2016 University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduating Senior Survey

Every year the Office of Academic Planning and Assessment (OAPA) administers a survey asking seniors about their satisfaction with their educational experiences and their plans for after graduation.

SURVEY DESIGN
This year, we redesigned the senior survey to more accurately capture students’ post-graduation employment and graduate school plans and to assess self-reported learning outcomes in a variety of areas. The survey now contains the following sections:

- **Ratings of satisfaction**: Students rate various aspects of their major as well as with their overall experience at UMass.

- **Open-ended feedback**: Students respond to the following open-ended item, “Please provide specific feedback to your department about how your experience in your major could have been improved.”

- **Participation in educational experiences**: Students indicate whether or not they participated in practicum/internship, community service/volunteer work, faculty research outside of program/course requirements, study abroad, and culminating senior experience.

- **Post-graduation employment and educational plans**: In past years, students had been asked to describe what was most likely to be their “principal activity” upon graduation. This year, students were asked to describe their post-graduation employment status (accepted a full-time job, accepted a part-time job, seeking a full-time job, seeking a part-time job, or not seeking paid employment) and their plans for graduate school (enrolled next year full-time, enrolled next year part-time, plan to enroll in the next 2 years, no immediate plan to enroll).

- **Student learning outcomes**: Students were asked to rate the extent to which UMass Amherst contributed to their knowledge, skills, or personal development in 12 areas related to student learning outcomes.

POPULATION
OAPA administered the survey to students attending the Undergraduate Commencement Fair on April 27th and to students visiting the Campus Center to pick up their caps and gowns in the first week of May. From July 25th through August 22nd, an online survey was conducted for seniors who did not fill out the paper survey.

We asked students to provide their student ID number in order to match survey responses with their degree records to identify seniors who received a degree in February, May, or September of 2016. We also asked students to list their major or, if they had more than one major, to list the major they wished to rate. Seniors who listed more than one major or whose reported major did not match their degree file major were dropped from major satisfaction analyses (n=84).

PARTICIPATION RATE
Of the 5,586 seniors who graduated in calendar year 2016, 3,934 completed a survey for a participation rate of 70.4%.

ANALYSIS AND REPORTING
In addition to a campus summary, we report survey results by school/college and by department. Campus-wide, college, and departmental results are posted here at http://www.umass.edu/oapa/oapa/reports/senior_survey.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Martha Stassen at 545-5146 or mstassen@acad.umass.edu.

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