



REPORT OF 2012 GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY (GSS)

I. INTRODUCTION

In an effort to obtain outcomes and contact information from as many of our graduating students as possible, in Spring 2009 a brief 15-item Graduating Student Survey (GSS) was developed by the Office of Institutional Research with input from St. John's community. It was incorporated into the BANNER online process used by students - excluding School of Law - to register for participation in commencement exercises. The survey was revised in 2010, 2011, and 2012. In 2012, the survey has 22 items, but the same procedure has been followed since 2009.

The total number of participants in GSS 2012 was 2,314, representing 54% of the 2011-12 graduating population (65% undergraduates and 40% graduate students). The survey participants were quite representative of the graduating student population in student demographics and by college.

This report, prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, consists of four sections, including this section of Introduction. Section II provides highlights of the survey results. Section III presents detailed findings. Section IV is the Summary and Discussion. The appendix to this report provides detailed results for individual survey items of GSS 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Separate reports for individual colleges are being developed.

II. HIGHLIGHTS

Student overall satisfaction with their experience at St. John's remained high. For undergraduates, 93% were *satisfied / very satisfied* in both 2011 and 2012. For graduate students, the percentage was 92% in 2011 and 93% in 2012.

Student ratings on the quality of instruction increased: in 2011, 78% of undergraduates rated it as *good / excellent*, and the percentage increased to 83% in 2012; for graduate students, it increased by 1%, from 82% to 83%.

Undergraduate perceptions on tuition paid as a worthwhile investment also increased: in 2011, 66% of students *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment, and it increased to 69% in 2012. For graduate students, it decreased slightly, from 76% to 75%.

During the past two years, over 70% of undergraduates and over 60% of graduate students perceived that the Catholic and Vincentian Mission had a *positive / very positive*

impact on their experience (UG: 71% in 2011 and 74% in 2012; GR: 63% in 2011 and 61% in 2012).

In 2012, 83% of undergraduates and 84% of graduate students were *satisfied / very satisfied* with the University's support of internship programs, and the percentages didn't change much from the previous year.

From 2011 to 2012, the percentage of students with internships (not including student teaching or clinical rotation) increased very slightly: from 50% to 51% for undergraduates, and from 42% to 44% for graduate students.

From 2011 to 2012, the job placement rate increased, from 18% (9% keeping current jobs; 9% accepted a job offer) to 32% (18%; 14%) for undergraduates, and from 34% (18%; 16%) to 49% (29%; 20%) for graduate students.

In 2012, 74% of both undergraduates and graduate students indicated that St. John's did a *good / excellent* job at providing students with course work and academic experiences that prepared them for career and job placement, compared to 70% of undergraduates and 78% of graduate students in 2011.

In 2012, 54% of undergraduates and 51% of graduate students perceived that the Career Center did a *good / excellent* job at providing students with career preparation for job placement, compared to 57% of undergraduates and 55% of graduate students in 2011.

In 2012, 68% of undergraduates and 73% of graduate students rated the quality of academic advising as *good / excellent*. The comparable percentages for 2011 were 68% for undergraduates and 70% for graduate students.

In 2012, around two-fifths of both undergraduates and graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to a global experience while at St. John's, unchanged for undergraduates from 2011, and a slight reduction for graduate students.

III. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

This section covers detailed survey results. It consists of five parts: 1) Student overall perceptions, 2) Internships, job status, and further education for undergraduates, 3) Internships, job status, and further education for graduate students, 4) Global experience, technology, and academic advising, and 5) St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission, services, activities, and alumni relations.

1. Student Overall Perceptions

As shown in the following table, student overall satisfaction remained high in 2012: 93% of both undergraduates and graduate students were *satisfied / very satisfied* with their overall St. John's experience. (Please note that the combined *satisfied / very satisfied*

percentage is the sum of the two percentages for *satisfied* and *very satisfied*. Therefore, the combined percentage may be one point higher or lower than the figures in the appendix due to decimal rounding.)

	Undergraduates		Graduate Students	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Overall satisfaction with St. John's	93%	93%	92%	93%
Very satisfied	33%	33%	31%	29%
Satisfied	60%	60%	61%	64%
Quality of instruction	78%	83%	82%	83%
Excellent	25%	28%	34%	32%
Good	53%	55%	48%	51%
Tuition paid was worthwhile investment	66%	69%	76%	75%
Strongly agree	12%	13%	13%	13%
Agree	54%	56%	63%	62%
Impact of Catholic and Vincentian Mission	71%	74%	63%	61%
Very positive	18%	21%	15%	11%
Positive	53%	53%	48%	50%
Satisfaction with University's support of internship	84%	83%	84%	84%
Very satisfied	27%	26%	26%	22%
Satisfied	57%	57%	58%	62%

Student ratings on the quality of instruction increased: in 2011, 78% of undergraduates rated it as *good / excellent*, and the percentage increased to 83% in 2012; for graduate students, it increased by 1%, from 82% to 83%.

Undergraduate perceptions on tuition paid as a worthwhile investment also increased: in 2011, 66% of students *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment, and it increased to 69% in 2012. For graduate students, it decreased slightly, from 76% to 75%.

Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 71% of undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience at St. John's in 2011 and the percentage increased to 74% in 2012. For graduate students, the percentage dropped from 63% to 61%.

When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 84% of undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* in 2011, and it decreased slightly to 83% in 2012. For graduate students, the percentage remained the same, 84% in

both 2011 and 2012. (Table 1 in the Appendix provides the GSS 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 trend data for each survey item. The following results mainly concentrate on the 2012 data.)

2. Undergraduate Students: Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2012 data indicate that 47% of undergraduates were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2012 or Spring 2013: 5% planned to pursue a bachelor's degree, 33% for master's, 1% for doctorate, and 8% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Question 1, Table 1).

When asked about their plans after graduation, 18% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 14% had accepted a job offer, 35% were planning to further their education, 32% were still looking for a job, and 0.1% had no plan (Q3, Table 1).

When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 25% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 49% *good*, 23% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. (Q9, Table 1).

When asked how well the Career Center did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 16% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 38% *good*, 30% *fair*, and 16% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).

The data indicate that 51% of undergraduates had internships. When student teaching and clinical rotation were included, this figure increased to 58%. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 30% had academic internships for credit, 15% experienced paid internships, 18% had unpaid internships (non-credit), 6% completed student teaching, and 3% had clinical rotations. (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 42% of undergraduates who didn't have any internship, 12% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 3% were not eligible, 13% were not interested, and 13% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For undergraduates who had internships, 21% of them found their internships through the Career Center, 26% through an academic department, 57% on their own, and 16% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100 %.). (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 26% of undergraduates were *very satisfied*, 57% *satisfied*, 12% *dissatisfied*, and 5% *very dissatisfied*. (Q8, Table 1)

3. Graduate Students: Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2012 data reveal that 17% of graduate students were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2012 or Spring 2013: 5% for master's, 10% for doctorate, and 2% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Q1, Table 1).

When asked about their plans after graduation from St. John's, 29% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 20% had accepted a job offer, 11% were planning to further their education, 40% were still looking for a job, and 0.2% had no plan (Q3, Table 1).

When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 28% of graduate students rated it as *excellent*, 46% *good*, 22% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. (Q9, Table 1).

When asked how well the Career Center did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 14% of them rated it as *excellent*, 37% *good*, 30% *fair*, and 18% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).

The data indicate that 44% of graduate students had internships. When student teaching and clinical rotation were included, this figure increased to 54%. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 23% had academic internships for credit, 16% experienced paid internships, 11% had unpaid internships (non-credit), 7% completed student teaching, and 11% had clinical rotations. (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 46% of graduate students who didn't have any internship, 10% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 9% were not eligible, 17% were not interested, and 9% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For graduate students who had internships, 15% of them found an internship through the Career Center, 31% through an academic department, 57% on their own, and 15% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100 %.). (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 22% of graduate students were *very satisfied*, 62% *satisfied*, 12% *dissatisfied*, and 4% *very dissatisfied*. (Q8, Table 1)

4. Global Experience, Technology, and Academic Advising

When asked how well St. John's provided a global experience through studying abroad, in the classroom, or student activities, 41% of undergraduates and 44% of

graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, 39% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 34% *good*, 23% *fair*, 4% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 28%, 44%, 23%, and 5%. (Q14, Table 1)

When asked how well St. John's University integrated technology into the learning experience, 32% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 49% *good*, 16% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 24%, 53%, 21%, and 3%. (Q15, Table 1)

Regarding the quality of academic advising, 28% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 40% *good*, 23% *fair*, and 9% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 27%, 46%, 21%, and 6%. (Q12, Table 1)

5. St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission, Service, Activities, and Alumni Relations

When asked how St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission impacted their experience at St. John's, 21% of undergraduates rated it as *very positively*, 53% *positively*, 23% *no impact*, 2% *negatively*, and 1% *very negatively*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 11%, 50%, 36%, 2%, and 1%. (Q16, Table 1)

When asked to what extent their experience at St. John's allowed for the development of a faith dimension in their life, 19% of undergraduates indicated "to a great extent", 48% "to some extent", and 33% "not at all". The corresponding figures for graduate students were 15%, 43%, and 42%. (Q17, Table 1)

When asked about their affiliation with student clubs, organizations and societies during their years at St. John's, 73% of undergraduates and 49% of graduate students indicated that they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies. For undergraduate students, 35% belonged to Honor Societies, 32% Academic, 19% Cultural, 18% Special Interests, and 25% other. For graduate students, 20% belonged to Honor Societies, 11% Academic, 10% Cultural, 4% Special Interests, and 16% other. (Q18, Table 1).

When asked whether they wanted to be involved in service after graduation, 26% of undergraduates said YES and 74% indicated NO. For graduate students, 18% said YES and 82% indicated NO. (Q22, Table 1)

When asked whether they would like to be contacted for certain activities in the future, 59% of undergraduates indicated YES for alumni relations events, 34% for leadership roles in organizing alumni functions, 29% for recruitment events with the Office of Admissions, and 23% for mentoring roles with students. The corresponding

figures for graduate students were 47%, 28%, 22%, and 17%. (Q21, Table 1). A complete list will be sent to the Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

IV. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In general the results from this GSS survey are consistent with the findings from other surveys such as NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) and YFCY (Your First College Year): student overall satisfaction is strongly related to the quality of instruction; the college GPA was positively related to student ratings on quality of instruction and tuition as a worthwhile investment.

The GSS data indicate that students with internships are more likely to get a job offer than those without internships, and it is true for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The survey results reveal that around two-fifths of both undergraduates and graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to a global experience while at St. John's - through study abroad, in the classroom or through student activities. This is a challenge to our objective in the 2008 – 2013 Strategic Plan that specified global experience as one of the University priorities. Actions should be taken for further improvement.

The results of this GSS survey are the perceptions of students who have successfully completed their programs at St. John's. The data are very useful, and can be used with other data for action plans and improvement purposes. Please share any initiatives you develop to respond to these results, with Dr. Yuxiang Liu in the Office of Institutional Research at LiuY@stjohns.edu.

This is the fourth administration of the GSS survey. We will continue to administer it annually along with other student surveys in order to develop a more comprehensive picture of our students, make continuous improvement in student learning, and ensure success for all.