



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

September 2014

MSU Undergraduate Exit Survey Results

2013 - 2014

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

The graduation survey instrument was developed by an ad hoc committee with representation from all areas to include Faculty, Student Services, Student Associations, Academic Advising, University Library, Meridian Campus as well as faculty. The committee reviewed at minimum 15 - 20 exit surveys of peer institutions and evaluated those based on categories that seemed to be applicable to MSU.

The university mission statement was used to formulate the focus of undergraduate education. The committee used the Access and Excellence from the Undergraduate Bulletin, 2008-2009 to shape the instrument's areas relating to diversity, leadership, understanding of their history, culture, an appreciation of the arts, a tolerance for opposing points of view, an understanding of scientific principles and methods, modern technologies, a competence in critical thinking and problem solving, a commitment to life-long learning, and a spirit of inquiry. The instrument also collects "future plans" data from the graduates to comply to Voluntary System Accountability.

Upon development of the survey, the MSU Information Technology Systems division established the environment for the launch of the instrument in conjunction to the student applying for graduation through the MSU portal. The survey was distributed to a small sample of the students that applied for graduation in Spring 2009 as a pilot. Only undergraduate students received this survey. Permission was granted by the Mississippi State University Institutional Review Board to require all undergraduate students applying for graduation to participate in this survey. The survey instrument takes approximately four to five minutes to complete and allows the student to indicate their desire for responses to be used for research purposes or to be excluded from such studies.



SURVEY RESULTS

This report provides analysis of the 2013 - 2014 graduating students' (1) principal activity upon graduation; (2) satisfaction of the graduates' in the areas of instruction and life-skills obtained; (3) quality of academic advising obtained; (4) quality of student services obtained; and (5) quality of undergraduate experiences at MSU.

During 2013 - 2014, there were 3,213 students who were awarded a bachelors degree and completed the survey. Of those 3,213 students, 2,883 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

Demographics

Of the 2,883 graduates responding to the survey, 77.6% represent White, 16% represent Black/African American, and 6.4% represents the other ethnicities. 5.4% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus. 48.3% are female and 51.7% are male. 53.5% of these graduates came to MSU as freshmen students. Almost 81% represent Mississippi resident students and 1.6% represent International students. Fifty-three graduates are MSU Athletes, one hundred twenty-two are graduates with disabilities, three hundred eighteen are Veterans, six are participants in the Cooperative Program, and two hundred one are students in the Shackouls Honors College.

FUTURE PLANS OF THE GRADUATES

Respondents were to indicate their future plans upon graduation. The following table indicates those responses.

What is Most Likely to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Percentage of responses
Employment, full-time paid	61.2%
Employment, part-time paid	2.6%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	28.3%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	2%
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.9%
Military service	1.8%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.5%
Starting or raising a family	0.3%
Other	2.3%

INSTRUCTION AND LIFE-SKILLS OBTAINED AT MSU

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with what they learned or attained at MSU for each item represented in the following table.

Instruction and Life-Skills Obtained at MSU	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	Mean
Knowledge and application of latest technologies (e.g., computer skills)	34.7%	51.9%	11.4%	1.8%	0.2%	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	35.9%	50.6%	12.4%	0.9%	0.2%	4.2
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	29%	42%	26.6%	1.7%	0.6%	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	33.4%	47.8%	17.5%	1%	0.2%	4.1
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	45%	46%	7.9%	0.8%	0.2%	4.3
Application of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills	49.7%	43.4%	5.8%	0.8%	0.3%	4.4
Development of leadership skills	50%	40.5%	8.1%	1.1%	0.2%	4.4
Learning to think and work independently	57.6%	37.4%	4.5%	0.2%	0.3%	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	44.8%	43.8%	9.4%	1.5%	0.4%	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	33.7%	38.5%	24.3%	2.9%	0.6%	4
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs, etc.) and professional societies/organizations	40.1%	33.3%	21.2%	4.1%	1.3%	4.1
Appreciation for cultural diversity	39.5%	42.2%	16.4%	1.4%	0.6%	4.2
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	39.5%	46.9%	12.7%	0.5%	0.3%	4.2
Tolerance for opposing points of view	39.9%	47.7%	10.8%	1.2%	0.5%	4.3
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	37.3%	44.1%	16.4%	1.9%	0.3%	4.2
Development of personal honor and integrity	54%	39.4%	5.9%	0.5%	0.2%	4.5
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	55.4%	37.9%	6%	0.5%	0.2%	4.5
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	58.3%	36.2%	5.1%	0.3%	0.2%	4.5

QUALITY OF ACADEMIC ADVISING OBTAINED AT MSU

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with the academic advising received at MSU for each item represented in the following table. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Academic Advising Obtained at MSU	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Orientation Advising	33.6%	42.5%	16%	6.1%	1.8%	204	4
College advising office	36.8%	41.4%	15.3%	4.8%	1.6%	193	4.1
Faculty advisor in my department	48%	33.6%	11.1%	5%	2.3%	37	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	31.3%	29.1%	37.4%	1.3%	0.8%	1545	3.9
Web-based information	29.7%	49.8%	16.7%	3.1%	0.7%	86	4
Catalogs/other printed materials	28%	46.6%	23.3%	1.8%	0.3%	194	4
The University Academic Advising Center	32.5%	40.5%	24.3%	1.9%	0.9%	652	4
Electronic degree audits	29.8%	39.8%	27.9%	1.5%	1.1%	695	4
Correct information on program/degree requirements	34.2%	47.2%	14%	3.7%	0.8%	99	4.1
Information provided for future career plans	30.8%	42.2%	19.5%	5.8%	1.7%	61	3.9
Availability of advisor (email, telephone, etc.) outside scheduled sessions	47.5%	37%	10.1%	3.6%	1.8%	43	4.2
Overall academic advisement	40.4%	42.8%	11.8%	3.3%	1.7%	9	4.2

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percentage of responses
Never	47.7%
Once	42.2%
2-3 times	5.8%
4-5 times	4.3%
More than 5 times	0%

QUALITY OF STUDENT SERVICES OBTAINED AT MSU

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with services provided at MSU for each area represented in the following table. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Student Services Obtained at MSU	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Office of Admissions and Scholarships	33%	49.6%	14.6%	2.2%	0.7%	190	4.1
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	28.9%	44.4%	17.6%	5.9%	3.2%	74	3.9
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	36.5%	35.7%	23.7%	2.9%	1.1%	869	4
Campus Dining Services	25.4%	45.9%	20.3%	5.9%	2.5%	365	3.9
Student Financial Aid	31.7%	45.2%	17.6%	4%	1.5%	408	4
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	28.8%	34.1%	35.3%	1.1%	0.6%	1461	3.9
The Learning Center	31.5%	40.4%	26.7%	1%	0.4%	1037	4
MSU Police Department	28.1%	40.3%	23.3%	5.1%	3.2%	658	3.9
Student Housing and Residence Life	31%	42.8%	20.7%	4%	1.5%	752	4
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	51.4%	38.8%	8%	1.1%	0.6%	270	4.4
Student Counseling Services	35.4%	36.3%	27%	0.9%	0.4%	1239	4.1
Student Health Center	36.1%	40.5%	15.8%	5.2%	2.4%	459	4
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	32.4%	44.6%	20.1%	1.9%	1%	617	4.1
University Libraries	46%	43.9%	9.2%	0.6%	0.3%	119	4.3
Office of Parking Services	18.8%	28.8%	22.5%	13.9%	15.9%	200	3.2
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	34.3%	44.6%	17.1%	2.6%	1.4%	559	4.1
Shackouls Honors College	29.6%	33.5%	33.1%	2.3%	1.5%	1398	3.9
Athletic events	46.8%	40.3%	11%	1.3%	0.7%	293	4.3
Business Office (Student Account Services)	32%	44.1%	20.6%	2.7%	0.6%	355	4
Career Center	40%	41.9%	16.3%	1.3%	0.5%	437	4.2
Health Education Wellness	32.5%	41%	25%	1.1%	0.5%	952	4

QUALITY OF THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE AT MSU

Respondents were to indicate their level of agreement with a variety of statements relating to their undergraduate experience at MSU. The following table indicates those responses.

Quality of the Undergraduate Experience at MSU	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree	Mean
I received quality instruction from MSU faculty.	51.5%	42.5%	4.3%	1.3%	0.4%	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	24.8%	31.1%	35.1%	6%	3.1%	3.7
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	41.8%	45.1%	10.6%	2%	0.5%	4.3
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	44.5%	43.6%	9.9%	1.6%	0.5%	4.3
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	44%	41.4%	12.9%	1.1%	0.7%	4.3
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	46%	43.7%	7.6%	1.9%	0.8%	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	49.2%	42.8%	6.5%	1%	0.6%	4.4
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	57%	35.8%	5.9%	0.9%	0.4%	4.5
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	52.1%	36.1%	9.7%	0.9%	1.1%	4.4
My overall academic experience within my degree at MSU was positive.	54.6%	38.2%	5.1%	1.5%	0.5%	4.4
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	63.2%	27.2%	7.4%	1.4%	0.8%	4.5



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