

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.

The total number of participants in GSS 2013 was 1,866 (48% of the 2012-13 graduating population): 1,330 undergraduates (57%) and 536 graduate students (34%). The survey participants were quite representative of the graduating student population in student gender and ethnicity.

Since the GSS survey is linked to the online registration for commencement, the GSS response rates have fluctuated with the proportion of students who registered online for commencement. For the students who registered online for commencement, the GSS response rates have been very high, all over 90% since GSS started in 2009.

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. Table 1 in the appendix has all the data discussed in this report. It provides detailed results for individual survey items of GSS 2009 to 2013. Table 2 in the appendix presents data of undergraduates for Queens and Staten Island campuses (The number of responses from graduate students on Staten Island was too small to generate meaningful results.). Table 3 provides data by college. Reports for each college are being developed. Please use caution when interpreting the data change from one year to another. A fluctuation by one or two percent may not be statistically or educationally significant.

II. HIGHLIGHTS

Student overall satisfaction with their experience at St. John's remained high. For both undergraduates and graduate students, 93% of them were *satisfied / very satisfied* in both 2012 and 2013.

Regarding the quality of instruction, the percentage of undergraduates who rated it as *good / excellent* has been below 80% since GSS started in 2009 except for 2012 which was 83%. It dropped back to 79% in 2013. For graduate students, it increased by 1% each year for the past two years, from 82% in 2011 to 84% in 2013.

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 85% of undergraduates and 91% of graduate students indicated *to a large/some extent* in 2013. The graduate students who responded to the survey include students who received their undergraduate education from St. John's, and those in the combined programs (bachelor's and master's, PharmD, etc.). This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum.

In 2012, 69% of undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment (the percentage went up 3% from 2011), but it dropped back to 66% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage remained the same, 75% in both 2012 and 2013.

Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 74% of undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience at St. John's in 2012 and the percentage increased to 75% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage also increased by 1%, from 61% to 62%.

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 dropped slightly to 81% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 84% to 88%.

From 2012 to 2013, the percentage of students with internships (not including student teaching or clinical rotation) remained the same for undergraduates (51%), and it increased from 44% to 45% for graduate students.

From 2012 to 2013, the job placement rate remained similar for undergraduates: 32% for in both years (18% keeping current jobs and 14% accepted a job offer in 2012; 19% and 13% in 2013). For graduate students it went up from 49% to 53% (29% keeping current jobs and 20% accepted a job offer in 2012; 29% and 24% in 2013), i.e., an increase of 4% of graduate students who secured a job before graduation.

In 2013, 70% of undergraduates and 76% of 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, as compared to 74% of both undergraduates and graduate students in 2012.

In 2012, 54% of undergraduates and 51% of graduate students perceived that the University Career Services did a *good / excellent* job at providing students with career

preparation for job placement, and the percentages went up for both undergraduate and graduate students , 57% and 56%, respectively.

In 2013, 67% of undergraduates and 70% of graduate students rated the quality of academic advising as *good / excellent*, as compared to 68% and 73% in 2012.

In 2012, 41% of undergraduates and 44% of graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to a global experience while at St. John's, and in 2013 the percentage dropped by 2% for undergraduates and remained the same for graduate students. For those who had such experience 73% of undergraduates and 72% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent* in 2012, and the percentage increased by 1% for undergraduates and by 5% for graduate students in 2013.

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 2013: 93% of both undergraduates and graduate students 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		Graduate Students	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Overall satisfaction with St. John's	93%	93%	93%	93%
Very satisfied	33%	36%	29%	30%
Satisfied	60%	57%	64%	63%
Quality of instruction	83%	79%	83%	84%
Excellent	28%	27%	32%	35%
Good	55%	52%	51%	49%
Value added by core courses	N/A	85%	N/A	91%
To a large extent	N/A	28%	N/A	31%
To some extent	N/A	57%	N/A	60%

Tuition paid was a worthwhile investment	69%	66%	75%	75%
Strongly agree	13%	15%	13%	15%
Agree	56%	51%	62%	60%
Impact of Catholic and Vincentian Mission	74%	75%	61%	62%
Very positive	21%	22%	11%	13%
Positive	53%	53%	50%	49%
Satisfaction with University's support of internship	83%	81%	84%	88%
Very satisfied	26%	30%	22%	27%
Satisfied	57%	51%	62%	61%

Regarding the quality of instruction, the percentage of undergraduates who rated it as *good / excellent* has been below 80% since GSS started in 2009 except for 2012 which was 83%. It dropped back to 79% in 2013. (Q11)

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 85% of undergraduates and 91% of graduate students indicated *to a large/some extent* in 2013. The graduate students who responded to the survey include students who received their undergraduate education from St. John's, and those in the combined programs (bachelor's and master's, PharmD, etc.). This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum. (Q12)

In 2012, 69% of undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment (the percentage went up 3% from 2011), but it dropped back to 66% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage remained the same, 75% in both 2012 and 2013. (Q14)

Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, 74% of undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience at St. John's in 2012 and the percentage increased to 75% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage also increased by 1%, from 61% to 62%. (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 dropped slightly to 81% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 84% to 88% (Q8). (Table 1 in the Appendix provides the GSS 2009 to 2013 trend data for each survey item. The following results mainly concentrate on the 2013 data.)

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

The GSS 2013 data indicate that 47% of undergraduates were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014: 4% planned to pursue a bachelor's degree, 32%

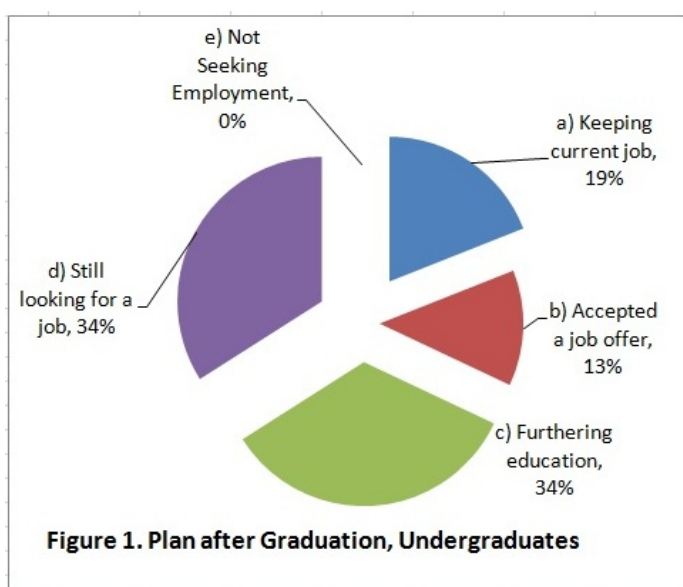
for master's, 2% for doctorate, and 9% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Question 1, Table 1).

For the students who were planning to pursue further studies, 34% (N = 207) provided the names of institutions for their further studies. About one half of the students were planning to continue their studies at St. John's. Other institutions for their further studies include CUNY, SUNY, U Penn, NYU, Duke, and Columbia.

When asked about their plans after graduation, as Figure 1 reveals, 19% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 13% had accepted a job offer, 34% were planning to further their education, 34% were still looking for a job, and 0% 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, 26% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 44% *good*, 24% *fair*, and 6% *poor*. (Q9, Table 1).

When asked how well the University Career Services did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 19% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 38% *good*, 30% *fair*, and 14% *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, 32% had academic internships for credit, 17% experienced paid internships, 18% had unpaid internships (non-credit), 4% completed student teaching, and 3% had clinical rotations (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100%). (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 42% of undergraduates who didn't have any internship, 14% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 3% were not eligible, 12% were not interested, and 12% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For undergraduates who had internships, 26% of them found their internships through the Career Center, 25% through an academic department, 58% on their own, and 12% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question.). (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 30% of undergraduates were *very satisfied*, 51% *satisfied*, 15% *dissatisfied*, and 5% *very dissatisfied*. (Q8, Table 1)

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

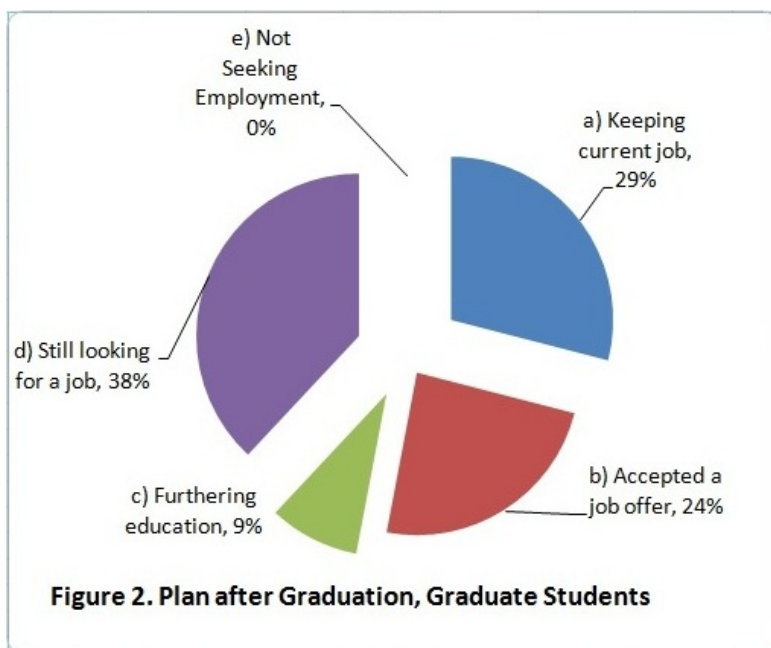
The GSS 2013 data reveal that 16% of graduate students were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014: 5% for master's, 8% for doctorate, and 3% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Q1, Table 1).

For the students who were planning to pursue further studies, 25% (N = 21) provided the names of institutions for their further studies. About one half of the students were planning to continue their studies at St. John's. Other institutions for their further studies include Columbia, Long Island University, and Arizona State University.

When asked about their plans after graduation from St. John's, as Figure 2 presents, 29% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 24% had accepted a job offer (4% higher than last year), 9% were planning to further their education, 38% were still looking for a job, and 0% 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, 30% of graduate students rated it as *excellent*, 46% *good*, 20% *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, 16% of them rated it as *excellent*, 40% *good*, 29% *fair*, and 15% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).



The data indicate that 45% of graduate students had internships. When student teaching and clinical rotation were included, this figure increased to 56%. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 26% had academic internships for credit, 18% experienced paid internships, 9% had unpaid internships (non-credit), 9% completed student teaching, and 14% had clinical rotations. (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 44% of graduate students who didn't have any internship, 7% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 9% were not eligible, 20% were not interested, and 8% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For graduate students who had internships, 12% of them found an internship through the University Career Services, 39% through an academic department, 56% on their own, and 12% 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, 27% of graduate students were *very satisfied*, 61% *satisfied*, 7% *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, 39% of undergraduates and 44% of graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, 41% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 33% *good*, 22% *fair*, 4% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 37%, 40%, 19%, and 4%. (Q15, Table 1)

When asked how well St. John's University integrated technology into the learning experience, 30% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 50% *good*, 17% *fair*, and 3% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 25%, 56%, 17%, and 2%. (Q16, Table 1)

Regarding the quality of academic advising, 29% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 38% *good*, 21% *fair*, and 11% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 24%, 46%, 21%, and 8%. (Q13, 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, 22% of undergraduates rated it as *very positively*, 53% *positively*,

22% *no impact*, 2% *negatively*, and 1% *very negatively*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 13%, 49%, 35%, 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, 20% of undergraduates indicated "to a great extent", 48% "to some extent", and 32% "not at all". The corresponding figures for graduate students were 16%, 38%, and 45%. (Q18, Table 1)

When asked about their affiliation with student clubs, organizations and societies during their years at St. John's, 75% of undergraduates and 53% of graduate students indicated that they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies. For undergraduate students, 36% belonged to Honor Societies, 31% Academic, 20% Special Interests, 19% Cultural, and 25% other. For graduate students, 24% belonged to Honor Societies, 16% Academic, 10% Cultural, 6% Special Interests, and 17% other (This is a check-all-that-apply question.). (Q19, Table 1).

When asked whether they wanted to be involved in service after graduation, 28% of undergraduates said YES and 72% indicated NO. For graduate students, 19% said YES and 81% indicated NO. (Q23, Table 1)

When asked whether they would like to be contacted for certain activities in the future, 26% 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, 9% for mentoring roles with students, and 40% for assistance with career decisions and job search. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 22%, 3%, 4%, 12%, and 28% (This is a check-all-that-apply question.). (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 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.

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, the perceptions from graduate students (who received their undergraduate education from St. John's) were more positive than the perceptions of those who have just completed their undergraduate education. Further investigation is needed for the explanation of such findings.

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 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.