

Graduating Student Survey: 2019 Calendar Year

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Executive Summary

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 in the [Graduating Student Analysis Report](#).

Strengths

- Over 60% of respondents reported that they are graduating on time or earlier than they thought they would.
- Seventy-three percent of undergraduate respondents reported that on average, they were full-time students.
- The vast majority of respondents were satisfied with computing (92%), lab (94%), and technological (94%) and library resources (96%).
- Almost half of the respondents expressed interest in continuing their education (48%), with 20% already having applied.
- Overall, respondents reported that classwork was challenging (94%) and engaging (93%).
- Ninety-five percent of Graduate respondents were satisfied with their thesis/dissertation advisors.
- Over 80% of respondents reported if they had to do it over again, they would still choose South and the same major.

Weaknesses

- Twenty percent of respondents were not satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.
- A number of respondents did not think there was ample opportunity to participate in the co-operative education program, and internships (18.5%) service learning (21.2%), independent research (20.0%).
- Some respondents did not think that the courses in their major were offered often enough (19%) nor was there a variety of electives available to their major (18%).
- Eighty-three percent of respondents did not visit the Career Services office, and many did not use any of their services despite 43% looking for a job.
- Twenty percent of respondents reported either not feeling safe on campus or only somewhat safe on campus.

Opportunities:

- As an alumnus, 333 respondents reported that they would be interested in mentoring current students.
- Respondents reported that as alumni they would also be interested in participating in the following: Tailgate at football games (34.6%), Concerts, and exhibitions on campus at a discount (27.4%), Concerts, and exhibits around town at a discount.