



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY

September 2013

MSU Undergraduate Exit Survey Results

2012 - 2013

*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 2012 - 2013 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 2012 - 2013, there were 3,160 students who were awarded a bachelors degree and completed the survey. Of those 3,160 students, 2,771 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

### **Demographics**

Of the 2,771 graduates responding to the survey, 77.5% represent White, 15.6% represent Black/African American, and 6.9% represents the other ethnicities. 5.6% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus. 51.7% are female and 48.3% are male. 54.9% of these graduates came to MSU as freshmen students. Almost 83% represent Mississippi resident students and 1.8% represent International students. Fifty-two graduates are MSU Athletes, eighty-three are graduates with disabilities, two hundred seventy-seven are Veterans, and two hundred twenty-three 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	60.9%
Employment, part-time paid	2%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	30%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	2.3%
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.9%
Military service	1.6%
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.2%
Starting or raising a family	0.4%
Other	1.8%

## 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.

<b>Instruction and Life-Skills Obtained at MSU</b>	<b>% Strongly Satisfied</b>	<b>% Satisfied</b>	<b>% Neutral</b>	<b>% Dissatisfied</b>	<b>% Strongly Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Knowledge and application of latest technologies (e.g., computer skills)	34.9%	52.5%	10.4%	1.9%	0.3%	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	34.4%	52.1%	11.9%	1.3%	0.3%	4.2
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	29.7%	44.3%	23.8%	1.8%	0.4%	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	34.4%	48.6%	16%	0.7%	0.2%	4.2
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	46.3%	45.3%	7.3%	1%	0.1%	4.4
Application of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills	48.9%	45%	5.4%	0.5%	0.1%	4.4
Development of leadership skills	47.9%	41.5%	8.6%	1.6%	0.4%	4.3
Learning to think and work independently	57.1%	37.8%	4.2%	0.7%	0.3%	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	46.3%	43.4%	8.2%	1.6%	0.6%	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	32.7%	39.3%	23.5%	3.4%	1.2%	4
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs, etc.) and professional societies/organizations	40.6%	32.5%	21.3%	4.3%	1.3%	4.1
Appreciation for cultural diversity	39.8%	42.9%	14.9%	1.8%	0.5%	4.2
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	40.1%	47.9%	11%	0.8%	0.3%	4.3
Tolerance for opposing points of view	40.4%	47.7%	10.2%	1.2%	0.5%	4.3
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	36.4%	44.5%	17.1%	1.5%	0.5%	4.1
Development of personal honor and integrity	53.8%	40.9%	4.5%	0.4%	0.3%	4.5
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	55.1%	38.7%	5.4%	0.4%	0.3%	4.5
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	59.1%	35.7%	4.7%	0.2%	0.3%	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	31.8%	44.2%	15.3%	6.2%	2.6%	240	4
College advising office	35.2%	43.3%	14.7%	5.2%	1.6%	228	4.1
Faculty advisor in my department	49.1%	33.5%	10.1%	5%	2.3%	46	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	30%	30.2%	37.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1531	3.9
Web-based information	29.6%	51.9%	14.8%	3.1%	0.6%	84	4.1
Catalogs/other printed materials	28.8%	48.4%	19.9%	2.4%	0.5%	188	4
The University Academic Advising Center	30.6%	43.5%	22.9%	2.2%	0.7%	616	4
Electronic degree audits	30.1%	41.9%	25.1%	2.1%	0.8%	653	4
Correct information on program/degree requirements	32.8%	48.9%	12.3%	4.5%	1.4%	112	4.1
Information provided for future career plans	30.9%	42.5%	17.4%	7.1%	2.1%	70	3.9
Availability of advisor (email, telephone, etc.) outside scheduled sessions	47.1%	36.7%	10.3%	4.3%	1.5%	43	4.2
Overall academic advisement	39.4%	44.5%	11%	3.9%	1.1%	14	4.2

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percentage of responses
Never	47.6%
Once	41.5%
2-3 times	6.6%
4-5 times	4.4%
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	32.4%	48.3%	15.2%	3%	1.1%	179	4.1
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	29.8%	44.9%	15.9%	6.5%	2.9%	63	3.9
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	34.6%	36.1%	23.7%	3.9%	1.7%	856	4
Campus Dining Services	23.4%	45.8%	21.3%	6.5%	3%	386	3.8
Student Financial Aid	30.1%	44.2%	18.7%	4.8%	2.2%	399	4
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	26.7%	34.1%	37.3%	0.9%	1.1%	1440	3.8
The Learning Center	30.5%	40%	27.3%	1.5%	0.7%	1064	4
MSU Police Department	27.9%	41%	22.8%	4.9%	3.4%	625	3.9
Student Housing and Residence Life	29.7%	44.7%	19.9%	4%	1.6%	744	4
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	49.9%	40.7%	7.9%	1.2%	0.3%	296	4.4
Student Counseling Services	35.1%	36.3%	26.8%	1.4%	0.5%	1220	4
Student Health Center	36.7%	41.9%	13%	5.4%	3%	448	4
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	30.6%	45.7%	19.6%	2.7%	1.5%	628	4
University Libraries	45.9%	44.9%	7.9%	0.9%	0.4%	152	4.3
Office of Parking Services	17%	26.2%	20.1%	17.6%	19.1%	205	3
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	33.6%	44.3%	17.8%	3%	1.2%	506	4.1
Shackouls Honors College	28%	35.8%	32.6%	2.7%	0.9%	1377	3.9
Athletic events	46.2%	40.9%	11%	1.3%	0.7%	278	4.3
Business Office (Student Account Services)	28.7%	46.8%	20.4%	2.7%	1.4%	337	4
Career Center	38.9%	42.3%	16.4%	1.6%	0.8%	449	4.2
Health Education Wellness	31.3%	40.4%	26.4%	1.3%	0.6%	931	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.

<b>Quality of the Undergraduate Experience at MSU</b>	<b>% Strongly Agree</b>	<b>% Agree</b>	<b>% Neutral</b>	<b>% Disagree</b>	<b>% Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Mean</b>
I received quality instruction from MSU faculty.	51.9%	41.9%	5.1%	0.9%	0.2%	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	23.9%	30%	36.1%	6.3%	3.7%	3.6
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	41.8%	46.3%	9.9%	1.5%	0.4%	4.3
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	43.6%	44.5%	10.1%	1.4%	0.5%	4.3
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	41.6%	42.8%	13.9%	1.1%	0.6%	4.2
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	44%	44.6%	8.1%	2.5%	0.8%	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	47.1%	44.4%	6.9%	1.2%	0.5%	4.4
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	57.8%	36.1%	4.9%	0.8%	0.3%	4.5
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	51.5%	36.7%	10.1%	0.8%	0.9%	4.4
My overall academic experience within my degree at MSU was positive.	54.7%	39.2%	4.4%	1.3%	0.5%	4.5
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	64.9%	25.9%	6.7%	1.6%	0.9%	4.5



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