in an internship at USA?	1770	3.7	13.6	11.5	71.3

Table 6.3: Compensation for Internship

Question	n	Paid (%)	Unpaid (%)
My internship was	508	34.6	65.4

Table 6.4: Academic Credit for Internship

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Did you receive academic credit for your internship?	505	74.1	25.9

## 7. Academic Experiences

Table 7.1: Overall Academic Experiences

Question	n	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
There was ample opportunity to apply what I was learning to real-world problems or jobs.	1684	2.5	7.8	54.8	34.9
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	1725	1.5	5.1	50.7	42.7
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	951	8.2	18.2	46.7	26.9
The coursework for my program was engaging.	1727	1.3	4.9	54.7	39.1
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	1734	1.0	3.2	47.6	48.2
The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper level courses.	1646	2.2	6.3	52.2	39.3

Table 7.2: Graduate Academic Experiences

Question	<i>n</i>	Strongly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	558	2.5	3.9	50.7	42.8
The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	676	1.5	1.6	45.0	51.9
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	685	1.2	.9	43.6	54.3
My interactions with the Department Graduate Coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	492	2.2	3.5	46.1	48.2
My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately.	452	3.1	1.8	47.8	47.3
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	587	2.6	1.9	49.6	46.0

## 8. Overall Student Experiences

Table 8.1: Retrospective Attitudes

Question	<i>n</i>	Definitely no (%)	Probably no (%)	Probably yes (%)	Definitely yes (%)
If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA?	1759	4.0	9.6	44.6	41.8
If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major?	1753	3.5	11.3	28.3	56.9