



# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

## **Graduating Student Survey: 2020 Fall Semester**

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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### **Item Analysis**

## 1. Sample Demographics

The sample consisted of students who were graduating in Fall 2020. In total, 1431 students graduated in Fall 2020. 627 students responded to the survey, indicating a 44% response rate.

**Table 1.1: Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	N	Percentage
African American	102	16.3
Asian American	17	2.7
Hispanic American	25	4
Multiracial	17	2.7
Native American	9	1.4
Non-Resident Alien	16	2.6
Unknown	12	1.9
White	412	65.7
Unavailable	17	2.7
Total	627	100

**Table 1.2: Sex**

Sex	N	Percentage
Male	508	16.3
Female	102	81
Unavailable	17	2.7
Total	627	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

<i>Item - You are graduating:</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
On time	394	63.24
Earlier than I thought I would	46	7.38
Later than I thought I would	183	29.37
Total	623	100

<i>Item - For this degree, what was your status when you entered USA?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
First-Time College Student	167	28.11
Transfer Student	302	50.84
Returning USA Student	125	21.04
Total	594	100

<i>Item - How many hours a week do you work for pay (on &amp; off campus)?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
0	106	17.29
0 to 10	34	4.44
11 to 20	90	14.68
21 to 30	95	15.5
More than 30 hours	46.98	288
Total	613	100

<i>Item - While attending USA, on average, you were a:</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Full-time undergraduate student - I took 12 or more hours per semester.	216	35.29
Part-time undergraduate student - I took less than 12 hours per semester.	26	4.25
Full-time graduate student - I took 6 or more hours per semester.	346	56.54
Part-time graduate student - I took less than 6 hours per semester.	24	3.92
Total	612	100

### 3. Employment Plans After Graduation

Item	N	Yes	No
Are you currently employed?	613	75.04	25.96

Item - After graduation, which of the following will be your primary activity related to employment?	N	Percentage
Stay in my current job.	124	20.23
Start a new job.	227	37.03
Look for a job.	228	37.19
Serve in the Armed Forces.	4	.65
Serve in an international or national volunteer organization	1	.16
Do volunteer work.	4	.65
Other	25	4.08
Total	613	100

Item	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If currently employed, did your major or field of study prepare you for your current position?	439	68.79	14.58	16.64

Item - If currently employed, would you say you are:	N	Percentage
Not at all satisfied with my current position.	41	9.34
Somewhat satisfied with my current position.	161	36.67
Satisfied with my current position.	156	35.54
Very satisfied with my current position	81	18.45
Total	439	613

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	64	29.91
Two to three months after graduation	103	48.13
Four to six months after graduation	19	8.88
More than six months after graduation	1	.47
Other time frame	27	12.62
Total	214	100

Item	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If <b>starting a new job</b> after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?	197	87.82	1.52	10.66

Item - <i>If looking for a new job after graduation, do you plan on working:</i>	N	Percentage
In the state of Alabama	84	37
In another state	131	57.71
Other	12	5.29
Total	227	100

Item - <i>If looking for a new job after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?</i>	N	Yes	No	Somewhat
If <b>looking for a new job</b> after graduation, did your major or field prepare you for your new position?	227	74.89	2.2	22.91

#### 4. Educational Plans After Graduation

Item - <i>After graduation, what are your plans in regards to continuing your education within the next year?</i>	N	Percentage
I have been accepted to graduate or professional school.	51	8.7
I have applied to graduate or professional school but haven't heard about my acceptance yet.	26	4.44
I will be pursuing another undergraduate degree.	3	.51
I plan on continuing my education, but haven't applied yet.	191	32.59
I don't plan on continuing my education.	315	53.75
Total	586	100

Item - <i>If pursuing another undergraduate degree or planning to continue my education but haven't applied yet, when do you plan to start?</i>	N	Percentage
Within the first month after graduation	12	6.35
Two to three months after graduation	16	8.47
Four to six months after graduation	32	16.93
More than six months after graduation	79	41.80
Other time frame	50	26.46
Total	189	100

<i>Item - If planning to continue your education, what is the highest degree you plan to earn?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bachelor's	8	3.04
Master's	104	39.54
Professional (J.D./M.D.)	10	3.80
Ed.S.	4	1.52
Ph.D. or Doctoral Level	137	52.09
Total	263	100

## 5. Advising

<b>Item</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
The information my advisor provided about graduation requirements was accurate.	487	3.3	.76	4.31	5.13	46.61	43.94
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for career planning.	456	3.09	.89	7.46	13.16	42.76	36.62
I was satisfied with the quality of advising for planning for graduate/professional school.	433	3.1	.88	7.39	12.01	43.88	36.72
The frequency with which I met with my advisor was sufficient.	426	3.02	.92	9.15	14.32	42.25	34.27
I had adequate access to my advisor.	490	3.14	.85	6.33	10.61	45.51	37.55

<b>Item - Did you encounter any of the following problems with your advisor (check all that apply)?</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding General Education requirements	27	12.27
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Major requirements	34	15.45
Incorrect information from my advisor regarding Minor requirements	13	5.91
Incorrect information from my advisor about University policies and procedures	18	8.18
Trouble with making or keeping an appointment with me	24	10.91
Inadequate information regarding campus resources available to students	25	11.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6. Career Services

<b>Item - What services available at USA Career Services did you use to search for or secure a job? (Select all that apply.)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Attended career fairs	62	15.38
Attended career-related seminars/events	30	7.44
Facebook	39	9.68
Met with Career Advisor	29	7.20
Participated in a mock interview	15	3.72
Pinterest	7	1.74
Received assistance with resume/interview preparation	40	9.93
Searched postings in the job binders	25	6.20
Twitter	7	1.74
Used the career resource library	13	3.23
Used the Career Services website	60	14.89
Other	76	18.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Item</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Have you visited the Office of Career Services in the past year?	565	6.55	93.45

<b>Item</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
How would you rate your overall experience with Career Services?	35	3.34	.87	2.86	17.14	22.86	57.14

## 7. Academic Resources

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Library resources were sufficient to meet my needs.	499	3.46	.58	.8	2.2	46.69	50.3
Labs, studios, and other academic spaces were sufficient to meet my needs.	338	3.34	.67	2.66	3.25	51.78	42.31
Computing resources (labs, machines, software) were sufficient to meet my needs.	337	3.35	.68	2.97	2.67	51.04	43.32
Available technology/instrumentation/equipment was sufficient to meet my needs.	351	3.34	.70	3.42	3.13	49	44.44

## 8. Course Offerings

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Courses in my major were offered with sufficient frequency.	516	3.29	.72	2.33	8.72	46.12	42.83
I felt the variety of electives available to me in my major were sufficient.	403	3.21	.80	4.47	9.93	44.91	40.69

## 9. Faculty and Course Work

Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
In general, faculty were interested in my academic success.	519	3.33	.7	2.5	6.17	46.82	44.51
Faculty were accessible outside of class.	507	3.33	.62	1.18	4.93	53.85	40.04
As an undergraduate, I felt that my general education courses at USA prepared me for the courses in my major.	286	3.21	.77	4.20	8.74	48.95	38.11
The coursework for my program was engaging.	513	3.27	.68	2.14	6.43	53.22	38.21



Item	N	M	SD	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Overall, my coursework was challenging.	517	3.40	.6	.97	3.29	50.1	45.65
The foundational courses in my program prepared me for the upper-level courses.	461	3.27	.72	2.82	7.59	49.46	40.13
I felt well prepared to take the licensure exam. (Respond only if a licensure exam is required for you to practice.)	370	3.2	.76	3.51	10	49.19	37.3

### 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.	468	3.29	.67	1.5	7.69	51.07	39.74
There was ample opportunity to take part in an internship or co-op.	348	3.1	.86	6.03	14.37	42.82	36.78
There was ample opportunity to take part in service-learning.	316	3.08	.84	5.06	16.14	44.62	34.18
There was ample opportunity to work with faculty on research outside of class.	313	3.98	.91	7.03	21.09	38.98	21.09
There was ample opportunity to engage in independent research outside of class.	344	3.04	.88	5.81	18.9	40.41	34.88

### 11. Internships and Cooperative Education Experiences

Item - Have you participated in any of the following (select all that apply)?	N	Percentage
Internship (paid)	45	8.91
Internship (unpaid)	105	20.79
Cooperative Education program	22	4.36
I have not participated	333	65.94

<b>Item - If you participated in an internship, how did you find out about the internship?</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Faculty member	70	44.59
Family	7	4.46
Friends	22	14.01
Staff member	10	6.37
Other	58	30.57
Total	157	100

<b>Item</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>If you participated in an internship, did you receive academic credit for it?</i>	161	73.91	26.09

## **12. Graduate Student Experience**

<b>Item</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
My thesis/dissertation advisor encouraged my intellectual growth and curiosity.	97	3.34	.79	3.09	10.31	36.08	50.52
My thesis/dissertation advisor provided regular, constructive feedback to me regarding my progress.	96	3.36	.81	4.17	8.33	34.38	53.13
I was encouraged to develop my writing skills and submit work for publication.	199	3.29	.78	4.02	7.54	43.72	44.72
The graduate program included instruction that emphasized the importance of research integrity and professional ethics.	276	3.51	.56	.72	.72	45.29	53.26
The graduate program included research projects and/or papers requiring individual effort and independent learning.	281	3.52	.57	1.07	.71	43.42	54.8

My interactions with the Department Graduate Coordinator/Chair were handled promptly and accurately.	207	3.28	.8	5.31	6.28	43.96	44.44
My interactions with the College Director of Graduate Studies Office were handled promptly and accurately	169	3.34	.76	4.14	4.73	44.38	46.75
My interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.	242	3.29	.84	3.31	6.2	48.35	42.15

### 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.	157	3.32	.84	6	7	36	51

### 14. Overall Experiences

Item	N	M	SD	Not Safe	Somewhat Safe	Safe	Very Safe
Overall, how safe did you feel while on campus?	308	3.34	.71	.97	11.04	41.23	46.75

Item	N	M	SD	Definitely No	Probably No	Probably Yes	Definitely Yes
If you had to do it over again, would you attend USA?	519	3.11	.85	5.59	15.03	42.58	36.80

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?	513	3.47	.79	3.31	9.16	24.56	62.96

## 15. Staying Connected After Graduation

<i>Item - As an alumnus/a, what kinds of activities would you like to participate in (select all that apply)?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Tailgates at football games	127	21.42
Concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount	120	20.24
Concerts and exhibitions around town at a discount	134	22.6
Mentoring current students	127	21.42
Other	85	14.33

<i>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)?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Email	345	55.2
Postal Mail	132	21.12
Facebook	87	13.92
LinkedIn	30	4.8
Twitter	9	1.44
Other	22	3.52

<i>Item - What's the best way for your college/school to keep in touch with you (select all that apply)?</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Email	415	68.26
Phone	65	10.69
Address	128	21.05