

Undergraduate Exit Survey Summary 2017-18

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 with the 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 a summary of the 2017-18 graduating students' (1) principal activity upon graduation; (2) satisfaction with instruction and life-skills obtained; (3) quality of academic advising; (4) quality of student services; and (5) quality of undergraduate experiences at MSU.

During 2017-18, 3734 students were awarded a bachelors degree and completed the survey. Of those 3734 students, 3384 gave permission for the data results to be disseminated in the aggregate.

Demographics

Of the respondents, 52.6% were male and 47.4% were female. The percentage of Meridian campus graduates was 4.1%. 58.9% began at MSU as freshman students. 74% were residents of Mississippi, 24.3% were out-of-state residents, and 1.7% were international students. The table below shows the percentages of ethnicities making up the respondent group.

Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.4
Asian	0.8
Black or African American	14.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1
White	78.2
Hispanic	2.6
International	0
Multiracial	1.1
Unknown	2

In addition, 48 of respondents were athletes, 224 were graduates with disabilities, 379 were veterans, 8 participated in a co-op experience, and 149 were students in the Shackouls Honors College.

Future plans of graduates

Respondents were asked to indicate what their future plans were upon graduating. The table below shows that the majority of graduating students (90.2%) intended to either pursue full-time paid employment or full-time graduate or professional school.

What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?	Percentage of Responses
Employment, full-time paid	61.7
Employment, part-time paid	2.5
Graduate or professional school, full-time	28.5
Graduate of professional school, part-time	2.1
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.9
Military service	1.5
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.6
Starting or raising a family	0.6
Other	1.7

Instruction and Life Skills obtained at MSU

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the instruction and life-skills they obtained at MSU. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

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)	37.6	47.5	11.5	3	0.5	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	39	47.2	12.3	1.2	0.3	4.2
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	32.3	37.9	26.5	2.7	0.6	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	37.3	42.3	18.8	1.1	0.5	4.1
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	48	43.3	7.5	0.9	0.3	4.4
Application of critical thinking and problem solving skills	53.4	40.5	5	1	0.1	4.5
Development of leadership skills	51.4	37.9	8.8	1.5	0.4	4.4
Learning to think and work independently	60.2	34.1	4.9	0.6	0.2	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	48.9	39.8	8.7	2.1	0.5	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	36.6	33.5	24.5	4.1	1.4	4
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs) and professional societies/organizations	42.8	32.2	19.4	4.3	1.4	4.1
Appreciation for cultural diversity	42.8	38.7	16.1	1.6	0.7	4.2
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	41.6	42.3	14.5	1.1	0.4	4.2
Tolerance for opposing points of view	43.9	41.4	12.2	1.9	0.6	4.3
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	40.2	39.9	16.8	2.5	0.7	4.2
Development of personal honor and integrity	54.2	37.8	6.9	0.8	0.4	4.4
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	55.9	35.7	7	1	0.4	4.5
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	59.1	33.9	5.7	0.9	0.4	4.5

Quality of Academic Advising at MSU

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with academic advising at MSU. If they had no experience, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

Quality of Academic Advising	Strongly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	Mean
Orientation Advising	36.3	39.8	15.8	5.4	2.8	4
College advising office	38.3	38.6	15.8	5.2	2.1	4.1
Faculty advisor in my department	50.4	32	10	5	2.6	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	35.3	28.8	33.8	1.4	0.6	4.1
Web-based information	32.4	45.9	17.8	3.2	0.8	4.1
Catalog/other printed materials	31.6	42.4	23.7	1.8	0.4	4
Electronic degree audits	33.4	37.5	26.7	2	0.4	4
Correct information on program/degree requirements	37.6	43.7	13.9	3.6	1.2	4.1
Information provided for future career plans	34.3	39.4	17.7	6.5	2.1	4
Availability of advisor (email, telephone) outside scheduled sessions	49.3	35.3	10.5	3.1	1.9	4.3
Overall academic advisement	43.3	40.2	10.4	4.2	1.9	4.2

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percent
Never	51.2
Once	38.4
2-3 times	5.7
4-5 times	4.7
More than 5 times	0

Quality of Student Services at MSU

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with academic advising at MSU. If they had no experience, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

Quality of Student Services	Strongly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	Mean
Office of Admissions and Scholarships	34.8	46.3	15.1	3	0.9	4.1
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	30.7	41.7	18.1	6.9	2.6	3.9
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	37.8	34.9	22.2	3.7	1.5	4
Campus Dining Services	30	44.4	18.1	5.2	2.3	3.9
Student Financial Aid	32	42.1	18.5	5.2	2.2	4
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	34.7	31.7	31.2	1.3	1.1	4
The Learning Center	33.9	40.4	23.6	1.5	0.6	4
MSU Police Department	33.5	39.8	21.3	3.7	1.6	4
Student Housing and Residence Life	32.7	42.5	19.8	3.4	1.6	4
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	45.4	41	11.4	1.6	0.6	4.3
Student Counseling Services	39.7	34.8	22.7	1.7	1.1	4.1
Student Health Center	38.9	39.4	14.9	4.2	2.6	4.1
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	36.7	39.9	19.9	2.5	0.9	4.1
University Libraries	46.4	42.1	10	1	0.5	4.3
Office of Parking Services	17.4	20.7	18.7	16.7	26.6	2.9
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	30.2	40.9	19.8	6.2	3	3.9
Shackouls Honor College	30.8	30.3	34	3.8	1.1	3.9
Athletic events	52.3	36	10.2	0.9	0.5	4.4
Business Office (Student Account Services)	33.3	41.8	21.6	2.2	1	4
Career Center	40.2	41.3	16	1.5	1	4.2
Health Education Wellness	35	38.5	25.1	0.7	0.7	4.1
Writing Center	35.8	38.6	23.4	1.3	0.9	4.1

Quality of Undergraduate Experience at MSU

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with academic advising at MSU. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

Quality of Undergraduate Experience	Strongly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	Mean
I received quality instruction from MSU faculty.	50.3	40.8	6.9	1.7	0.4	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	26.9	29.7	35.2	5.6	2.6	3.7
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	45.5	42.5	9.9	1.6	0.5	4.3
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	46	41.6	9.6	2	0.7	4.3
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	45.5	39.2	13.7	1	0.6	4.3
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	45.4	41.4	9.5	2.7	1	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	52.4	38.8	7.4	0.8	0.6	4.4
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	57.2	35	6.1	0.9	0.7	4.5
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	52	35.2	11	1.2	0.6	4.4
My overall academic experience within my degree at MSU was positive.	52.1	38.6	6.6	2	0.7	4.4
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	59.4	27.8	8.5	2.9	1.3	4.4
My education stressed the importance of writing.	42.8	35.1	16	5.2	0.9	4.1