

OFFICE OF ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT & ACCREDITATION

2008 FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE STUDENT SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the Office of Analysis, Assessment, and Accreditation conducts a survey of freshman and sophomore students to determine their attitudes and perceptions regarding the initial phase of their USU experience. The survey included questions on: advising, department/faculty experiences, general education, libraries/technology, starting college, campus climate, overall experiences at USU, and evaluation of other services and activities, as well as student demographics.

The survey was administered in a sample of fifteen classes with high proportions of freshman and sophomore students. Completed surveys were obtained from 1,573 students. Survey respondents' demographics mirrored those of the general population of freshman and sophomore students at USU in terms of age, ethnicity, and citizenship, although males were over-represented in the sample by about 2%. A little over two-thirds of the respondents were between 17 and 20 years of age, 51.2% were male, and 8.5% were minorities. Almost 10% of the respondents were married. Three-quarters of the respondents were Utah residents. Among the important findings of the survey are the following:

Overall Perceptions of USU

- Utah State University was the first choice of a college to attend for 69.2% of the respondents, and the second choice for 24%.
- 85.1% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the education they were receiving at USU; 11.6% marked neutral.
- 75% said if they had to make the decision again, they would still come to USU; 17.2% were neutral.
- 75% intended to graduate from USU; 14.6% were uncertain.
- 60.7% said the tuition they paid at USU was a worthwhile investment, 28.1% were neutral.
- 96.8% said they would tell graduating high school students to come to USU, or would tell them mostly positive things about USU.

General Education

- 48.5% said General Education was a useful part of their university experience; 30.3% were neutral.
- 32.5% of the respondents had difficulty scheduling general education courses.
- 40.8% said that General Education courses were well-taught; 38.2% were neutral.

Faculty/Department Experiences

- 73.6% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their department; 24.3% were neutral.
- 76.7% were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching in their department; 18.6% were neutral.
- 78.7% said faculty members were usually available after class and during office hours; 18.7% were neutral.
- 78.8% felt they were treated fairly by their department, 18.6% were neutral.

Libraries/Technology

- 72.1% of the respondents indicated USU libraries had the books, journals, and materials they needed; 25.5% marked the neutral response.
- 72% said library staff was available and helpful; 25% were neutral.
- 74.9% said their teachers used technology effectively in the classroom; 20.7% were neutral.

Starting College

- 61.8% of the respondents felt overwhelmed by the demands on their time; 28.3% were neutral.
- 76.4% said they had close friends here at USU; 13.3% were neutral.
- The Registration Office was used by 78.5% of the respondents; 84.9% were satisfied or very satisfied with the office.
- Online Registration was used by 92% of the respondents; 86.7% of those that used it were satisfied or very satisfied.
- The Bookstore was used by 98.8% of the respondents, and 88.5% were satisfied or very satisfied.

Financial Aid

- 32% of the respondents' financial support came from parents or other relatives, 21% came from scholarships, and 16% came from personal savings.
- 45.7% of the respondents worked half-time or more.
- The Financial Aid Office was used by 45.7% of the respondents, and 81.9% of those that used it were satisfied or very satisfied.

Campus Climate

- 90.1% of the respondents felt safe on the USU campus; 8.2% were neutral.
- 72.5% said USU provides enough activities for its students; 20.5% were neutral.
- 64.4% said faculty care about students; 29.6% were neutral.
- 77.3% said professors are tolerant of different points of view, 17.6% were neutral.

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