

## General Student Survey: Fall 2015

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## Overview

The General Student Survey (GSS) was designed to gather student perceptions related to several components of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama. The GSS was conducted electronically via the Class Climate survey system. The GSS included Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended questions. Survey collection occurred from November 2, 2015 to November 16, 2015. Reminder e-mails were sent to invited participants every five days until the close of the survey. Participation was voluntary, and incentives were offered to encourage participation. One selected participant was offered a $\$ 50$ Jag Cash gift card, and another selected participant was offered a $\$ 25$ Jag Cash gift card.

## Sampling Method

Stratified random sampling was utilized to select the sample from a population of students listed in the Fall 2015 census database. Stratification was based on (1) program, (2) race, and (3) gender. Race was either coded as white or non-white in the sampling process. Each strata was sampled based upon percentage represented within the census population. Under-represented strata were oversampled. Every student in undergraduate programs containing less than 100 students and graduate programs containing less than 50 students was included in the sample. Non-white students and male students were oversampled for each of the remaining programs.

## Sample

The final sample consisted of 6,460 students. 1021 participants responded to the survey for a final response rate of $16 \%$. The respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables ( $n=$ number of respondents).

1. Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

|  | Sex | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Female | 717 | 70.2 |
| Male | 304 | 29.8 |
| Total | 1021 | 100.0 |

Table 1.2: Classification

| Classification | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Freshman | 347 | 34.0 |
| Sophomore | 211 | 20.7 |
| Junior | 132 | 12.9 |
| Senior | 160 | 15.7 |
| Graduate | 144 | 14.1 |
| Medical | 17 | 1.7 |
| Allied Health Professions | 4 | 0.4 |
| Unclassified | 6 | 0.6 |
| Total | 1021 | 100.0 |

Table 1.3: Race

| Race | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| African-American, Non-Hispanic | 204 | 20.0 |
| Asian-American | 31 | 3.0 |
| Hispanic-American | 23 | 2.3 |
| Multiracial | 24 | 2.4 |
| Native-American | 5 | 0.5 |
| Non-Resident Alien | 63 | 6.2 |
| Pacific Islander | 1 | 0.1 |
| Unknown | 647 | 2.3 |
| White | 1021 | 63.4 |
| Total | 100.0 |  |

Table 1.4: Housing

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | On <br> Campus <br> $(\%)$ | Off <br> Campus <br> $(\%)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Do you live on or off <br> campus? | 1005 | 30.5 | 69.5 |

Table 1.5: Living Situation

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Student <br> Apartments <br> $(\%)$ | Live with <br> Family <br> $(\%)$ | Live with <br> Friends <br> $(\%)$ | Other <br> (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| If you live off campus, <br> please select your current <br> living situation. | 723 |  |  |  |  |

Table 1.6: Education

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | < <br> Bachelor's <br> Degree (\%) | Bachelor's <br> Degree <br> (\%) | Master's <br> Degree <br> (\%) | Doctoral or <br> Professional <br> Degree (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| What is the highest <br> level of education <br> that you wish to <br> acquire? |  |  |  |  |  |
| What is the highest <br> level of education <br> completed by either <br> of your parents or <br> guardian? | 996 |  | 1.0 | 26.5 | 39.4 |

## Analysis and Charts

The components of educational experiences assessed by the General Student Survey are presented in the following tables in Sections 2-5. Section 6 provides comparisons of the present data with the General Student Survey data from Fall 2014. The tables provide response percentages. Additionally, the tables provide the written question and number of respondents for each specific question (represented by $n$ ).

## 2. Academic Facilities \& Technology

Table 2.1: Facilities \& Technology

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Very <br> Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Satisfied <br> (\%) | Very <br> Satisfied <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Facilities for <br> classrooms. | 988 | 1.6 | 4.5 | 61.9 | 32.0 |
| Facilities for labs <br> (STEM). | 786 | 1.4 | 5.6 | 59.7 | 33.3 |
| Facilities for computer <br> labs. | 801 | 2.5 | 6.9 | 57.2 | 33.5 |
| Quality of technology <br> in classrooms. | 953 | 2.2 | 11.1 | 58.0 | 28.6 |
| Quality of technology <br> in labs (STEM). | 715 | 1.8 | 8.1 | 57.1 | 33.0 |
| Quality of technology <br> in computer labs. | 788 | 2.9 | 9.9 | 55.8 | 31.3 |
| Availability of <br> computers or other <br> technology in labs <br> (STEM). | 712 | 2.2 |  |  |  |
| Availability of <br> computers or other <br> technology in <br> computer labs. | 787 | 2.3 | 6.9 | 57.2 | 33.7 |
| Hours of operation of <br> computer labs. | 767 | 2.3 |  |  |  |
| The use of technology <br> by your professor. | 941 |  | 6.1 | 57.3 | 34.3 |

Table 2.2: JagTran

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Strongly <br> Disagree (\%) | Disagree <br> (\%) | Agree <br> (\%) | Strongly <br> Agree (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| The JagTran hours of <br> operation are <br> adequate. | 587 | 8.3 | 14.1 | 56.6 | 21.0 |
| The JagTran arrives <br> to stops on its <br> designated route at <br> the correct time. | 556 |  |  |  |  |
| The JagTran helps <br> you arrive to class on <br> time. | 549 | 22.7 | 31.5 | 38.7 | 13.1 |

## 3. Learning Engagement

Table 3.1: Activity hours/week

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | None <br> (\%) | 1 to 10 <br> hours <br> (\%) | 11 to 20 <br> hours <br> (\%) | 21 to 30 <br> hours <br> (\%) | More <br> than 30 <br> hours <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Working on campus <br> (for pay). | 1019 | 80.8 | 5.0 | 10.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Working off campus <br> (for pay). | 1015 | 56.3 | 6.8 | 12.0 | 9.6 | 15.0 |
| Volunteering or <br> participating in <br> community service that <br> is not required for a <br> class. | 1015 | 51.7 | 41.5 |  | 4.7 | 1.2 |
| Working in a lab or <br> participating in <br> research that is not <br> required for class. | 1013 | 79.5 | 15.7 |  |  |  |
| Attending campus <br> events. | 1017 | 34.6 | 53.2 | 8.0 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| How many hours per <br> week do you dedicate <br> to your student <br> organization? |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 3.2: Learning engagement activities

| Question - Have you participated in any of <br> the following? (Select all that apply) | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Team Based Learning. | 1021 |  |
| Learning Communities. | 1021 | 28.9 |
| Reading the Common Read/Common |  | 20.7 |
| World selection, Cradle of Freedom. | 1021 | 4.1 |
| Spider Martin Photography Exhibit. | 1021 | 4.3 |
| Service Learning. | 1021 | 7.5 |
| Faculty Led Research. | 1021 | 6.2 |
| Study Abroad. | 1021 | 3.0 |
| Internship. | 1021 | 9.2 |

Table 3.3: Interest in independent research

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Yes (\%) | No (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| If you are not already involved <br> with research, would you like to <br> participate in independent <br> research with a faculty <br> member? |  |  |  |

Table 3.4: Internship

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Plan to do an <br> internship; <br> required for <br> major (\%) | Plan to do an <br> internship; not <br> required for <br> major (\%) | No plans to <br> do an <br> internship <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| lf you have not participated <br> in an internship, which of <br> the following is applicable to <br> you? |  |  |  |  |

## 4. Learning Options

Table 4.1: Online course options

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Very <br> Dissatisfied <br> $(\%)$ | Dissatisfied <br> $(\%)$ | Satisfied <br> $(\%)$ | Very <br> Satisfied <br> $(\%)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| How satisfied are you <br> with available options <br> to take courses <br> online? |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 4.2: Online courses \& materials online

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Yes (\%) | No (\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Would you take more courses <br> that were offered completely <br> online if they were available? | 1000 |  | 62.1 |
| Regardless of course format, <br> do you prefer to have access to <br> course materials online? | 980 |  |  |

Table 4.3: Semester preference

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Fall (\%) | Spring (\%) | Summer (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| What semester(s) would <br> you prefer to take online <br> courses in? | 1021 | 45.1 | 50.2 |  |

Table 4.4: Course format preference

| Question | $\mathbf{n}$ | All class <br> sessions on <br> campus (\%) | All class <br> sessions <br> online (\%) | Some sessions <br> on online and <br> some sessions <br> on campus (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| When taking a course what <br> is your preferred format? | 1010 | 35.2 | 13.6 |  |

Table 4.5: Quality of instruction

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Poor (\%) | Only Fair <br> (\%) | Good (\%) | Excellent <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Rate the overall quality <br> of instruction in your <br> course(s) taken online. | 752 |  |  |  |  |
| Please rate the quality <br> of instruction for your |  |  | 13.6 | 51.1 | 30.5 |
| blended (some online <br> and some on campus) <br> course(s). | 824 |  |  |  |  |
| Rate the overall quality <br> of instruction provided <br> in your course(s) taken <br> on campus. | 2.8 | 11.0 | 52.8 | 33.4 |  |

Table 4.6: Sakai \& course availability

| Question | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Very <br> Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Satisfied <br> (\%) | Very <br> Satisfied <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Please rate your <br> satisfaction with <br> Sakai/USAonline. | 992 |  | 2.6 |  |  |
| Please rate your <br> satisfaction with <br> availability of courses <br> (online, blended, and <br> traditional) in your <br> major needed to <br> graduate. |  |  |  |  | 57.4 |
| Please rate your <br> satisfaction with <br> availability of general <br> education courses | 935 |  |  |  |  |
| (online, blended, and <br> traditional) needed to <br> graduate. | 918 |  |  |  |  |
| 33.7 |  |  |  |  |  |

## 5. Library

Table 5.1: Hours/week

| Question | n | 1 to 10 <br> Hours <br> (\%) | 11 to 20 <br> Hours <br> (\%) | 21 to 30 <br> Hours <br> (\%) | More than 30 <br> Hours <br> (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In hours per week, how <br> often do you visit the <br> Marx Library for <br> academic reasons? | 866 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 5.2: Sufficiency of Marx Library

| Question | $n$ | Strongly Disagree (\%) | Disagree (\%) | Agree (\%) | Strongly Agree (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The Marx Library is sufficient for my general needs. | 806 | 2.1 | 4.6 | 58.9 | 34.4 |
| The Marx Library provides sufficient resources for academic needs. | 786 | 1.7 | 3.7 | 61.1 | 34.2 |
| Marx Library resources are readily available for my needs. | 787 | 1.5 | 3.2 | 61.8 | 33.5 |
| Technology in the Marx Library is sufficient. | 751 | 2.7 | 8.9 | 59.7 | 28.8 |
| Technology in the Marx Library is readily available. | 752 | 2.0 | 8.6 | 60.4 | 29.0 |
| The hours of operation of the Marx Library are sufficient. | 794 | 4.2 | 10.5 | 53.9 | 31.5 |
| The Marx Library (online) is sufficient for my general needs. | 718 | 1.4 | 4.5 | 62.0 | 32.2 |
| The Marx Library (online) provides sufficient resources for academic needs. | 713 | 2.1 | 3.6 | 61.0 | 33.2 |
| Marx Library (online) resources are readily available for my needs. | 717 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 61.5 | 33.3 |

## 6. Comparison Data

The following or tables will compare the current data from Tables 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, and 4.5 with the data from Fall 2014.

Table 6.1: JagTran hours

| Question - The <br> JagTran hours of <br> operation are <br> adequate. | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Strongly <br> Disagree <br> (\%) | Disagree <br> (\%) | Agree (\%) | Strongly <br> Agree (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 417 | 7.9 | 12.2 | 57.6 | 22.3 |
| Fall 2015 | 587 | 8.3 | 14.1 | 56.6 | 21.0 |

Table 6.2: JagTran punctuality

| Question - The <br> JagTran arrives to <br> stops on its designated <br> route at the correct <br> time. | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Strongly <br> Disagre <br> (\%) | Disagree <br> (\%) | Agree (\%) | Strongly <br> Agree (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 392 | 14.3 | 29.8 | 43.6 | 12.2 |
| Fall 2015 | 556 | 16.7 | 31.5 | 38.7 | 13.3 |

Table 6.3: JagTran arrival to class

| Question - The <br> JagTran helps you <br> arrive to class on time. | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Strongly <br> Disagree <br> (\%) | Disagree <br> (\%) | Agree (\%) | Strongly <br> Agree (\%) |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 383 | 21.9 | 31.3 | 35.8 | 11.0 |
| Fall 2015 | 549 | 22.8 | 26.0 | 38.1 | 13.1 |

Table 6.4: Online course options

| Question - How <br> satisfied are you with <br> available options to <br> take courses online? | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Very <br> Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Dissatisfied <br> (\%) | Satisfied <br> (\%) | Very <br> Satisfied <br> (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 809 | 7.5 | 16.1 | 56.7 | 19.7 |
| Fall 2015 | 1002 | 5.5 | 15.1 | 62.8 | 16.7 |

Table 6.5: Online courses

| Question - Would you take more <br> courses that were offered completely <br> online if they were available? | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Yes (\%) | No (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 812 | 62.3 | 37.7 |
| Fall 2015 | 1000 | 62.1 | 37.9 |

Table 6.6: Online course materials

| Question - Regardless of course <br> format, do you prefer to have access <br> to course materials online? | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Yes (\%) | No (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 798 | 93.6 | 6.4 |
| Fall 2015 | 980 | 94.1 | 5.9 |

Table 6.7: Quality of instruction - online courses

| Question - Rate the overall <br> quality of instruction in your <br> course(s) taken online. | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Poor (\%) | Only Fair <br> (\%) | Good <br> (\%) | Excellent <br> (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 640 | 8.3 | 16.4 | 49.7 | 25.6 |
| Fall 2015 | 752 | 4.9 | 13.6 | 51.1 | 30.5 |

Table 6.8: Quality of instruction - blended courses

| Question - Please rate the <br> quality of instruction for your <br> blended (some online and <br> some on campus) course(s). | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Poor (\%) | Only Fair <br> (\%) | Good (\%) | Excellent <br> (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 589 | 6.3 | 13.6 | 49.2 | 30.9 |
| Fall 2015 | 824 | 2.8 | 11.0 | 52.8 | 33.4 |

Table 6.9: Quality of instruction - on campus courses

| Question - Rate the overall <br> quality of instruction provided <br> in your course(s) taken on <br> campus. | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | Poor (\%) | Only Fair <br> (\%) | Good <br> (\%) | Excellent <br> (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fall 2014 | 670 | 1.8 | 7.9 | 51.5 | 38.8 |
| Fall 2015 | 963 | 1.5 | 8.7 | 50.6 | 39.3 |

