

## **Undergraduate Exit Survey Summary 2019-20**

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 2019-20 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 2019-20, 4119 students were awarded a Bachelor's degree and completed the survey.

## Demographics

Of the respondents, 47.4% were male and 52.6% were female. The percentage of Meridian campus graduates was 3.4%. 60.6% began at MSU as freshman students. 71.7% were residents of Mississippi, 26.8% were out-of-state residents, and 1.5% were international students.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percent</b>
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6
Asian	1.2
Black or African American	16.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1
White	76.4
Hispanic	2.4
International	0
Multiracial	1.7
Unknown	1.7

In addition, 23 of respondents were athletes, 321 were graduates with disabilities, 541 were veterans, 61 participated in a co-op experience, and 151 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 (91%) intended to either pursue full-time paid employment or full-time graduate or professional school.

<b>What is MOST LIKELY to be your principal activity upon graduation?</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Employment, full-time paid	64.7
Employment, part-time paid	2.7
Graduate or professional school, full-time	26.3
Graduate of professional school, part-time	1.8
Additional undergraduate coursework	0.8
Military service	1.3
Volunteer activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	0.4
Starting or raising a family	0.3
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).

<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)	35.6	48.1	13	2.6	0.6	4.2
Knowledge and application of mathematics, scientific methods, and related quantitative skills	39.1	46.3	12.5	1.6	0.5	4.2
Understanding and appreciation of fine arts	32.5	38.5	26	2.2	0.9	4
Understanding of human achievements and human conditions (humanities)	36.7	43.2	18.5	1.2	0.4	4.1
Development of effective communication skills (written and oral)	48.4	42.2	8.4	0.7	0.3	4.4
Application of critical thinking and problem solving skills	52.8	40	6.1	0.8	0.2	4.4
Development of leadership skills	51	37.5	10.1	1	0.3	4.4
Learning to think and work independently	58.8	35	5.5	0.4	0.3	4.5
Participation in meaningful group/interdisciplinary learning experiences	48.3	40	9.5	1.7	0.4	4.3
Participation in undergraduate research or other scholarly experiences	37	33.5	23.9	4	1.6	4
Pre-graduation engagement in professional experiences (internships, co-op programs) and professional societies/organizations	42.8	32.4	18.9	4.3	1.6	4.1
Appreciation for cultural diversity	44.4	38.3	15.1	1.5	0.7	4.2
Understanding of human behavior and social structures, processes, and institutions	43	41.4	14.1	1.1	0.3	4.3
Tolerance for opposing points of view	45.2	40.8	12.2	1.3	0.5	4.3
Appreciation of natural resources and their sustainability	42.9	38.9	15.6	1.9	0.8	4.2
Development of personal honor and integrity	53.7	37.9	7.7	0.4	0.2	4.4
Development of a commitment for life-long learning	54.5	36.5	8.1	0.7	0.3	4.4
Enhancement of my development into a mature, informed, responsible citizen	57.2	34.9	7	0.5	0.3	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	37.4	38.7	16.4	5.1	2.4	4
College advising office	38.2	39.6	15.5	4.7	2	4.1
Faculty advisor in my department	48.5	32.9	11.7	4.2	2.7	4.2
Academic athletic advisor	36.6	28	33.6	1.2	0.6	4
Web-based information	32.5	43.7	19.6	3.5	0.8	4
Catalog/other printed materials	32.5	40.1	24.2	2.5	0.6	4
Electronic degree audits	34	37.5	25.7	2	0.8	4
Correct information on program/degree requirements	38.4	42.7	13.6	4.1	1.2	4.1
Information provided for future career plans	34.9	38.2	17.7	6.2	3	4
Availability of advisor (email, telephone) outside scheduled sessions	48.2	36.2	10.9	2.8	1.9	4.3
Overall academic advisement	42	40.1	12.7	3.8	1.5	4.2

On average, how often did you receive advising from your advisor during each semester?	Percent
Never	53.4
Once	36.3
2-3 times	5.8
4-5 times	4.4
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	36.3	44	15.6	2.6	1.5	4.1
MSU Bookstore, Barnes and Noble	32.2	42.3	18.	4.7	2.8	4
Center for Student Involvement (Greek Life, Student Organizations)	40	34.3	21.9	2.6	1.3	4.1
Campus Dining Services	31.9	44	18.4	4	1.7	4
Student Financial Aid	32.7	39.6	19.8	5	2.9	3.9
Holmes Cultural Diversity Center	36	31.6	30.6	1	0.9	4
The Learning Center	36.2	37.6	24.7	0.9	0.7	4.1
MSU Police Department	36.5	37.5	21.4	2.9	1.7	4
Student Housing and Residence Life	34.1	40.3	20.2	3.6	1.8	4
Sanderson Center/Recreational Sports	44.3	41	12.2	1.9	0.8	4.3
Student Counseling Services	37.7	34.8	23.6	2.5	1.4	4
Student Health Center	39.2	37.6	16.7	4.3	2.1	4.1
Student events sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB) or Music Makers	37.6	38	22	1.6	0.8	4.1
University Libraries	45.7	41.5	11.5	1	0.3	4.3
Office of Parking Services	18.9	21.3	17.3	16.2	26.3	2.9
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	34.1	38.5	20.1	4.7	2.5	4
Shackouls Honor College	32.2	30	33.8	2.6	1.4	3.9
Athletic events	47.3	39.2	11.8	1	0.7	4.3
Business Office (Student Account Services)	34.1	38.6	22.1	3.2	2	4
Career Center	39	38.8	18.7	2.6	0.9	4.1
Health Education Wellness	36.6	39	22.7	1.2	0.5	4.1
Writing Center	37.3	37	23.6	1.2	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.	48.3	41.7	7.8	1.6	0.6	4.4
The Student Association represented my concerns.	28.6	28.4	35.2	5	2.9	3.7
I was exposed to different cultures and backgrounds.	46.1	40	11.8	1.7	0.6	4.3
The faculty and administrators at MSU represent diverse ethnic and racial groups.	46.3	39.4	11.4	2.1	0.8	4.3
Opportunities for volunteer or community service work were available at MSU.	46	38	14.1	1	0.9	4.3
Computer labs and technology resources met my needs.	45.8	40.1	11.6	1.6	1	4.3
I felt safe on campus.	53.5	36.5	8.7	0.6	0.7	4.4
The general campus climate at MSU is welcoming to all.	55.6	34.4	8.4	1.1	0.5	4.4
My overall extracurricular experience at MSU was positive.	51.9	34.2	12.1	1.1	0.8	4.4
My overall academic experience within my degree at MSU was positive.	50.7	38.2	8.6	1.8	0.7	4.4
If I had to do it over again, I would attend MSU.	56.9	28.5	10.3	2.9	1.3	4.4
My education stressed the importance of writing.	42.1	35.3	16.9	4.5	1.2	4.1