



## REPORT OF 2013 GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY (GSS) Queens vs. Staten Island Campus

### 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 has been revised several times, and now it has 23 items, but the same procedure has been followed since 2009.

This report, prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, presents the GSS 2013 results for undergraduates by campus, Queens vs. Staten Island (the number of participating graduate students on Staten Island campus is too small to generate meaningful results). In 2013, 1,150 graduating undergraduates (57% of student population) on Queens campus, and 143 students (60%) on Staten Island (SI) participated in GSS.

This report 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 2013 for undergraduates on both Queens and Staten Island campuses.

### II. HIGHLIGHTS

In almost all areas covered in the survey, the ratings by SI undergraduates were higher than the ratings by students on Queens campus.

- 89% of SI undergraduates rated on the quality of instruction as *good / excellent*, 12% higher than Queens campus (77%).
- 79% of SI undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment as compared to 63% on Queens campus.
- Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 88% of SI undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience vs. 72% for Queens.
- When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 88% of SI undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* as compared to 79% on Queens campus.

- When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 86% of SI undergraduates rated it as good / *excellent* as compared to 68% for Queens.
- 59% of SI undergraduates had internships (including teaching and clinical rotations) as compared to 58% for Queens.
- Regarding the quality of academic advising, 81% of SI undergraduates rated it as *good / excellent* vs. 65% for Queens.
- When asked to what extent their experience at St. John's allowed for the development of a faith dimension in their life, 74% of SI undergraduates indicated "to some or a great extent" as compared to 67% for Queens.
- 78% of SI undergraduates indicated that during their years at St. John's they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies as compared to 74% for Queens.

### III. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

This section covers detailed survey results by campus, Staten Island (SI) vs. Queens. It consists of four parts: 1) Student overall perceptions, 2) Internships, job status, and further educations, 3) Global experience, technology, and academic advising, and 4) St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission, services, activities, and alumni relations.

#### 1. Student Overall Perceptions

The following table presents the GSS 2013 data for undergraduate students, SI vs. Queens campus. As revealed in the following table, the ratings by SI students were all higher than those on Queens campus.

	Staten Island	Queens
<b>Overall satisfaction with St. John's</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>92%</b>
Very satisfied	51%	34%
Satisfied	47%	58%
<b>Quality of instruction</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Excellent	39%	26%
Good	50%	51%
<b>Value added by core courses</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>84%</b>
To a large extent	29%	28%
To some extent	61%	56%
<b>Tuition paid was a worthwhile investment</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>63%</b>
Strongly agree	23%	14%
Agree	56%	49%

<b>Impact of Catholic and Vincentian Mission</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Very positive	35%	20%
Positive	53%	52%
<b>Satisfaction with University's support of internship</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Very satisfied	32%	28%
Satisfied	56%	51%

For Class 2013, 98% of SI undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* with their overall St. John's experience, as compared to 92% of the Queens campus; 89% of SI undergraduates rated on the quality of instruction as *good / excellent*, 12% higher than Queens campus (77%); 63% of SI undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment as compared to 79% on Queens campus.

90% of SI undergraduates indicated *to a large/some extent*, St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, as compared to 84% of the Queens campus. This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum.

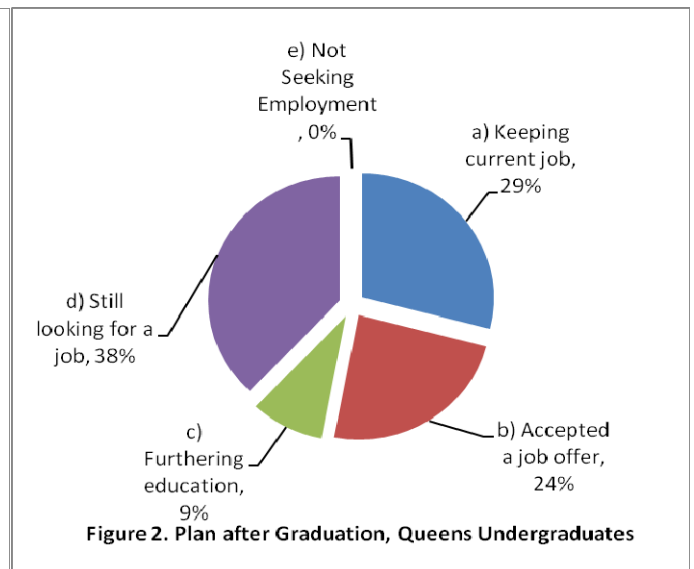
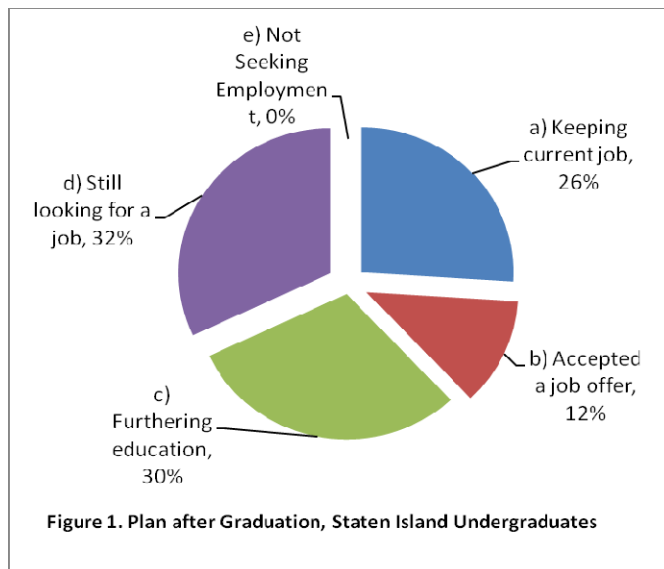
Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 88% of SI undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience vs. 72% for Queens.

When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 88% of SI undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* as compared to 79% on Queens campus.

## 2. Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2013 data indicate that 49% of SI undergraduates and 48% at Queens were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014. On SI campus, 6% planned to pursue a bachelor's degree, 34% for master's, 1% for doctorate, and 8% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). The corresponding figures for Queens were 4%, 32%, 2%, and 10%. (Question 1, Table 1)

When asked about their plans after graduation, as Figure 1 reveals, 26% SI undergraduates indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 12% had accepted a job offer, 30% were planning to further their education, 32% were still looking for a job, and 0% had no plan. The corresponding figures for Queens, as Figure 2 presents, were 18%, 12%, 35%, 34%, and 0%. (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, 39% of SI undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 47% *good*, 13% *fair*, and 1% *poor*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 24%, 44%, 26%, and 7%. (Q9, Table 1)

When asked how well the University Career Services did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 19% of SI undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 45% *good*, 25% *fair*, and 11% *poor*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 17%, 37%, 32%, and 14%. (Q10, Table 1)

The data indicate that 57% of SI undergraduates had internships. When student teaching and clinical rotation were included, this figure increased to 59%. The corresponding figures for Queens were 50% and 58%. (Q6, Table 1)

Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 35% of SI undergraduates had academic internships for credit, 21% experienced paid internships, 13% had unpaid internships (non-credit), 3% completed student teaching, and 0% had clinical rotations. The corresponding figures for Queens were 33%, 15%, 18%, 4%, and 4%. (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining SI undergraduates who didn't have any internship, 13% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 4% were not eligible, 14% were not interested, and 10% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. The corresponding figures for Queens campus were 15%, 3%, 12%, and 12%. (Q5, Table 1)

For SI undergraduates who had internships, 25% of them found their internships through the University Career Services, 19% through an academic department, 61% on their own, and 7% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The

total percentage may add up to more than 100 %.). The corresponding figures for Queens were 24%, 26%, 59%, and 13%. (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 32% of SI undergraduates were *very satisfied*, 56% *satisfied*, 13% *dissatisfied*, and 0% *very dissatisfied*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 28%, 51%, 15%, and 6%. (Q8, Table 1)

### 3. 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 SI and 37% of Queens undergraduates indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, 39% of SI students rated it as *excellent*, 41% *good*, 13% *fair*, 7% *poor*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 37%, 32%, 22%, and 4%. (Q15, Table 1)

When asked how well St. John's University integrated technology into the learning experience, 40% of SI undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 47% *good*, 13% *fair*, and 0% *poor*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 29%, 50%, 18%, and 4%. (Q16, Table 1)

Regarding the quality of academic advising, 48% of SI undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 33% *good*, 13% *fair*, and 6% *poor*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 27%, 38%, 23%, and 12%. (Q13, Table 1)

### 4. 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, 35% of SI undergraduates rated it as *very positively*, 53% *positively*, 10% *no impact*, 1% *negatively*, and 1% *very negatively*. The corresponding figures for Queens were 20%, 52%, 24%, 3%, and 1%. (Q17, Table 1)

When asked to what extent their experience at St. John's allowed for the development of a faith dimension in their life, 28% of SI undergraduates indicated "to a great extent", 46% "to some extent", and 26% "not at all". The corresponding figures for Queens were 19%, 48%, and 33%. (Q18, Table 1)

When asked about their affiliation with student clubs, organizations and societies during their years at St. John's, 78% of SI undergraduates and 74% of Queens indicated that they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies. For SI undergraduates, 43% belonged to Honor Societies, 33% Academic, 10% Cultural, 23%

Special Interests, and 36% other. For Queens campus, 35% belonged to Honor Societies, 30% Academic, 20% Cultural, 20% Special Interests, and 23% other. (Q19, Table 1).

When asked whether they wanted to be involved in service after graduation, 29% of SI undergraduates said YES and 71% indicated NO. For Queens campus, 28% said YES and 72% indicated NO. (Q23, Table 1)

When asked whether they would like to be contacted for certain activities in the future, 35% of SI undergraduates indicated YES for alumni relations events, 4% for leadership roles in organizing alumni functions, 0% for recruitment events with the Office of Admissions, 9% for mentoring roles with students, and 35% for assistance with career decisions and job search. The corresponding figures for Queens were 25%, 2%, 3%, 9%, and 41%. (Q22, Table 1)

#### **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 paid as a worthwhile investment.

In almost all areas covered in the survey, the ratings by SI undergraduates were higher than the ratings by students on Queens campus.

The survey results reveal that around two-fifths of undergraduates on both Queens and SI campuses 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](mailto: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.