



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

September 2011

MSU Undergraduate Exit Survey Results

2009 - 2010

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, and Meridian Campus. 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 2009 - 2010 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 2009 - 2010, there were 2,700 students who were awarded a bachelors degree and completed the survey. Of those 2,700 students, 2,395 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

Demographics

Of the 2,395 graduates responding to the survey, 78.5% represent White, 16.7% represent Black/African American, and 4.8% represents the other ethnicities. 6.8% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus. 49.8% are female and 50.2% are male. 48.5% of these graduates came to MSU as freshmen students. Almost 86% represent Mississippi resident students and less than 1% represent International students. Twenty-eight graduates are MSU Athletes, twenty-four graduates participated in the Co-Op program while attending MSU, eighty-one are graduates with disabilities, ninety-four are Veterans, and one hundred sixty-four 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	59.1%
Employment, part-time paid	1%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	31.2%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	3.2%
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.9%
Military service	1.9%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.4%
Starting or raising a family	0.7%
Other	1.7%

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)	31.1%	57%	10.1%	1.3%	0.4%	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	30.5%	53.1%	14.9%	1.3%	0.2%	4.1
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	25.9%	46%	26.1%	1.6%	0.3%	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	29.6%	50.8%	18.7%	0.7%	0.2%	4.1
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	40.7%	49.8%	8.2%	1%	0.3%	4.3
Application of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills	44.1%	48.7%	6.3%	0.8%	0.2%	4.4
Development of leadership skills	43.5%	45.8%	9.1%	1.3%	0.3%	4.3
Learning to think and work independently	53.2%	41.5%	4.1%	0.9%	0.3%	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	40.7%	49.4%	7.8%	1.6%	0.5%	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	28.4%	43.2%	24.2%	3.3%	1%	3.9
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs, etc.) and professional societies/organizations	34.9%	34%	25%	4.6%	1.5%	4
Appreciation for cultural diversity	32.8%	47.7%	17.3%	1.3%	0.9%	4.1
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	33.1%	52.6%	12.9%	1.1%	0.3%	4.2
Tolerance for opposing points of view	33.6%	52.6%	11.8%	1.6%	0.4%	4.2
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	31.7%	49.7%	16.4%	1.8%	0.5%	4.1
Development of personal honor and integrity	49.3%	43.3%	6.6%	0.5%	0.4%	4.4
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	50.6%	42.4%	5.9%	0.7%	0.3%	4.4
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	54.9%	38.7%	5.6%	0.4%	0.4%	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	28.4%	45.5%	18.5%	5.4%	2.2%	236	3.9
College advising office	31.2%	44.5%	17%	4.7%	2.6%	218	4
Faculty advisor in my department	47%	35.2%	10.3%	5%	2.5%	34	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	26.4%	31.5%	40.3%	1.2%	0.7%	1327	3.8
Web-based information	28.3%	53%	15.5%	2.3%	0.9%	57	4.1
Catalogs/other printed materials	24.2%	49.4%	23.5%	2%	1%	164	3.9
The University Academic Advising Center	25.9%	43.1%	26.9%	2.9%	1.2%	582	3.9
Electronic degree audits	24.1%	43.8%	27%	3.3%	1.8%	496	3.9
Correct information on program/degree requirements	28.5%	50.6%	14.3%	4.8%	1.8%	79	4
Information provided for future career plans	24.6%	44.2%	20.5%	8.2%	2.6%	95	3.8
Availability of advisor (email, telephone, etc.) outside scheduled sessions	44.4%	38.8%	11.2%	3.8%	1.9%	39	4.2
Overall academic advisement	35.9%	47.2%	11.2%	4.1%	1.6%	9	4.1

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percentage of responses
Never	46.1%
Once	41.2%
2-3 times	6.2%
4-5 times	6.4%
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	26.7%	51%	17.4%	3.9%	1%	115	4
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	31.1%	45.7%	14.1%	6.7%	2.4%	35	4
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	30.2%	36.9%	26.9%	4.4%	1.5%	841	3.9
Campus Dining Services	17.6%	38.7%	27.4%	11.1%	5.2%	507	3.5
Student Financial Aid	23.9%	45.3%	20.4%	6.8%	3.6%	309	3.8
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	20.4%	33%	43.7%	1.7%	1.2%	1268	3.7
The Learning Center	24.3%	40.6%	33.2%	1.2%	0.7%	983	3.9
MSU Police Department	23.7%	43.2%	26%	4.1%	2.9%	609	3.8
Student Housing and Residence Life	23%	45%	24.3%	5.6%	2.1%	760	3.8
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	52.7%	38.8%	7.3%	0.7%	0.4%	260	4.4
Student Counseling Services	25.6%	38.3%	33.5%	1.6%	0.9%	1088	3.9
Student Health Center	33.3%	43.6%	14.8%	5.9%	2.4%	390	4
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	29.3%	45.8%	21.4%	2.3%	1.3%	522	4
University Libraries	41.5%	47.9%	9%	1.2%	0.4%	117	4.3
Office of Parking Services	11.8%	25.5%	21.7%	18.2%	22.8%	178	2.9
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	28.1%	42.3%	22.5%	5%	2%	578	3.9
Shackouls Honors College	24.3%	34.6%	38.2%	2.1%	0.8%	1249	3.8
Athletic events	44.3%	42.3%	10.7%	1.9%	0.7%	287	4.3

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.	45.9%	47.1%	5.8%	1%	0.2%	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	19.5%	30.4%	39.8%	5.9%	4.4%	3.5
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	36.5%	50.3%	10.8%	1.7%	0.8%	4.2
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	37.2%	49.4%	10.8%	1.9%	0.7%	4.2
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	31.3%	45.2%	20.4%	1.9%	1.2%	4
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	42.1%	46.7%	8%	2.6%	0.5%	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	45.4%	45.1%	7.9%	1.1%	0.5%	4.3
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	51.5%	40.3%	6.7%	1%	0.5%	4.4
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	46.7%	39.5%	11.3%	1.2%	1.3%	4.3
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	60.6%	28.9%	7.8%	2%	0.8%	4.5

