



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

## MSU Undergraduate Exit Survey Results

August 2012

2011 - 2012

*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 2011 - 2012 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 2011 - 2012, there were 2,871 students who were awarded a bachelors degree and completed the survey. Of those 2,871 students, 2,557 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

### Demographics

Of the 2,557 graduates responding to the survey, 78.5% represent White, 14.9% represent Black/African American, and 6.6% represents the other ethnicities. 6.2% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus. 49.7% are female and 50.3% are male. 53.1% of these graduates came to MSU as freshmen students. Almost 83% represent Mississippi resident students and 1.4% represent International students. Fifty-five graduates are MSU Athletes, six graduates participated in the Co-Op program while attending MSU, sixty-eight are graduates with disabilities, two hundred twenty-six are Veterans, and two hundred thirty-six 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.

<b>What is Most Likely to be your principal activity upon graduation?</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
Employment, full-time paid	59.4%
Employment, part-time paid	2%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	31%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	2.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.8%
Military service	1.8%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.7%
Starting or raising a family	0.4%
Other	1.6%

## 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)	34.3%	53.7%	10.2%	1.6%	0.2%	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	33.9%	51.2%	13.3%	1.5%	0.1%	4.2
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	28.4%	42.9%	27%	1.6%	0.2%	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	32.5%	48.3%	18.4%	0.7%	0.1%	4.1
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	43.8%	47.2%	7.8%	1%	0.2%	4.3
Application of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills	47.9%	45.1%	6.3%	0.6%	0.2%	4.4
Development of leadership skills	47.2%	41.5%	10%	1.1%	0.2%	4.3
Learning to think and work independently	54.9%	40.4%	4.3%	0.4%	0%	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	43.8%	44.4%	10.1%	1.4%	0.2%	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	31.8%	40.1%	23.3%	4.3%	0.4%	4
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs, etc.) and professional societies/organizations	36.4%	33.2%	25%	4.1%	1.3%	4
Appreciation for cultural diversity	37.8%	43.2%	17.1%	1.7%	0.3%	4.2
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	38.2%	48%	13.1%	0.7%	0%	4.2
Tolerance for opposing points of view	38.7%	48.7%	10.7%	1.6%	0.3%	4.2
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	35.1%	46.4%	16.2%	2.2%	0.1%	4.1
Development of personal honor and integrity	52.1%	41.5%	5.9%	0.4%	0.1%	4.5
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	54.1%	39.9%	5.3%	0.6%	0.1%	4.5
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	57.7%	36.7%	4.9%	0.5%	0.1%	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	31.2%	45.1%	15.5%	6.3%	1.9%	222	4
College advising office	32.4%	44.2%	16.7%	5.2%	1.5%	214	4
Faculty advisor in my department	46.8%	34.7%	10.6%	5.8%	2.1%	36	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	28.9%	30.9%	38%	1.7%	0.4%	1410	3.9
Web-based information	29.7%	51.5%	15.5%	2.8%	0.6%	85	4.1
Catalogs/other printed materials	26.5%	49.1%	21.8%	2.2%	0.5%	198	4
The University Academic Advising Center	29.2%	43.1%	24.5%	2.5%	0.7%	628	4
Electronic degree audits	27.9%	42.1%	26.9%	2.5%	0.6%	603	3.9
Correct information on program/degree requirements	30.7%	48.2%	15.5%	4.3%	1.3%	86	4
Information provided for future career plans	27.1%	43.2%	20.7%	6.7%	2.3%	75	3.9
Availability of advisor (email, telephone, etc.) outside scheduled sessions	44.7%	37.3%	12.5%	3.6%	1.8%	35	4.2
Overall academic advisement	37.3%	45.9%	11.5%	3.9%	1.3%	10	4.1

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percentage of responses
Never	47.6%
Once	41.9%
2-3 times	5.7%
4-5 times	4.7%
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	30%	49%	16.8%	3.3%	0.8%	143	4
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	30.6%	46.2%	14.9%	5.6%	2.6%	61	4
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	33.5%	37.6%	24.4%	2.9%	1.6%	846	4
Campus Dining Services	19.4%	46.5%	23.7%	6.8%	3.7%	402	3.7
Student Financial Aid	27.4%	44.6%	19.9%	6%	2%	343	3.9
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	25.5%	33.6%	39.4%	1%	0.5%	1338	3.8
The Learning Center	27.6%	40.6%	29.9%	1.3%	0.6%	1047	3.9
MSU Police Department	27.2%	40.3%	24.5%	4.4%	3.7%	639	3.8
Student Housing and Residence Life	27.2%	45.1%	21%	5.1%	1.7%	760	3.9
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	50.9%	41.7%	6.8%	0.5%	0.1%	297	4.4
Student Counseling Services	33%	36.2%	28.2%	2.2%	0.4%	1153	4
Student Health Center	33.8%	42.1%	15.1%	6.3%	2.7%	447	4
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	30.7%	46.4%	19.1%	3%	0.7%	546	4
University Libraries	43%	47.1%	8.6%	1.1%	0.3%	139	4.3
Office of Parking Services	14.4%	25.2%	21.6%	17.9%	20.9%	228	2.9
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	32.4%	44.4%	18.9%	3.2%	1.1%	571	4
Shackouls Honors College	29.2%	34.9%	33%	2.3%	0.6%	1302	3.9
Athletic events	48%	39.6%	10.3%	1.3%	0.7%	276	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.	48.6%	44.9%	5.2%	1%	0.3%	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	22.5%	31.2%	35.4%	7.1%	3.8%	3.6
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	40%	46.5%	11.3%	1.8%	0.3%	4.2
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	40.9%	46.1%	10.9%	1.7%	0.4%	4.3
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	36.8%	44.1%	17.3%	1.1%	0.7%	4.2
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	42%	45.7%	9%	2.9%	0.5%	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	47.7%	43.2%	7.8%	0.9%	0.4%	4.4
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	56.5%	36.8%	5.4%	1%	0.3%	4.5
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	50.7%	38.1%	9.6%	0.8%	0.8%	4.4
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	64.7%	26.4%	6.6%	1.4%	0.8%	4.5

