

University of Massachusetts-Amherst 2007 Graduating Senior Survey

APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The 2007 Graduating Senior Survey included a set of items asking seniors whether they participated in each of five types of **applied learning experiences** (see below). These items are similar to a set of questions asked on the National Study of Student Engagement (NSSE) in which UMass Amherst participates (*for more information on NSSE go to <http://nsse.iub.edu/html/about.cfm>*).

Below are the proportions of students who reported participating in each of these learning experiences. Results from three different survey populations are provided: UMass Amherst seniors responding to the 2007 Senior Survey, UMass Amherst seniors participating in the 2005 NSSE survey, and 2005 National NSSE results for seniors at other doctoral-extensive institutions.

Percent of respondents indicating they have participated in each of the following applied learning experiences

Type of Learning Experience	UMA 2007 Senior Survey		UMA 2005 NSSE Seniors		National Doctoral Extensive: 2005 NSSE Seniors	
	N*	Percent	N*	Percent	N*	Percent
Practicum, internship, field or co-op experience, clinical assignments	2,783	59%	895	60%	6,274	54%
Community service or volunteer work	2,772	55%	895	61%	6,269	62%
Research project with faculty outside of course requirements	2,749	27%	894	33%	6,269	21%
Study abroad	2,740	23%	894	20%	6,263	17%
Culminating senior experience	2,750	34%	894	33%	6,258	27%

*Number of respondents who answered this item.

Note the following:

1. The response rate for the UMass Amherst NSSE survey was lower than the Senior Survey response rate (29% vs. 70%).
2. UMass Amherst students' participation rates are fairly similar to those of seniors at other doctoral institutions (the National NSSE data). The largest difference is UMass Amherst seniors' higher participation rates in culminating senior experiences (+7) and their lower participation rates in community service or volunteer work (-7).

For information on the proportion of seniors in each *department* who report participating in these types of applied learning experiences, follow the 'All Departments' link on the OAPA Senior Survey home page: http://www.umass.edu/oapa/reports/senior_survey