



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Graduating  
Senior  
Survey  
Report -  
*Summary*

2011

Since 2001, an annual survey of graduating seniors has been conducted for all Northern Arizona University (NAU) campuses. This survey assesses student satisfaction and opinions, both academic and non-academic, regarding their experience at NAU; the survey also addresses specific questions asked by the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) for the annual Undergraduate Consolidated Accountability Report (UCAR). Student satisfaction is measured in several areas: general academics, major department, faculty, skills development, advising, and experiences outside the classroom.

**Assessment of  
Northern  
Arizona  
University  
Student  
Experiences**

## Methods

- **Web Survey**
  - *The Graduating Senior Survey has been administered through web survey since 2007.*
- **Distribution of Survey**
  - *The web survey is distributed by the office of Planning and Institutional Research via email invitation to all students who applied for graduation within the Registrar's Office during the respective fiscal year.*
- **Students Included in Survey Sample**
  - *Of the graduation applicants, only students who marked their expected graduation period to be one of the following are used as the sample for this survey: Fall 2010, Winter 2010, Spring 2011, and Summer 2011.*
- **Exclusion of Missing Responses**
  - *Survey questions missing a response are not included in totals used to calculate percentages presented in this report.*
- **Respondent Sample Compared to Total Senior Population**
  - *The survey sample is representative of the overall population of NAU seniors. See Appendix A for reference.*

## Summary of Results

- **Response Rate**
  - *Of the 3,436 graduating seniors who received the survey, 1,212 responded, yielding a 35% response rate.*
- **Demographics**
  - *Predominant respondent ethnic makeup, 73 % white, followed by 13% Hispanic.*
  - *Predominant Campus makeup, 72% Flagstaff, 14.8% Extended*
  - *Predominant College makeup, 25% Social and Behavioral Sciences, 18% Engineering, Forestry, & Nat. Science, 16.1% Business*
- **Overall Experience (Q2)**
  - *37% ranked their overall experience as "Excellent". This overall trend exists regardless of ethnicity, campus, or college.*
- **Purpose of Education (Q3)**
  - *94% ranked "Preparation for a career" as "Very Important" or "Important" in the purpose of pursuing their education.*
- **Availability of Academic Advising (Q4)**
  - *96% said that it was "Always", "Almost Always", or "Sometimes" available.*
  - *This percentage consistent across campus and college.*
- **Satisfaction with Course Enrollment (Q5)**
  - *88% ranked 6 or higher, the ability to enroll in upper level courses required for their major.*
  - *83% ranked 6 or higher, the ability to enroll in lower level courses required for their major.*
  - *76% ranked 6 or higher, the ability to enroll in course of interest but not required for their major.*

- **Satisfaction with Academic Advising in major field of study (Q6)**
  - 83% reported being “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with advising, regardless of college.
  - All colleges had similar or better satisfaction ratings with academic advising, with the exception of the College of Engineering, Forestry, and Natural Sciences at 75%
- **On-Campus Experiences & Activities (Q7)**
  - Both the Flagstaff and Yuma Campuses received mean ratings of 7.1 from students indicating that involvement campus activities outside of the classroom helped them achieve academic success.
  - Yuma students also gave a mean rating of 6.9 to academic support outside of the classroom aiding in their NAU success.
  - All other mean ratings fell between 5 and 6.
- **Interaction with Faculty (Q9)**
  - 88% of Students reported discussing subjects not related to coursework (e.g. career or personal matters), with 1 or more faculty members.
- **Participation in Programs outside Classroom (Q13)**
  - Over 40% of graduating seniors who completed the survey reported participating in an “Internship or professional practicum”, “Research or creative project under the supervision of a faculty member”, and/or “Service learning or community service”.
- **Program participation outside classroom contribution to learning (Q14)**
  - Service learning or community service received a mean rating of 7.8
  - Research or creative project under the supervision of a faculty member received a mean rating of 8.2
  - Internship or professional practicum received a mean rating of 8.9
- **Post-Graduation Activity (Q16)**
  - 58% chose “Full-time employment” as their primary activity after graduation.
  - 23% indicated “full-time graduate or professional school” as their primary activity after graduation.