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2003-2004 Graduate Degree Survey

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SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE DEGREE SURVEY

2003-2004

The Graduate Degree Survey is a part of the Application for Graduation packet. Surveys are sent to the Assessment Center where they are processed and tabulated. For Fall 2003 and Spring 2004, 34 students completed the survey yielding a 43.6% return rate. This is about a 10% increase compared to the last Graduate Degree Survey (formerly named the Graduate Degree Recipient Survey).

A slightly revised form was utilized beginning this 2001-2002 academic year. Some generalizations from the data follow below. The following summary of the total report deals only with items that are noteworthy. All satisfaction rates are based on the following scale: (1) *very satisfied*, (2) *satisfied*, (3) *dissatisfied*, (4) *very dissatisfied*.

Faculty

- ◆ Ninety-seven to 100 percent of the responses remained at the *satisfied* or *very satisfied* levels, which is consistent with previous years. Graduate respondents expressed a satisfaction rate of 1.37 (average response mean) in areas of faculty availability, competence in field, and reputation.
- ◆ No more than 5% of the respondents have indicated dissatisfaction in this category on any of the surveys in the last eight years.

Major Field of Study

- ◆ The average respondent was *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with aspects of their major field of study, especially in the area of course content (only 3% expressed some dissatisfaction in this area). Opportunities for research, publication, and presentation were satisfactory for 80-86%. Twenty-one percent were dissatisfied with the availability of courses offered in their major.

Faculty Advisement/Mentoring

- ◆ Respondents felt that faculty advisement and mentoring was *satisfactory* or *very satisfactory*. Graduates were especially pleased with the explanation of degree requirements, collegiality between faculty/staff and graduate student, and encouragement from faculty and staff. The average mean of all seven items tabulated to a 1.64.

Library and Instructional Facilities

- ◆ All of the respondents used the library at least one time each semester. Sixty-two percent used it more than five times each semester.
- ◆ Ninety-seven percent of the respondents were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the helpfulness of library staff; eighty-one to ninety-four percent were content with the other areas of library and instructional facilities. The average tabulated mean resulted in 1.76.

Campus Environment

- ◆ According to the survey, satisfaction with security and social aspects of the campus were felt by 82%-100% of the respondents.
- ◆ Recreational and intramural programs, opportunities for involvement in campus activities, and college social activities were rated at an average of 1.64.
- ◆ All respondents were again satisfied with safety and security of personal belongings on campus.

Student Financial Services

- ◆ The average mean of satisfaction with Student Financial Services is 1.77. Respondents are particularly pleased with office assistance and the availability of financial aid.
- ◆ Thirty-three percent of the respondents had no college loan indebtedness at the time of graduation, and 53% had college loan indebtedness of more than \$7500.

Administrative Services

- ◆ Satisfaction with the Business Office, the Office of the Registrar, Enrollment Services, the Graduate Office, the Personnel Office, and the Assessment Center was indicated by 94-100% of the respondents, which remains fairly consistent with the previous six years. The average mean of these areas is 1.46.
- ◆ Ninety-two percent were satisfied with the availability of employment on campus, the mean being 1.64.

Campus Facilities

- ◆ Satisfaction with parking was noted this year by only 48% of the respondents. A mean of 2.62 was tabulated.
- ◆ Eighty-eight to one hundred percent of the respondents were satisfied with classrooms, laboratories, study areas, computer labs, and the general condition of buildings and grounds. The average mean of these areas calculated to 1.56.

Housing Services

- ◆ This year, all graduates were satisfied with both residence halls and family housing; the average mean is 1.60. This is a great improvement over the last survey's average mean of 2.13 for housing services.

Counseling Services

- ◆ Satisfactory career and academic counseling was felt by 95% of the respondents. Eighty-nine percent were pleased with personal counseling. A calculation of 1.47 is the average mean, an improvement from 1.79.

Student Union Services

- ◆ The bookstore rating has improved from 2.00 to 1.61.
- ◆ The average mean of snack bar and lounge areas is 1.55. Both maintain high ratings consistent with previous years.

Placement Services at Southwestern

- ◆ The mean expressing the degree of satisfaction with all placement services is 1.96; Sixty-eight to ninety-two percent of the graduates are pleased with the various aspects of assistance. Satisfaction with Southwestern Career Day in particular has shown improvement with a mean of 1.78 from 1.86.
- ◆ Almost half of the respondents (47%) are currently seeking employment. Twenty-four percent are currently employed outside field of study, which has decreased from forty percent. The percentage of respondents "employed in field of study" has basically shown no change this year.

Overall

- ◆ Ninety-seven percent of the respondents were satisfied with the general University attitude regarding non-discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and disability.
- ◆ About 67% of this year's respondents answered, "Yes, Southwestern prepared me for employment." Fifteen percent answered "No" to the statement; almost 18% are "Undecided."
- ◆ Seventy-six percent of this year's respondents answered, "Yes, if choosing a university again, I would choose Southwestern Oklahoma State University." While this is a 10% decrease, only six percent answered "No."