UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

Graduate Student Survey: 2020 Fall Semester

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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Item Analysis

Summary of the Graduate Student Survey

The Graduate Student Survey was designed to gather opinions of currently enrolled graduate students related to various components of their educational experiences as graduate students at the University of South Alabama. The Graduate Student Survey was administered electronically using the Qualtrics survey system. The survey included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended items. The survey launched on October 16, 2010, and closed on November 13, 2020. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent out once a week on Fridays before the close of the survey.

Sample

The sample consisted of graduate students who were enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester. In total, there were 5,175 graduate students; 1,091 students responded to the survey for a response rate of 21%. Respondent demographics are displayed in the tables below (n = number of respondents).

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	n	Percentage
African American	202	18.5
Asian American	40	3.7
Hispanic American	28	2.6
Multiracial	29	2.7
Native American	8	.7
Non-Resident Alien	30	2.7
Pacific Islander	3	.3
Unknown	22	2
White	729	66.8
Total	1091	100

Table 1.2: Sex

Sex	n	Percentage
Male	194	17.8
Female	897	82.2
Total	1,091	100

Analyses and Charts

Each item from the Graduate Student Survey will be presented below. For each item, the numbers presented under each option (i.e., strongly disagree, agree) represent the percentage of respondents who selected that particular option. The tables also include the total number of respondents for each question (represented by N), the mean, and the standard deviation (SD).

2. Academic Advising

Item	N	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The academic advising I received helped me progress in my program.	1,074	2.97	.85	8.47	12.48	52.70	26.35
I am satisfied with the academic advising I received.	1,074	2.95	.86	8.75	13.41	51.77	26.07

3. Thesis/Dissertation

Question	N	Yes	No
Are you doing a thesis/dissertation?	1,073	15.94	84.06

Thesis/Dissertation Advisor

Item	N	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Helps me identify a suitable research topic.	137	3.38	.83	5.84	5.11	34.31	54.74
Helps me develop my ideas into a workable proposal or prospectus.	137	3.37	.85	5.84	6.57	32.12	55.47
Helps me design and implement my research plan.	132	3.33	.87	6.06	9.09	31.06	53.79
Provides feedback promptly on drafts of my thesis/dissertation.	131	3.23	.96	9.16	9.92	29.77	51.15
Helps with my transition into a role as a professional or academic in my field.	128	3.28	.89	7.81	6.25	35.94	50
Encourages me to submit my work for publication.	127	3.35	.92	7.09	9.45	25.2	58.27
Encourages me to present my work at conferences.	124	3.29	.93	8.06	8.87	29.03	54.03

Collaborates with me on research for presentation or publication.	125	3.25	.99	9.6	10.4	25.6	54.4

4. Primary Advisor

Item	N	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Gives the appropriate level of credit to me for my research contributions	728	3.01	.87	9.2	10.16	51.51	29.12
Encourages me to take on challenging opportunities	744	2.99	.88	8.87	12.9	48.39	29.84
Encourages me to attain my goals	751	3.04	.88	8.52	10.79	48.47	32.22
Asks me to co-author scientific publications	707	2.43	.99	20.79	31.97	31.12	16.12
Models good professional relationships	740	3.02	.89	9.59	10.27	48.65	31.49
Advocates for me	728	2.97	.92	9.89	13.87	45.33	30.91
Helps me to develop professional relationships	730	2.89	.92	10.27	17.12	45.62	26.99
Provides information about academic career paths	731	2.87	.94	10.67	19.29	41.13	27.91
Provides information about nonacademic career paths	721	2.87	.94	11.93	25.66	39.81	22.61
Creates an environment where all group members are treated fairly	603	3.05	.94	12.11	5.64	47.26	34.99

4. Graduate Administration

Item	N	Mean	SD	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Thesis/Dissertation edit/review process (with Deanna Cobb)	573	2.57	.98	4.19	2.09	61.95	10.47	21.49
Responsiveness of The Graduate School Administration	658	2.15	1.16	5.47	5.02	27.36	23.10	39.96

Admission Process	676	1.84	1.02	2.51	3.99	18.05	25.74	49.7
Overall experience with the Graduate School Administration	671	2.01	1.11	4.62	4.47	21.61	26.23	43.07
Satisfaction with the graduate check process	670	2.23	1.12	5.07	4.03	35.07	20.90	34.93

5. Library

Item	N	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I find the electronic library full-text databases useful during my studies.	750	3.47	.73	3.87	2.93	35.33	57.87
I find the library reference and interlibrary loan services useful during my studies	740	3.22	.82	5	9.73	43.24	42.03

6. On-Campus/Off-Campus Obstacles

Item	N	Not a Challenge	A Minor Challenge	A Major Challenge
Work commitments, off-campus job	598	14.05	34.95	51
Work commitments, on-campus job (including assistantships)	297	44.78	31.99	23.23
Family and parenting obligations	623	15.41	38.04	46.55
Financial stresses	681	14.98	41.41	43.61
(Problems with) faculty advisement or mentoring	615	57.72	25.69	16.59
(Problems with) program structure or requirements	677	42.98	34.56	22.45
(Problems with) course scheduling	670	64.18	26.42	9.40

7. Program Climate

Item	N	Mean	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Faculty in my program treat graduate students with respect and collegiality.	724	3.24	.79	4.7	7.73	45.99	41.57

Faculty in my program manage their methodological or ideological disagreements in a professional manner.	704	3.21	.77	5.26	5.68	51.99	37.07
Faculty in my program sometimes allow their methodological or ideological disagreements to impact negatively on their relationships with students.	701	2.24	1	27.67	33.81	25.68	12.84