UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Graduating Student Survey: 2021 Spring Semester

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Drew Whittington

Item Analysis

1. Sample Demographics

The sample consisted of students who were graduating in Fall 2020. In total, 1566 students graduated in Spring 2021. 644 students responded to the survey, indicating a 41% response rate.

Table 1.1: Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	N	Percentage
African American	110	17.1
Asian American	16	2.5
Hispanic American	23	3.6
Multiracial	13	2
Native American	6	.9
Non-Resident Alien	14	2.2
Unknown	19	3
White	427	66.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	.2
Unavailable	15	2.3
Total	644	100

Table 1.2: Sex

Sex	N	Percentage
Male	168	26.1
Female	461	71.6
Unavailable	15	2.3
Total	644	100

Analyses and Charts

Each item from the Graduating Student Survey will be presented below. The total number of respondents (represented by N) and percentage of response types for each option are included. N/A responses were excluded from the analyses, so some items will not represent the full count of respondents. Means (M), and standard deviations (SD) are included with appropriate items.

2. General Items about Participants

Item - *You are graduating:*	**N**	**Percentage**
On time	436	68.2
Earlier than I thought I would	21	3.3
Later than I thought I would	182	28.5
Total	639	100

Item - *For this degree, what was your status when you entered USA?*	**N**	**Percentage**
First-Time College Student	285	46.3
Transfer Student	223	36.3
Returning USA Student	107	17.4
Total	615	100

Item - *How many hours a week do you work for pay (on & off campus)?*	**N**	**Percentage**
0	129	20.3
0 to 10	49	7.7
11 to 20	137	21.6
21 to 30	113	17.8
More than 30 hours	206	32.5
Total	634	100

Item - *While attending USA, on average, you were a:*	**N**	**Percentage**
Full-time undergraduate student - I took 12 or more hours per semester.	399	62.9
Part-time undergraduate student - I took less than 12 hours per semester.	15	2.4
Full-time graduate student - I took 6 or more hours per semester.	199	31.4
Part-time graduate student - I took less than 6 hours per semester.	21	3.3
Total	634	100

3. Employment Plans After Graduation

Item	N	Yes	No
Are you currently employed?	634	64.8	35.2

Item - *After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?*	N	Percentage
Stay in my current job.	126	19.9
Start a new job.	209	33
Look for a job.	228	36
Serve in the Armed Forces.	8	1.2
Serve in an international or national volunteer organization	3	.5
Do volunteer work.	2	.3
Other	58	9.1
Total	634	100

Item	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If currently employed, did your major or field of study prepare you for your current position?	395	58	23.3	18.7

Item - If currently employed, would you say you are:	N	Percentage
Not at all satisfied with my current position.	53	13.7
Somewhat satisfied with my current position.	129	33.2
Satisfied with my current position.	122	31.4
Very satisfied with my current position	84	21.6
Total	388	100

Item - *If starting a new job after graduation, serving in the Armed forces, or serving in an international volunteer organization, what is your start date?*	N	Percentage
Within the first month after graduation	84	41
Two to three months after graduation	69	33.7
Four to six months after graduation	18	8.8
More than six months after graduation	4	2
Other time frame	30	14.6
Total	205	100

Item	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If **starting a new job** after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?	179	78.2	3.4	18.4

Item - *If **looking for a new job** after graduation, do you plan on working:*	N	Percentage
In the state of Alabama	112	50
In another state	93	41.5
Other	19	8.5
Total	224	100

Item - *If **looking for a new job** after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?*	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If **looking for a new job** after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?	224	64.3	1.8	33.9

4. Educational Plans After Graduation

Item - *After graduation, what are your plans in regards to continuing your education within the next year?*	N	Percentage
I have been accepted to graduate or professional school.	67	11
I have applied to graduate or professional school but haven't heard about my acceptance yet.	38	6.2
I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree.	6	1
I plan on continuing my education but haven't applied yet.	210	34.4
I don't plan on continuing my education.	290	47.5
Total	611	100

Item - *If pursuing another undergraduate degree or planning to continue my education but haven't applied yet, when do you plan to start?*	N	Percentage
Within the first month after graduation	8	3.8
Two to three months after graduation	25	11.8
Four to six months after graduation	24	11.3
More than six months after graduation	90	42.5
Other time frame	65	30.7
Total	432	100

Item - *If planning to continue your education, what is the highest degree you plan to earn?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Bachelor's	12	3.8
Master's	155	48.9
Professional (J.D./M.D.)	41	12.9
Ed.S.	8	2.5
Ph.D. or Doctoral Level	101	31.9
Total	317	100

5. Advising

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.	549	3.33	.76	4.2	4.9	44.4	46.4
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	513	3.01	.97	11.1	13.1	39.2	36.6
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for planning for graduate/professional school.	440	3.11	.93	9.3	10.2	40.5	40
The frequency with which I met with my advisor was sufficient.	523	3.08	.90	8.2	12.4	42.6	36.7
I had adequate access to my advisor.	553	3.15	.87	7.2	9.2	44.7	38.9

Item - *Did you encounter any of the following problems with your advisor (check all that apply)?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education requirements	47	7.3
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements	61	9.5
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements	23	3.6
Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures	21	3.3
Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me	36	5.6
Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students	37	5.7

6. Career Services

Item - *What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (Select all that apply.)*	**N**	**Percentage**
Attended career fairs	116	18
Attended career-related seminars/events	69	10.7
Facebook	39	6.1
Met with Career Advisor	47	7.3
Participated in a mock interview	44	6.8
Pinterest	7	1.1
Received assistance with resume/interview preparation	92	14.3
Searched postings in the job binders	30	4.7
Twitter	7	1.1
Used the career resource library	14	2.2
Used the Career Services website	98	15.2
Other	68	10.6

Item	**N**	**Yes**	**No**
Have you visited the Office of Career Services in the past year?	587	9.9	90.1

Item	**N**	**M**	**SD**	**Poor**	**Fair**	**Good**	**Excellent**
How would you rate your overall experience with Career Services?	58	3.26	.85	5.2	10.3	37.9	46.6

7. Academic Resources

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Library resources were sufficient to meet my needs.	500	3.45	.57	.2	3.2	47.8	48.8
Labs, studios, and other academic spaces were sufficient to meet my needs.	444	3.34	.62	.9	5.6	52.5	41
Computing resources (labs, machines, software) were sufficient to meet my needs.	449	3.34	.62	.9	5.6	52.3	41.2
Available technology/instrumentation/equipment was sufficient to meet my needs.	461	3.31	.60	.4	5.6	56.2	37.7

8. Course Offerings

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Courses in my major were offered with sufficient frequency.	545	3.12	.78	4	13	49.9	33
I felt the variety of electives available to me in my major were sufficient.	488	3.08	.81	4.5	15.8	46.7	33

9. Faculty and Course Work

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	548	3.33	.66	1.8	5.3	50.5	42.3
Faculty were accessible outside of class.	539	3.34	.67	2.2	4.5	50.5	42.9
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	410	3.00	.89	8.3	14.1	46.6	31
The coursework for my program was engaging.	547	3.25	.68	2.2	7.3	53.4	37.1

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	550	3.39	.63	.9	5.1	48.2	45.8
The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper-level courses.	509	3.24	.71	2.8	7.5	52.8	36.9
I felt well prepared to take the licensure exam. (Respond only if a licensure exam is required for you to practice.)	315	3.14	.82	6	9.8	48.6	35.6

10. Educational Opportunities

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
There was ample opportunity to apply what I was learning to real-world problems or jobs.	502	3.19	.74	2.6	11.8	50	35.7
There was ample opportunity to take part in an internship or co-op.	417	3.11	.83	5	14.4	45.1	35.5
There was ample opportunity to take part in service-learning.	367	3.02	.81	4.4	18.5	48.2	28.9
There was ample opportunity to work with faculty on research outside of class.	401	3.08	.85	6.2	14	45.4	34.4
There was ample opportunity to engage in independent research outside of class.	409	3.04	.85	6.1	15.4	46.7	31.8

11. Internships and Cooperative Education Experiences

Item - *Have you participated in any of the following (select all that apply)?*	N	Percentage
Internship (paid)	102	15.8
Internship (unpaid)	132	20.5
Cooperative Education program	24	3.7
I have not participated	302	46.9

Item - *If you participated in an internship, how did you find out about the internship?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Faculty member	101	43.5
Family	19	8.2
Friends	26	11.2
Staff member	14	6
Other	72	31
Total	232	100

Item	**N**	**Yes**	**No**
If you participated in an internship, did you receive academic credit for it?	232	76.3	23.7

12. *Graduate* Student Experience

Item	**N**	**M**	**SD**	**Strongly Disagree**	**Disagree**	**Agree**	**Strongly Agree**
My thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged my intellectual growth and curiosity.	78	3.58	.67	2.6	2.6	29.5	65.4
My thesis/dissertation advisor provided regular, constructive feedback to me regarding my progress.	77	3.57	.71	2.6	5.2	24.7	67.5
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	115	3.37	.81	2.6	13	29.6	54.8
The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	168	3.51	.62	1.8	1.2	41.7	55.4
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	171	3.51	.63	1.8	1.8	39.8	56.7
My interactions with the Department Graduate Coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	134	3.48	.68	2.2	3.7	38.1	56

My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately	115	3.39	.72	3.5	3.5	43.5	49.6
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	156	3.42	.64	1.9	2.6	47.4	48.1

13. Student Organizations

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Being involved in a student organization added value to my experiences as a student at USA.	284	3.32	.81	4.2	8.8	37.7	49.3

14. Overall Experiences

Item	N	M	SD	Not Safe	Somewhat Safe	Safe	Very Safe
Overall, how safe did you feel while on campus?	465	3.19	.80	2.6	16.6	40	40.9

Item	N	M	SD	Definitely No	Probably No	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes
If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA?	547	3.14	.82	4.9	12.8	45.5	36.7

Item	N	M	SD	Definitely No	Probably No	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes
If you had to do it over again, would you graduate with the same major?	543	3.30	.86	4.6	12.3	31.7	51.4

15. Staying Connected After Graduation

Item - *As an alumnus/a, what kinds of activities would you like to participate in (select all that apply)?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Tailgates at football games	231	35.9
Concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount	192	29.8
Concerts and exhibitions around town at a discount	219	34
Mentoring current students	167	25.9
Other	58	9

Item - *As an alumnus/a, how would you like the University and your college/school to keep you informed about activities and events at USA (select all that apply)?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Email	377	58.5
Postal Mail	146	22.7
Facebook	110	17.1
LinkedIn	40	6.2
Twitter	22	3.4
Other	26	4

Item - *What's the best way for your college/school to keep in touch with you (select all that apply)?*	**N**	**Percentage**
Email	442	68.6
Phone	109	16.9
Address	145	22.5