

# Graduating Student Survey: Summer Semester 2020

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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## Executive Summary

The Graduating Student Survey was designed to gather opinions of graduating students related to various components of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama and their post-graduation plans. The Graduate Student Survey was conducted electronically using the Qualtrics survey system. It included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. The survey is typically launched four weeks prior to the end of the semester, and remains open until the semester ends. Participation was voluntary and reminder emails were sent to non-respondents every three days before the close of the survey.

### Sample

The sample consisted of students who graduated in Summer 2020. The final sample of graduating students consisted of **597** students; **344** participants completed the survey for a response rate of 57%. Respondent demographics are displayed ([link to tables](#))

### Strengths

- **90%** percent of undergraduates reported that they were full-time students.
- **79%** students were satisfied with computing, lab and technological and library resources.
- **55%** of the sample expressed interest in continuing their education, with **18%** already having applied or been accepted to graduate or professional school.
- **91%** of students reported that classwork was engaging, and **93%** reported that classwork was challenging.
- Overall, graduate students were satisfied with their thesis/dissertation advisors.
- **87%** of students reported if they had to do it over again, they would still choose South, and **84%** reported they would choose the same major.
- **87%** of students felt the variety of electives available to them in their major were sufficient.
- **96%** of graduate students said their interactions with the USA Graduate School were handled promptly and accurately.

### Weaknesses

- **38%** of respondents had some type of complaint about their advisor.
- **19%** of undergraduates did not feel as if their general education courses prepared them for courses in their major.
- Around **19-21%** of students who responded did not think there was ample opportunity to participate in the co-operative education program, service learning, *independent research*, internships.
- Safety: Around **14%** of students reported either not feeling safe on campus or only somewhat safe on campus.

**Opportunities:**

- 76 students reported that they would be interested in mentoring current students as *alumni*.
- Students reported that as alumni they would also be interested in participating in the following Tailgate at football games (28%), concerts and exhibitions on campus at a discount (22%), and concerts and exhibits around town at a discount (24%).