

University of Massachusetts-Amherst 2009 Graduating Senior Survey

APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The 2009 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 (*more information on NSSE can be found online at 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 2009 Senior Survey, UMass Amherst seniors participating in the 2008 NSSE survey, and 2008 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 2009 Senior Survey		UMA 2008 NSSE Seniors		National Flagship Peers: 2008 NSSE Seniors	
	N*	Percent	N*	Percent	N*	Percent
Practicum, internship, field or co-op experience, clinical assignments	3,001	57%	1,032	61%	16,839	59%
Community service or volunteer work	2,983	55%	1,027	57%	16,824	66%
Research project with faculty outside of course requirements	2,979	27%	1,029	28%	16,810	25%
Study abroad	2,976	21%	1,023	22%	16,821	22%
Culminating senior experience	2,977	36%	1,031	31%	16,838	28%

*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 (69% vs. 30%).
2. UMass Amherst students' participation rates are fairly similar to those of seniors at other flagship peers (the National NSSE data). The largest difference is UMass Amherst seniors' higher participation rates in culminating senior experiences and research project with faculty (+8) and their lower participation rates in community service or volunteer work (-11).

To see the participation rates of UMass seniors reported by department click on the 'All Departments' link on the OAPA Senior Survey home page: http://www.umass.edu/oapa/reports/senior_survey.