Graduating Student Survey: 2019 Calendar Year
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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Item Analysis

The Graduating Student Survey was designed to gather opinions of graduating students related to various components of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama and their post-graduation plans. The Graduate Student Survey was conducted electronically using the Qualtrics survey system. It included Likert scale, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions. The survey is typically launched four weeks prior to the end of the semester and remains open until the semester ends. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent to non-respondents every three days before the close of the survey.

Sample
The sample consisted of students who graduated in Spring 2019 and Fall 2019. The final sample of graduating students consisted of 2,738 students (spring 2019 n= 1,414 and fall 2019 n= 1,324); 1,278 participants completed the survey for a response rate of 47%. Respondent demographics are displayed.

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex		
Sex	**n**	**%**
Male	409	42.4
Female	869	68.3
Total	1,278	100

Table 1.2: Race		
Race	**n**	**%**
African American	433	33.8
Asian American	92	7.2
Hispanic American	73	5.7
Multiracial	56	4.3
Native American	16	1.4
Non-Resident Alien	82	6.4
Pacific Islander	3	.1
White	523	40.9
Total	1,278	100

Table 1.3: Level		
Level	**n**	**%**
Undergraduate	926	72
Graduate	352	28
Total	1,278	100

Table 1.4: Graduation Semester		
Semester	n	%
Fall 2019	445	10
Spring 2019	833	54
Total	1,278	100

Analysis and Charts

Various components of the student educational experience and post-graduation plans will be presented in the following charts. The tables include the percentage of responses for each option. The tables also include the written question and number of respondents for each specific question (represented by n).

2. General Questions

Table 2.1: Graduation Timeline Expectation				
Question	n	On time (%)	Earlier than I thought I would (%)	Later than I thought I would (%)
I am graduating:	617	60.8	4.7	34.4

Table 2.2: Entry Status				
Question	n	First-time student college (%)	Transfer student (%)	Returning USA student (%)
For this degree what was your status when you entered USA?	597	50.1	38.2	11.5

Table 2.3: Hours Worked						
Question	n	0 (%)	1 to 10 (%)	11 to 20 (%)	21 to 30 (%)	More than 30 hours (%)
How many hours a week do you work for pay (on & off campus)?	608	21.2	8.8	21.4	18.9	29.5

Table 2.4: Enrollment Status					
Question	n	Full-time Undergraduate student- I took 12 or more (%)	Part-time Undergraduate student-I took (%)	Full-time Graduate student-I (%)	Part-time Graduate student-I
While attending USA, on average, you were a:	610	72.7	4.7	20.5	2.0

3. Communication Department Graduates

Table 3.1: Communication Degree			
Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Are you graduating with a degree from the Communication Department?	1,233	3.2	96.7

Table 3.2: Degree Type

Question	n	B.A. (%)	M.A. (%)
Which program are you graduating from?	44	79.7	20.2

Table 3.3: Degree Concentration

Question	n	Multimedia Journalism (%)	Broadcast Journalism (%)	Digital Cinema & TV (%)	Strategic Comm. Public Relations (%)	Strategic Comm Advertising (%)	Strategic Comm. Visual Comm. (%)	Comm. Studies (%)
Please indicate what concentration you finished your degree in by selecting the corresponding letter.	38	11.6	11.8	15.6	25.3	4	4	27.3

Table 3.4 Communication Degree Satisfaction

Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral/don't know (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
Because of the courses I took from the Department of Communication, I believe I am well prepared to enter the communication workforce.	42	8.1	3.8	21.4	46.9	19.7
My communication major has developed my leadership skills.	42	8.1	3.1	14.4	55.7	18.5
I believe the communication faculty were helpful as I pursued my communication degree.	41	6.2	6	15.6	36.5	35.6
The communication faculty provided excellent advising for me as I chose which courses to take each semester.	41	14.3	1.9	22.4	35.9	25.4
When I pursued an internship, I believe the courses in the communication department had provided me with the skills and knowledge I needed to succeed in the internship.	42	10.1	5	29.1	41.8	13.9

4. Employment after Graduation

Question	n	Stay in my current job (%)	Start a new job (%)	Look for a new job (%)	Serve in the Armed Forces (%)	Serve in an international or national volunteer organization (%)	Do volunteer work (%)	Other (%)
After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?	1,239	16.4	28.8	42.4	1.6	0.1	0.1	10.2

Table 4.1: Employment Post-Graduation

Table 4.2: Relevancy of Coursework to Job

Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)	Somewhat (%)
Is this position related to your major?	209	72.4	11.9	15.6

Table 4.3: Current Job Satisfaction

Question	n	Not at all satisfied with my current position. (%)	Somewhat satisfied with my current position. (%)	Satisfied with my current position. (%)	Very satisfied with my current position. (%)
Would you say you are?	209	5.0	30.8	34.9	29.2

Table 4.4: Five Year Job Vision

Question	n	Definitely no (%)	Probably no (%)	Probably yes (%)	Definitely yes (%)
Do you see yourself working here for the next 3-5 years?	205	15.6	22.9	34.5	26.8

Table 4.5: Start Date

Question	n	Within the first month after graduation (%)	Two to three months after graduation (%)	Four to six months after graduation (%)	More than six months after graduation (%)	Other time frame (%)
What is your start date?	363	39.13	41.9	13.1	1.5	4.2

Table 4.6: Relevancy of Coursework to Future Job				
Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)	Somewhat (%)
Is this position related to your major?	358	86.2	5.9	7.7

Table 4.7: Location of Job				
Question	n	In the state of Alabama (%)	In another state (%)	Other (%)
Do you plan on working:	509	43.6	45.1	11.2

Table 4.8: Preference to Work in Related Field				
Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)	It doesn't matter (%)
Do you want to work in an area related to your major?	511	90.3%	3.0%	6.5%

5. Education after Graduation

Table 5.1: Education Plans						
Question	n	I have been accepted to graduate or professional school (%)	I have applied to graduate or professional school, but haven't heard about my acceptance yet (%)	I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree (%)	I plan on continuing my education in the next year, but I haven't applied yet (%)	I don't plan on continuing my education within the next year (%)
What are your plans after graduation in regards to continuing your education?	1,218	13.2	6.4	1.4	26.5	52.3

Table 5.2: Start Date						
Question	n	Within the first month after graduation (%)	Two to three months after graduation (%)	Four to six months after graduation (%)	More than six months after graduation (%)	Other time frame (%)
When do you plan to start?	570	17.5	28.5	18.1	19.7	16.0

Table 5.3: Highest Degree Desired						
Question	n	Bachelor's (%)	Master's (%)	Professional - J.D./M.D. (%)	Ed. S. (%)	Ph.D. or Doctoral Level (%)
What is the highest degree you plan to obtain?	1,132	16.7	44.8	7.42	1.3	29.6

6. Advising

Table 6.1: Advising					
Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.	1,086	4.1	5.6	46.3	43.9
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	1,027	7.5	12.6	43.6	36.2
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for graduate/professional school.	910	8	11.6	42.4	37.9
The frequency with which I met with an advisor was sufficient.	1,021	7.3	10	47.9	34.7
I had adequate access to my advisor.	1,069	5.2	6.8	49.1	38.9

Table 6.2: Advisor Complaints								
Question	n	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements (%)	Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures (%)	Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me (%)	Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students (%)	Other (%)
Did you encounter any of the following problems with your advisor (check all that apply)?:	1,278	6.9	7.5	3.9	3.3	4.3	4.8	8

7. Career Services

Table 7.1: Career Services Participation							
Question	n	Attended Career Fairs (%)	Attended career related seminars/events (%)	Facebook	Met with Career Advisor	Participated mock	Pinterest
What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (select all that apply)	1,278	22.3	9.7	5.7	8.1	4	1.8
Question	n	Received assistance with resume/interview	Searched postings in the job binders	Twitter	Used the career resource library	Used the career	Other
What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (select all that apply)	1,278	9.9	4.5	1.7	4.2	12.3	7.79

Table 7.2: Career Services Visitation			
Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Have you visited the Office of Career Services in the past years?	1,189	16.3	83.6

Table 7.3: Overall Experience with Career Services					
Question	n	Poor (%)	Fair (%)	Good (%)	Excellent (%)
How would you rate your overall experience with Career Services?	378	5.5	15.9	46.0	32.6

8. Academic Experiences

Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
Table 8.1: Overall Academic Experiences					
Library resources were sufficient to meet my needs.	1,053	1.2	1.8	50.9	46
Labs, studios, and other academic spaces were sufficient to meet my needs.	953	2	4	51.4	42.5
Computing resources (labs, machines, software) were sufficient to meet my needs.	959	2.8	5.2	51.8	40.2
Available technology/instrumentation/equipment were sufficient to meet my needs.	991	2.4	3.1	53.4	41
Courses in my major were offered with sufficient frequency.	1,124	4.3	14.7	48.6	32.2
I felt the variety of electives available to me in my major were sufficient.	985	5.5	13.2	49.8	31.4
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	1,159	2.1	6.1	48.9	42.7
Faculty were accessible outside of class.	1,132	1	4.7	53.8	40.4
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	867	7.1	17.4	44.7	30.6
The coursework for my program was engaging.	1,156	1.3	5.6	53.3	39.8
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	1,158	0.9	4.4	47	47.6
The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper level courses.	1,076	2.4	7.2	52.9	37.4
I felt well prepared to take the licensure exam. (Respond only if a licensure exam is required for you to practice)	658	3.9	8.8	51.5	35.6

Table 8.2: Other Educational Opportunities					
Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
There was ample opportunity to apply what I was learning to real-world problems or jobs.	1,055	3.9	9.0	52.1	34.9
There was ample opportunity to take part in an internship or co-op.	890	5.4	13.1	46.5	34.8
There was ample opportunity to take part in service learning.	796	5.2	16.0	47.5	31.2
There was ample opportunity to take work with faculty on research outside of class.	853	7.1	14.4	46.8	31.6
There was ample opportunity to engage in independent research outside of class.	872	5.7	14.3	47.2	32.7

9. Co-op and Internship

Table 9.1: Internship/Co-op Participation					
Question	n	Internship (paid) (%)	Internship (unpaid) (%)	Cooperative Education Program (%)	I have not participated. (%)
Have you participated in any of the following (select all that apply)?	1,278	13.5	18.1	4.2	52.5

Table 9.2: Procurement of Internship					
Question	n	Faculty member (%)	Family (%)	Friends (%)	Staff member (%)	Other (%)
How did you find out about your internship?	445	44.5	6.8	15.5	7.5	25.4

Table 9.3: Academic Credit for Internship			
Question	n	Yes (%)	No (%)
Did you receive academic credit for your internships?	448	59.8	40.1

Table 9.4: Graduate Academic Experiences					
Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
My thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged my intellectual growth and curiosity.	180	0.4	4.6	33.5	61.4
My thesis/dissertation advisor provided regular, constructive feedback to me regarding my progress.	176	0.8	5.6	34.2	59.3
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	261	1.9	7.5	41.3	49.1
The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	360	1	1	40.7	57.2
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	363	0.6	1.4	38.7	59.1
My interactions with the Department Graduate coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	266	1.4	4.5	40.8	53.2
My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately.	240	0.6	3.3	42.9	53
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	313	0.7	4	45.6	49.6

Table 9.5: Overall Experiences with Student Organizations					
Question	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
Being involved in a student organization added value to my experiences as a student at USA	633	2.2	9.1	45.7	42.9

10. Overall Student Experiences

Table 10.1: Safety					
Question	n	Not Safe (%)	Somewhat safe (%)	Safe (%)	Very Safe (%)
Overall, how safe did you feel while on campus?	964	2.7	18.4	42.9	35.8

Table 10.2: Retrospective Attitudes					
Question	n	Definitely no (%)	Probably no (%)	Probably yes (%)	Definitely yes (%)
If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA?	1,147	4.3	13.9	42.2	39.5
If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major?	1,147	5.0	11.3	31.6	51.9

11. Alumni Connection

Table 11.1: Alumni Activities						
Question	n	Tailgates at football games (%)	Concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount (%)	Concerts and exhibits around town at a discount (%)	Mentoring current students (%)	Other (%)
As an alumnus/a, what kinds of activities would you like to participate in (select all that apply)?	1,278	34.6	27.4	29.2	26.4	8.8

Table 11.2: Alumni Information Preferences							
Question	n	Email (%)	Postal mail (%)	Facebook (%)	LinkedIn (%)	Twitter (%)	Other (%)
As an alumnus/a, how would you like to keep informed about activities and events at USA (select all that apply)?	1,278	56.5	18.3	21.2	6.8	5.8	5.4

Table 11.3: Alumni Preferences for Contact				
Question	n	Email (%)	Phone (%)	Address (%)
What's the best way for your college/school to keep in touch with you (select all that apply)?	1,278	71.5	12.8	17.7

Table 11:4: Alumni Preferences for Connecting					
Question	n	Facebook (%)	Twitter (%)	Linked-IN (%)	Other (%)
I would love to connect with my college/school via (select all that apply):	1,278	38.8	8.6	15.4	7.25