

2021 Student Perception Survey (SPS) – Master’s, Doctoral, Professional Students

Executive Summary

Background

The Student Perception Survey (SPS) was administered this past spring semester to all continuing master’s, doctoral, and professional students. The goal of this survey is to gather information from current students about their experiences at the university. Respondents are asked about their perception of—and satisfaction with—their time at UofL, including academic preparation, experience in their unit and their program, advising, and faculty.

Methodology

A PeopleSoft query was used to provide a listing of all 4,725 continuing graduate students in Spring 2021. A total of 377 (7.98%) students responded to the survey; due to the low number of responses, caution should be used when attempting to generalize to the entire population of graduate/professional students.¹

Profile

Of the 377 respondents who completed the survey, 55% are female, 72% are full-time students, 55% are White, 11% are African American, 11% are Asian, 6% are Hispanic/Latino, 3% are two or more races, and 2% are other races.

Data Highlights

Below are some findings that may be of interest to the university community.

Overall Experiences

- With UofL
 - **76%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their **overall experience** at UofL
 - **82%** would be “likely” or “extremely likely” to **enroll at UofL again** if they had the choice
 - **59%** indicated their overall impression of the **academic standards** at UofL was “very good,” or “excellent”
- With Program
 - **80%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **quality of courses**
 - **69%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **usefulness of texts and course materials**
 - **76%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **relevance of the coursework to their expected career**
 - **88%** indicated their academic program was “**appropriately challenging**”
 - **66%** rated their overall experience with their **academic program** as “above average,” or “excellent”
- With Advising
 - **50%** rated their overall impression of the advising services provided by **faculty advisors** as “very good,” or “excellent”
- With Faculty
 - **73%** rated their overall **impression of the faculty** as “above average,” or “excellent”
 - **89%** indicated that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that their professors **treated students with respect**

¹ Sample size calculations were based on 4,725 ongoing graduate students, and a 95% confidence level with a 3% margin of error (the range that the population’s responses may deviate from the sample).

- **84%** indicated that they “agree” or strongly agree” that their professors encouraged them to be **actively involved learners**

Level of Engagement

- High Impact Practices: Enriching educational experiences that require substantial time and effort (NSSE, 2015).
 - **86%** of students who participated in a **practicum, internship, field experience, or clinical assignment** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **32%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **9%** didn’t know about it
 - **90%** of students who held a **formal leadership role** in a student organization/group rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **23%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **5%** didn’t know about it
 - **87%** of students who participated in **community-based or service learning** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **32%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **14%** didn’t know about it
 - **88%** of students who worked on a **research project with faculty** outside of course/program requirements rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **36%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **11%** didn’t know about it
 - **73%** of students who **Studied Abroad** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **49%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **10%** didn’t know about it
- **11%** indicated they came to class “often,” or “very often” **without completing readings/assignments**
- **73%** indicated they **asked questions or contributed to course discussions** “often,” or “very often”
- **8%** indicated they **observed student dishonesty** “often,” or “very often” when completing assignments or exams

Financing Education

- **34%** primarily financed their education through financial aid, **14%** through personal income/savings, and **11%** through UofL tuition remission (top 3 reasons)
- **41%** had no difficulty, **44%** had some difficulty, and **15%** had a great deal of difficulty financing their education