General Student Survey: Fall 2015

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Imani Turner

Overview

The General Student Survey (GSS) was designed to gather student perceptions related to several components of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama. The GSS was conducted electronically via the Class Climate survey system. The GSS included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. Survey collection occurred from November 2, 2015 to November 16, 2015. Reminder e-mails were sent to invited participants every five days until the close of the survey. Participation was voluntary, and incentives were offered to encourage participation. One selected participant was offered a $50 Jag Cash gift card, and another selected participant was offered a $25 Jag Cash gift card.

Sampling Method

Stratified random sampling was utilized to select the sample from a population of students listed in the Fall 2015 census database. Stratification was based on (1) program, (2) race, and (3) gender. Race was either coded as white or non-white in the sampling process. Each strata was sampled based upon percentage represented within the census population. Under-represented strata were oversampled. Every student in undergraduate programs containing less than 100 students and graduate programs containing less than 50 students was included in the sample. Non-white students and male students were oversampled for each of the remaining programs.

Sample

The final sample consisted of 6,460 students. 1021 participants responded to the survey for a final response rate of 16%. The respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables (*n* = number of respondents).

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

Sex	*n*	Percent
Female	717	70.2
Male	304	29.8
Total	1021	100.0

Table 1.2: Classification

Classification	*n*	Percent
Freshman	347	34.0
Sophomore	211	20.7
Junior	132	12.9
Senior	160	15.7
Graduate	144	14.1
Medical	17	1.7
Allied Health Professions	4	0.4
Unclassified	6	0.6
Total	1021	100.0

Table 1.3: Race

Race	*n*	Percent
African-American, Non-Hispanic	204	20.0
Asian-American	31	3.0
Hispanic-American	23	2.3
Multiracial	24	2.4
Native-American	5	0.5
Non-Resident Alien	63	6.2
Pacific Islander	1	0.1
Unknown	23	2.3
White	647	63.4
Total	1021	100.0

Table 1.4: Housing

Question	*n*	On Campus (%)	Off Campus (%)
Do you live on or off campus?	1005	30.5	69.5

Table 1.5: Living Situation

Question	*n*	Student Apartments (%)	Live with Family (%)	Live with Friends (%)	Other (%)
If you live off campus, please select your current living situation.	723	14.2	41.6	12.4	31.7

Table 1.6: Education

Question	*n*	< Bachelor's Degree (%)	Bachelor's Degree (%)	Master's Degree (%)	Doctoral or Professional Degree (%)
What is the highest level of education that you wish to acquire?	996	1.0	26.5	39.4	33.1
What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents or guardian?	988	50.1	26.7	17.0	6.1

Analysis and Charts

The components of educational experiences assessed by the General Student Survey are presented in the following tables in Sections 2-5. Section 6 provides comparisons of the present data with the General Student Survey data from Fall 2014. The tables provide response percentages. Additionally, the tables provide the written question and number of respondents for each specific question (represented by *n*).

2. Academic Facilities & Technology

Table 2.1: Facilities & Technology

Question	*n*	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)
Facilities for classrooms.	988	1.6	4.5	61.9	32.0
Facilities for labs (STEM).	786	1.4	5.6	59.7	33.3
Facilities for computer labs.	801	2.5	6.9	57.2	33.5
Quality of technology in classrooms.	953	2.2	11.1	58.0	28.6
Quality of technology in labs (STEM).	715	1.8	8.1	57.1	33.0
Quality of technology in computer labs.	788	2.9	9.9	55.8	31.3
Availability of computers or other technology in labs (STEM).	712	2.2	6.9	57.2	33.7
Availability of computers or other technology in computer labs.	787	2.3	6.1	57.3	34.3
Hours of operation of computer labs.	767	3.3	8.5	57.4	30.9
The use of technology by your professor.	941	2.4	6.9	61.6	29.0

Table 2.2: JagTran

Question	*n*	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
The JagTran hours of operation are adequate.	587	8.3	14.1	56.6	21.0
The JagTran arrives to stops on its designated route at the correct time.	556	16.7	31.5	38.7	13.1
The JagTran helps you arrive to class on time.	549	22.8	26.0	38.1	13.1

3. Learning Engagement

Table 3.1: Activity hours/week

Question	*n*	None (%)	1 to 10 hours (%)	11 to 20 hours (%)	21 to 30 hours (%)	More than 30 hours (%)
Working on campus (for pay).	1019	80.8	5.0	10.7	1.6	1.6
Working off campus (for pay).	1015	56.3	6.8	12.0	9.6	15.0
Volunteering or participating in community service that is not required for a class.	1015	51.7	41.5	4.7	1.2	0.9
Working in a lab or participating in research that is not required for class.	1013	79.5	15.7	3.0	1.1	0.8
Attending campus events.	1017	34.6	53.2	8.9	2.1	1.2
How many hours per week do you dedicate to your student organization?	464	11.9	69.2	13.6	4.3	1.1

Table 3.2: Learning engagement activities

Question – Have you participated in any of the following? (Select all that apply)	***n***	**Percent**
Team Based Learning.	1021	28.9
Learning Communities.	1021	20.7
Reading the Common Read/Common World selection, Cradle of Freedom.	1021	4.1
Spider Martin Photography Exhibit.	1021	4.3
Service Learning.	1021	7.5
Faculty Led Research.	1021	6.2
Study Abroad.	1021	3.0
Internship.	1021	9.2

Table 3.3: Interest in independent research

Question	***n***	**Yes (%)**	**No (%)**
If you are not already involved with research, would you like to participate in independent research with a faculty member?	932	23.2	76.8

Table 3.4: Internship

Question	***n***	**Plan to do an internship; required for major (%)**	**Plan to do an internship; not required for major (%)**	**No plans to do an internship (%)**
If you have not participated in an internship, which of the following is applicable to you?	908	41.0	24.8	34.3

4. Learning Options

Table 4.1: Online course options

Question	*n*	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)
How satisfied are you with available options to take courses online?	1002	5.5	15.1	62.8	16.7

Table 4.2: Online courses & materials online

Question	*n*	Yes (%)	No (%)
Would you take more courses that were offered completely online if they were available?	1000	62.1	37.9
Regardless of course format, do you prefer to have access to course materials online?	980	94.1	5.9

Table 4.3: Semester preference

Question	*n*	Fall (%)	Spring (%)	Summer (%)
What semester(s) would you prefer to take online courses in?	1021	45.1	50.2	72.7

Table 4.4: Course format preference

Question	n	All class sessions on campus (%)	All class sessions online (%)	Some sessions on online and some sessions on campus (%)
When taking a course what is your preferred format?	1010	35.2	13.6	51.2

Table 4.5: Quality of instruction

Question	*n*	Poor (%)	Only Fair (%)	Good (%)	Excellent (%)
Rate the overall quality of instruction in your course(s) taken online.	752	4.9	13.6	51.1	30.5
Please rate the quality of instruction for your blended (some online and some on campus) course(s).	824	2.8	11.0	52.8	33.4
Rate the overall quality of instruction provided in your course(s) taken on campus.	963	1.5	8.7	50.6	39.3

Table 4.6: Sakai & course availability

Question	*n*	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)
Please rate your satisfaction with Sakai/USAonline.	992	2.6	6.4	57.4	33.7
Please rate your satisfaction with availability of courses (online, blended, and traditional) in your major needed to graduate.	935	6.1	16.4	55.7	21.8
Please rate your satisfaction with availability of general education courses (online, blended, and traditional) needed to graduate.	918	4.1	10.1	62.3	23.4

5. Library

Table 5.1: Hours/week

Question	*n*	1 to 10 Hours (%)	11 to 20 Hours (%)	21 to 30 Hours (%)	More than 30 Hours (%)
In hours per week, how often do you visit the Marx Library for academic reasons?	866	90.5	7.0	1.6	0.8

Table 5.2: Sufficiency of Marx Library

Question	*n*	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
The Marx Library is sufficient for my general needs.	806	2.1	4.6	58.9	34.4
The Marx Library provides sufficient resources for academic needs.	786	1.7	3.7	61.1	34.2
Marx Library resources are readily available for my needs.	787	1.5	3.2	61.8	33.5
Technology in the Marx Library is sufficient.	751	2.7	8.9	59.7	28.8
Technology in the Marx Library is readily available.	752	2.0	8.6	60.4	29.0
The hours of operation of the Marx Library are sufficient.	794	4.2	10.5	53.9	31.5
The Marx Library (online) is sufficient for my general needs.	718	1.4	4.5	62.0	32.2
The Marx Library (online) provides sufficient resources for academic needs.	713	2.1	3.6	61.0	33.2
Marx Library (online) resources are readily available for my needs.	717	1.7	3.5	61.5	33.3

6. Comparison Data

The following or tables will compare the current data from Tables 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, and 4.5 with the data from Fall 2014.

Table 6.1: JagTran hours

Question – The JagTran hours of operation are adequate.	***n***	**Strongly Disagree (%)**	**Disagree (%)**	**Agree (%)**	**Strongly Agree (%)**
Fall 2014	417	7.9	12.2	57.6	22.3
Fall 2015	587	8.3	14.1	56.6	21.0

Table 6.2: JagTran punctuality

Question – The JagTran arrives to stops on its designated route at the correct time.	***n***	**Strongly Disagree (%)**	**Disagree (%)**	**Agree (%)**	**Strongly Agree (%)**
Fall 2014	392	14.3	29.8	43.6	12.2
Fall 2015	556	16.7	31.5	38.7	13.3

Table 6.3: JagTran arrival to class

Question – The JagTran helps you arrive to class on time.	***n***	**Strongly Disagree (%)**	**Disagree (%)**	**Agree (%)**	**Strongly Agree (%)**
Fall 2014	383	21.9	31.3	35.8	11.0
Fall 2015	549	22.8	26.0	38.1	13.1

Table 6.4: Online course options

Question – How satisfied are you with available options to take courses online?	***n***	**Very Dissatisfied (%)**	**Dissatisfied (%)**	**Satisfied (%)**	**Very Satisfied (%)**
Fall 2014	809	7.5	16.1	56.7	19.7
Fall 2015	1002	5.5	15.1	62.8	16.7

Table 6.5: Online courses

Question – Would you take more courses that were offered completely online if they were available?	***n***	**Yes (%)**	**No (%)**
Fall 2014	812	62.3	37.7
Fall 2015	1000	62.1	37.9

Table 6.6: Online course materials

Question – Regardless of course format, do you prefer to have access to course materials online?	***n***	**Yes (%)**	**No (%)**
Fall 2014	798	93.6	6.4
Fall 2015	980	94.1	5.9

Table 6.7: Quality of instruction – online courses

Question – Rate the overall quality of instruction in your course(s) taken online.	***n***	**Poor (%)**	**Only Fair (%)**	**Good (%)**	**Excellent (%)**
Fall 2014	640	8.3	16.4	49.7	25.6
Fall 2015	752	4.9	13.6	51.1	30.5

Table 6.8: Quality of instruction – blended courses

Question – Please rate the quality of instruction for your blended (some online and some on campus) course(s).	***n***	**Poor (%)**	**Only Fair (%)**	**Good (%)**	**Excellent (%)**
Fall 2014	589	6.3	13.6	49.2	30.9
Fall 2015	824	2.8	11.0	52.8	33.4

Table 6.9: Quality of instruction – on campus courses

Question – Rate the overall quality of instruction provided in your course(s) taken on campus.	***n***	**Poor (%)**	**Only Fair (%)**	**Good (%)**	**Excellent (%)**
Fall 2014	670	1.8	7.9	51.5	38.8
Fall 2015	963	1.5	8.7	50.6	39.3