

# 2015-16 Graduating Student Survey (GSS) – Undergraduates

## Executive Summary

### Background

The Graduating Student Survey (GSS) is administered each summer, fall, and spring semester to all students who have submitted a degree application for graduation. The goal of this survey is to gather exit information from graduating 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 major/program, academic support services and facilities, other student services and programs, advising, faculty, and their plans following graduation.

### Methodology

A PeopleSoft query was used to provide a listing of all undergraduate students who submitted a degree application in Summer 2015, Fall 2016, or Spring 2016. A total of 829 (31.2%) students responded to the survey; this number of respondents meets the requirements to be considered a representative<sup>1</sup> sample of the graduating population.

### Profile

Of the 829 respondents who completed the survey, 59% are female, 70% are full-time students, 78% are white, 11% are African American, 3% are two or more races, 2% are Hispanic, and 5% are other races. Native students make up 61% of the respondents, and 21% are first generation college students. The average cumulative GPA was 3.26. For more information about the demographic and enrollment data of the population, see Tables 1 and 2 in the appendix on page 3 of this report.

### Data Highlights

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

#### Overall Experiences

- With UofL
  - **80%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their **overall experience** at UofL
  - **80%** would be “likely” or “extremely likely” to **enroll at UofL again** if they had the choice
  - **57%** indicated their overall impression of the **academic standards** at UofL was “very good,” or “excellent”
- With Major
  - **84%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **quality of courses**
  - **63%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **usefulness of texts and course materials**
  - **73%** were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the **relevance of the coursework to their expected career**
  - **87%** indicated their academic program was “**appropriately challenging**”
  - **64%** rated their overall experience with their **academic program** as “above average,” or “excellent”
- With Advising
  - **62%** rated their overall impression of the advising services provided by **professional advisors** as “very good,” or “excellent” (based on Spring data only due to a change in survey question)
  - **64%** rated their overall impression of the advising services provided by **faculty advisors** as “very good,” or “excellent” (based on Spring data only due to a change in survey question)
- Faculty
  - **67%** 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**

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<sup>1</sup> Sample size calculations were based on a degree applicant population of 2,660 undergraduate students, and a 95% confidence level with a 3% margin of error (the range that the population’s responses may deviate from the sample).

- **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).
  - **70%** rated their **practicum, internship, field experience, or clinical assignment** as “good” or “excellent”
    - **21%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **5%** didn’t know about it
  - **42%** held a **formal leadership role** in a student organization/group and rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
    - **46%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **8%** didn’t know about it
  - **53%** participated in **community-based or service learning** and rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
    - **32%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **10%** didn’t know about it
  - **31%** worked on a **research project with faculty** outside of course/program requirements and rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
    - **54%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **10%** didn’t know about it
  - **18%** participated in a **Living Learning Community (LLC)** and rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
    - **44%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **31%** didn’t know about it
  - **25%** **Studied Abroad** and rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
    - **68%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **3%** didn’t know about it
  - **64%** participated in a **Culminating Undergraduate Experience (CUE)** and rated it as “good” or “excellent”
    - **21%** didn’t have the opportunity to participate and **8%** didn’t know about it
- **26%** indicated they came to class “often,” or “always” **without completing readings/assignments**
- **71%** indicated they **asked questions or contributed to course discussions** “often,” or “always”
- **18%** observed student dishonesty “often,” or “very often” when completing assignments or exams

### Financing Education

- **43%** primarily financed their education through financial aid, **23%** through scholarships, and **15%** through support from parents/relatives (top 3 reasons)
- **52%** had some difficulty, **31%** had no difficulty, and **17%** had a great deal of difficulty financing their education

### Plans after Graduation

- Employment
  - **67%** indicated that **paid employment** will be their principal activity upon graduation
  - Of the **53%** that indicated they already **have a job after graduation**:
    - **79%** indicated the job is **located in Kentucky**
    - **66%** stated that the job is **related to their undergraduate major**
- Continuing Education
  - **26%** indicated that **attending graduate or professional school** will be their principal activity upon graduation
  - Of the **72%** that indicated they are **planning to attend graduate or professional school** at some point:
    - **48%** indicated they will attend UofL
    - **83%** stated that the **field is related to their undergraduate major**

## Appendix

**Table 1: Profile**

**2015-16 Graduating Student Survey Demographic Data (Undergraduates)**

		Invited Population	Completed/In Progress <sup>a</sup>	Not Completed
	<b>Total</b>	2660	829 (31.2%)	1831 (68.8%)
<b>Sex</b>	Female	1433 (53.9%)	491 (59.2%)	942 (51.5%)
	Male	1227 (46.1%)	338 (40.8%)	889 (48.5%)
<b>Status</b>	Full-Time	1877 (70.6%)	577 (69.6%)	1300 (71%)
	Part-Time	783 (29.4%)	252 (30.4%)	531 (29%)
<b>Race</b>	American Indian/Alaskan Native	1 (0.03%)	1 (0.1%)	0
	Asian	85 (3.2%)	18 (2.2%)	67 (3.7%)
	Black	313 (11.8%)	95 (11.5%)	218 (11.9%)
	Hispanic	88 (3.3%)	23 (2.8%)	65 (3.5%)
	Native Hawaiian	1 (0.03%)	0	1 (0.05%)
	Nonresident Alien	39 (1.5%)	14 (1.7%)	25 (1.4%)
	Unknown	1 (0.03%)	0	1 (0.05%)
	Two or More Races	89 (3.4%)	27 (3.2%)	62 (3.4%)
	White	2043 (76.8%)	651 (78.5%)	1392 (76%)
<b>GPA</b>	Average Cumulative GPA <sup>b</sup>	3.20	3.26	3.17
<b>Unit</b>	College of Arts & Sciences <sup>c</sup>	1206 (45.3%)	376 (45.4%)	830 (45.3%)
	College of Business	387 (14.5%)	121 (14.6%)	266 (14.5%)
	School of Dentistry	33 (1.2%)	12 (1.4%)	21 (1.2%)
	College of Education & Human Development	438 (16.5%)	137 (16.5%)	301 (16.4%)
	School of Music	32 (1.2%)	6 (0.7%)	26 (1.4%)
	School of Nursing	217 (8.2%)	65 (7.8%)	152 (8.3%)
	School of Public Health & Information Sciences	15 (0.6%)	6 (0.7%)	9 (0.5%)
	Speed School of Engineering	294 (11.1%)	92 (11.1%)	202 (11%)
	Kent School of Social Work	38 (1.4%)	14 (1.7%)	24 (1.3%)

<sup>a</sup> Includes all students who began the survey, regardless of completion

<sup>b</sup> Arithmetic Mean

<sup>c</sup> Includes 4 "UI" Undergraduate International students

**Table 2: Enrollment Status**

**Enrollment Status and First Generation College Student Status**

		Invited Population	Completed/In Progress	Not Completed
	<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	2605	806	1799
<b>Enrollment Status</b>	Native	1629 (62.5%)	492 (61.1%)	1137 (63.2%)
	Transfer	976 (37.5%)	314 (38.9%)	662 (36.8%)

<sup>a</sup> Enrollment data are only available on 2,605 from the original 2,660 invited population. Fifty-five students' statuses are unknown.