

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.

In 2013, 535 undergraduates (59% of graduating student population) and 21 graduate students (34%) from the College of Professional Studies (CPS) participated in the GSS survey. The survey participants were quite representative of the graduating student population in student gender and ethnicity.

This report, prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, focuses on undergraduate students only as the number of responses from graduate students is very small. The report provides highlights of the survey results first, followed by more detailed findings. Table 1 in the appendix to this report provides trend data for individual survey items for CPS undergraduate and graduate students (Please use caution when interpreting the data for graduate students as the number of responses was quite small.), and Table 2 presents the 2013 data by college.

The GSS 2013 reports for St. John's University and by college are available online at: <http://www.stjohns.edu/about/ir/surveys>

II. HIGHLIGHTS

The overall satisfaction with their St. John's experience remained high: the percentage of CPS undergraduates who were *satisfied / very satisfied* was 94% in 2013.

Student ratings on the quality of instruction dropped slightly: 86% of CPS undergraduates rated the quality of instruction at St. John's as *good / excellent* in 2012 as compared to 82% in 2013.

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 83% of undergraduates indicated to a large/some extent in

2013. This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum.

Student perceptions on tuition paid as a worthwhile investment remained similar: 68% of undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment in 2013 as compared to 69% in 2012.

In 2012, 71% of undergraduate students perceived that the Catholic and Vincentian Mission had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience, and it increased to 74% in 2013.

Student ratings on the University's support of internship programs dropped slightly: the percentage of undergraduate students who were *satisfied / very satisfied* decreased from 83% in 2012 to 80% in 2013.

The percentage of undergraduates with internships (not including student teaching or clinical rotation) was 63% in 2011, 58% in 2012, and it went up to 60% in 2013.

From 2012 to 2013, the job placement rate remained similar: 33% (21% keeping current jobs; 12% accepted an offer) in 2012 and 32% (23%; 9%) in 2013.

In 2012, 77% of undergraduates indicated that St. John's did a *good / excellent* job at providing students with course work and academic experience that prepared them for career and job placement, and it decreased to 73% in 2013.

In 2012, 74% of undergraduates indicated that the quality of academic advising was *good / excellent*, and it increased to 76% in 2013.

The data reveal that 47% of undergraduates in 2012 and 44% in 2013 indicated that they had no exposure to a global experience while at St. John's.

III. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

This section covers detailed survey results for undergraduate students. It consists of four parts: 1) Student overall perceptions, 2) Internships, job status, and further education for undergraduates, 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

As shown in the following table, student overall satisfaction remained high in 2013: 94% of CPS undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* with their overall St. John's experience (Question 20, Table 1 in the appendix). (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 sum of the two due to decimal rounding.)

	Undergraduates	
	2012	2013
Overall satisfaction with experience at St. John's	97%	94%
Very satisfied	39%	41%
Satisfied	58%	53%
Quality of instruction	86%	82%
Excellent	32%	34%
Good	54%	48%
Value added by core courses	N/A	83%
To a large extent	N/A	28%
To some extent	N/A	55%
Tuition paid as a worthwhile investment	69%	68%
Strongly agree	14%	16%
Agree	55%	52%
Impact of Catholic and Vincentian Mission	71%	74%
Very positive	22%	21%
Positive	49%	53%
Satisfaction with University's support of internship	83%	80%
Very satisfied	25%	31%
Satisfied	58%	49%

Student ratings on the quality of instruction at St. John's dropped slightly for undergraduates from 2012 to 2013: 86% of them rated it as *good / excellent* in 2012 and 82% did in 2013. (Q11)

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 83% of undergraduates indicated to a large/some extent in 2013. This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum. (Q12)

In 2012, 69% of undergraduates perceived that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment, and it was 68% in 2013. (Q14)

Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 71% of undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience in 2012, and it increased to 74% in 2013. (Q17)

When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 83% of undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* in 2012, and it fluctuated

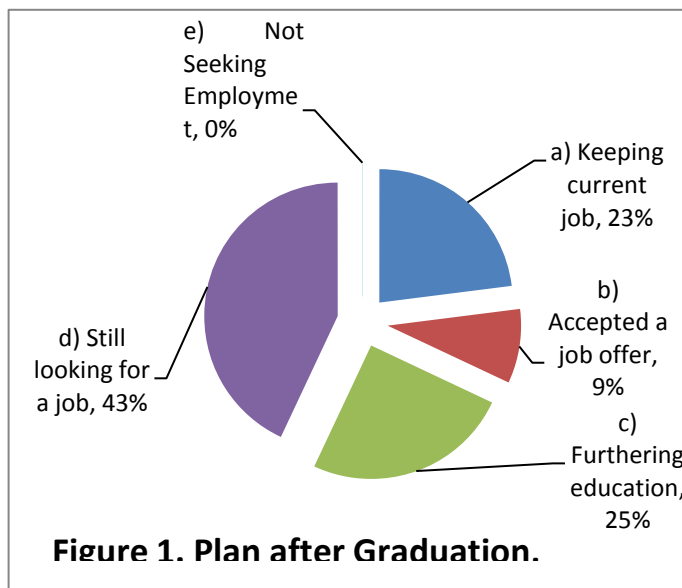
down to 80% in 2013 (Q8). (Table 1 in the Appendix provides the GSS 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 trend data for each survey item.)

2. Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2013 data indicate that 36% of CPS undergraduates were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014: 4% planned to pursue a bachelor's degree, 22% for master's, and 10% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Question 1, Table 1).

When asked about their employment plans, as Figure 1 reveals, 23% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 9% had accepted a job offer, 43% were still looking, 25% were planning to further their education, and 0% were not seeking employment. (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, 29% of undergraduates rated it as excellent, 44% good, 22% fair, and 4% poor. (Q9, Table 1).



When asked how well the University Career Services did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 18% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 38% *good*, 33% *fair*, and 12% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).

The data indicate that 61% of undergraduates had internships. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 47% had academic internships for credit, 11% experienced paid internships, and 20% had unpaid internships (non-credit). (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 61%.) (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 39% of undergraduates who didn't have any internship, 14% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 2% were not eligible, 8% were not interested, and 15% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For undergraduates who had internships, 24% of them found an internship through the University Career Services, 17% through an academic department, 66% on

their own, and 11% 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, 31% of undergraduates were *very satisfied*, 49% *satisfied*, 14% *dissatisfied*, and 6% *very dissatisfied*. (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, 47% of undergraduates in 2012 and 44% in 2013 indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, in 2012, 43% rated it as *excellent*, 33% *good*, 21% *fair*, and 3% *poor*. The corresponding figures in 2013 were 39%, 34%, 22%, and 5%. (Q15, Table 1)

When asked how well St. John's University integrated technology into the learning experience, in 2012, 34% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 48% *good*, 14% *fair*, and 3% *poor*. The corresponding figures in 2013 were 32%, 51%, 15%, and 2%. (Q16, Table 1)

Regarding the quality of academic advising, in 2012, 35% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 39% *good*, 19% *fair*, and 7% *poor*. The corresponding figures in 2013 were 36%, 40%, 15%, and 9%. (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, in 2012, 22% of undergraduates rated it as *very positively*, 49% *positively*, 28% *no impact*, 1% *negatively*, and 0% *very negatively*. The corresponding figures in 2013 were 21%, 53%, 24%, 2%, 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, in 2012, 19% of undergraduates indicated "to a great extent", 48% "to some extent", and 33% "not at all". The corresponding figures in 2013 were 18%, 49%, and 33%. (Q18, Table 1)

When asked whether they were affiliated with any of the student clubs, organizations, or societies during their years at St. John's, 65% of undergraduates in 2012 and 68% in 2013 indicated that they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies. In 2012, 26% belonged to Honor societies, 25% Academic, 18% Special Interests, 15% Cultural, and 22% other. In 2013, 25% belonged to Honor societies, 22% Academic, 16% Special Interests, 15% Cultural, and 26% other (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100%). (Q19, Table 1)

When asked whether they wanted to be involved in service after graduation, in 2012, 27% of undergraduates said *YES* and 73% indicated *NO*. In 2013, 26% said *YES* and 74% indicated *NO*. (Q23, Table 1)

When asked whether they would like to be contacted for certain activities in the future, in 2013, 31% of undergraduates indicated YES for alumni relations events, 2% for leadership roles in organizing alumni functions, 3% for recruitment events with the Office of Admissions, 7% for mentoring roles with students, and 37% would like to get assistance with their career decision and job search. (This is a check-all-that-apply question) (Q22, Table 1)

The results of this GSS survey are the perceptions of CPS 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 to improve student engagement and experience. Please share any initiatives you develop to respond to these results, with Dr. Yuxiang Liu, Director of Institutional Assessment, in the Office of Institutional Research at LiuY@stjohns.edu.

This is the fifth 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.