

2023 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 4,467 continuing graduate students in Spring 2023. A total of 452 (10%) 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 452 respondents who completed the survey (and the 358 for whom demographic data are available), 62% are female, 67% are full-time students, 57% are White, 14% are African American, 14% are another race, 7% are Hispanic/Latino, 5% are Asian, and 3% are two or more races.

Data Highlights

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

Overall Experiences

- With UofL
 - **91%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their **overall experience** at UofL
 - **77%** would be “likely” or “extremely likely” to **enroll at UofL again** if they had the choice
 - **82%** indicated their overall impression of the **academic standards** at UofL was “good”, “very good,” or “excellent”
- With Program
 - **79%** indicated they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that their program **provides adequate opportunities for professional practice & training experiences**
 - **79%** indicated they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that their program **provides adequate instruction that addresses the field’s distinct body of knowledge**
 - **78%** indicated they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that **they gained foundational knowledge and developed skills to support independent research**
 - **76%** indicated they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they **would recommend their program to other students**
 - **88%** indicated their academic program was “**appropriately challenging**”
 - **64%** rated their overall experience with their **academic program** as “above average,” or “excellent”
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- With Advising
 - **72%** rated their overall impression of the advising services provided by **faculty advisors** as “very good,” or “excellent”

¹ Sample size calculations were based on 4,467 ongoing graduate students, and a 95% confidence level with a 4% margin of error (the range that the population’s responses may deviate from the sample).

- With Faculty
 - **72%** rated their overall **impression of the faculty** as “above average,” or “excellent”
 - **88%** indicated that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that their professors **treated students with respect**
 - **86%** 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).
 - **88%** of students who participated in a **practicum, internship, field experience, or clinical assignment** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **9%** chose not to participate, **27%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate, and **11%** didn’t know about it
 - **86%** of students who held a **formal leadership role** in a student organization/group rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **32%** chose not to participate, **20%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate, and **8%** didn’t know about it
 - **83%** of students who participated in **community-based or service learning** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **13%** chose not to participate, **27%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate, and **17%** didn’t know about it
 - **78%** of students who worked on a **research project with faculty** outside of course/program requirements rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **17%** chose not to participate, **30%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate, and **9%** didn’t know about it
 - **69%** of students who **Studied Abroad** rated their experience as “good” or “excellent”
 - **26%** chose not to participate, **38%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate, and **14%** didn’t know about it
- **10%** indicated they came to class “often,” or “very often” **without completing readings/assignments**
- **72%** indicated they **asked questions or contributed to course discussions** “often,” or “very often”
- **9%** indicated they **observed student dishonesty** “often,” or “very often” when completing assignments or exams

Financing Education

- **30%** primarily financed their education through financial aid, **15%** through UofL tuition remission, and **12%** through personal income/savings (top 3 reasons)
- **40%** had some difficulty, **39%** had no difficulty, and **21%** had a great deal of difficulty financing their education