



create / innovate / educate / GO STATE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Assessment and Testing

2010 Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs

Jeremy Penn, Ph.D.
Director

Chris Ray, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

TK Kominsky, Ph.D.
Statistical Analyst

Sungah Kim
Richard Churchill
Graduate Research Assistants

June, 2010
<http://uat.okstate.edu>

Overview

Oklahoma State University is highly committed to excellence in student learning, academic and co-curricular programs, and student success. To that end Oklahoma State University is highly engaged in a continuous process of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of its programs. Surveys of alumni, performed every year on a rotating schedule between alumni of graduate and undergraduate programs, are one important element of Oklahoma State University's comprehensive assessment program.

The 2010 OSU Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs was conducted to identify institutional strengths and areas for improvement, to track the career and continuing education trends of recent graduates, to assess achievement of learning outcomes as perceived by alumni from individual academic programs, and to accomplish the State Regent's mandate for assessing student and alumni satisfaction. The survey was conducted from January 7th to March 16th, 2010 and targeted alumni of undergraduate programs who graduated in calendar years 2004 and 2008. The survey was administered online and through telephone interviews and included Common Questions related to employment and continuing education as well as program-specific questions developed by each program across campus.



Photo by Shockley, Copyright 2007
Oklahoma State University

Response Rate

A total of 3,149 surveys were completed (1,960 surveys completed online and 1,189 completed through telephone interviews), resulting in a response rate of 43.4%. When adjusted for alumni deemed 'unreachable,' (e.g., alumni who did not respond to a survey email and for whom no valid US phone number was available) the response rate for the survey was 73.7%.

Residency

63.5% of respondents were residing in Oklahoma and 36.5% were living out-of-state. This represents a decrease from 67.4% found in the [2008 survey](#) of graduates from 2002 and 2006.

Employment

85.5% of alumni reported that they were employed and 5% of alumni identified themselves as currently seeking employment, leaving 9.5% of alumni as not employed and not seeking employment. This represents a slight increase in the number seeking employment from the 2008 survey of graduates from 2002 and 2006 in which 4% identified themselves as seeking employment.

Most alumni reported working for large corporations (32.4%) or small corporations or businesses (28.1%). Education institutions and government agencies employed 18.4% and



11.2% of participating alumni, respectively. Alumni most frequently reported that their annual salary was in the range of \$25,000 - \$34,999 per year (19.7%) while 15% reported salaries greater than \$65,000. 91.9% of employed alumni reported that their OSU program had prepared them very well or adequately for their current position.

Continuing Education

About 31.7% of alumni had completed or were currently enrolled in graduate programs or professional schools. Of these alumni, 41.8% were enrolled in or had completed OSU graduate programs, 57.6% were pursuing or had completed Master's degrees, 8.7% were pursuing or had completed medical degrees, 6.6% were pursuing or had completed law degrees, 6.8% were pursuing or had completed doctoral degrees, and 11.2% were pursuing or had completed business degrees. 91.8% of alumni that went on to graduate or professional school stated that their OSU education had prepared them very well or adequately for their continued education.

Methods

The target population for this survey was Oklahoma State University undergraduate degree recipients who graduated in calendar years 2004 and 2008. All departments in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, Education, Human Environmental Sciences, and the Spears School of Business were included in the sample. The total number of alumni in the target population was 7,152. The survey was conducted from January 7th to March 16th of 2010.



Photo by Gaylor, Copyright 2008
Oklahoma State University

The OSU Assessment and Academic Improvement Council developed the common questions and each academic department created its own set of department-specific questions. The common questions were presented to all alumni and included questions on current employment, continuing education, and overall satisfaction. The department-specific questions were given only to the alumni from that department and focused on a variety of topics including satisfaction with advising, departmental course offerings, and student learning outcomes.

The survey was administered online and through telephone interviews. The Office of University Assessment and Testing (UAT) sent three rounds invitations to participate in the survey through email and conducted telephone interviews from early-January through mid-March. The Office of Institutional Research and Information Management and the Oklahoma State University Foundation provided contact information.



Results

This section summarizes the results from the 2010 Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs for the common questions. Results of department-specific survey questions are summarized in separate reports prepared for each participating academic unit.

Response Rate

A total of 1,960 surveys were completed online by alumni, and 1,189 alumni participated in the survey through a telephone interview, resulting in an overall response rate of 43.4% (Table 1). Out of the initial target population of 7,152 alumni¹, 2,989 alumni were deemed 'unreachable,' defined as those for whom no valid email address was available or who did not respond to email invitations to participate, and for whom no valid U.S. telephone number was available. Receipt of email messages could not be confirmed. After accounting for 'unreachable' alumni, the overall adjusted response rate was 73.7%.

Of the total population of survey respondents, 27.8% were graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences, 24.6% were graduates of the Spears School of Business, 13.9% were graduates of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 14.3% were graduates of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, 10.4% were graduates of the College of Education, and 9.0% were graduates of the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

Table 1. Number of alumni in the target population (undergraduate recipients from 2004 and 2008), number of completed surveys, and response rates for each college and department. Response rate is the number of completed surveys divided by the initial number of alumni. The adjusted response rate is the number of completed surveys divided by the number of alumni who were 'reachable' (e.g., alumni who responded to a survey email or for whom we had a valid U.S. telephone number).

	Number of Alumni ²	Number of Completed Surveys	Response Rate (%)	Adjusted Response Rate (%)
The Entire Survey Population	7263	3149	43.4	73.7

¹ 7,263 degrees were conferred to 7,152 alumni. Alumni who had obtained more than one degree ($n = 111$) were asked questions regarding their most recent degree (if applicable) or about the degree from the program with the smaller enrollment.

² Includes the total number of degrees conferred. Some students ($n = 111$) received more than one degree.



Current Employment Information

85.5% of alumni reported that they were employed and 5% of alumni identified themselves as currently seeking employment, leaving 9.5% of alumni as not employed and not seeking employment (CQ1). Of these, 89.7% were employed full-time (CQ6). 32.4% of alumni described their employer as large corporations and 28.1% were employed by small corporations or small businesses, 18.4% were employed by educational institutions, 11.2% were employed by government agencies, 5.4% were employed by nonprofit organizations, and 3.7% were self-employed (CQ5).

The most frequently reported annual salary range for alumni one and five years post-graduation was \$25,000 - \$34,999 per year (19.7%). 64.4% of alumni reported annual salaries of \$35,000 per year or greater, and 15.9% reported annual salaries of less than \$25,000 per year (CQ9).

In general, 91.9% of alumni ($n = 2008$) responded that their undergraduate program prepared them very well or adequately for their current position (CQ8). Only respondents who reported that their current position was slightly, moderately, or highly related to their degree program were included in this calculation.

CQ1. Are you currently employed?	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
yes	1239	90.1	1453	82.7
no	126	9.2	293	16.7
refused	9	0.7	11	0.6

CQ2. Are you currently seeking employment? ³	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
yes	39	28.9	119	39.3
no	91	67.4	178	58.7
refused	5	3.7	6	2.0

³ Question only asked to those alumni who were currently unemployed.



Current Employment

CQ5. Which of the following best describes your employer?	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
large corporation	379	30.9	480	27.2
small business or corporation	343	28.0	403	22.8
federal government	60	4.9	71	4.0
state government	55	4.5	65	3.7
local government	30	2.4	17	1.0
nonprofit organization	69	5.6	73	4.1
educational institution or organization	220	18.0	268	15.2
self-employed	58	4.7	40	2.3
refused	11	0.9	11	0.6

CQ6. Are you employed full-time or part-time?	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
full-time	1152	94.0	1235	86.1
part-time	73	6.0	198	13.8
refused	0	0.0	2	0.1

CQ7. How closely is your current position related to your undergraduate studies at OSU?	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
not at all related	191	15.6	271	18.9
slightly related	236	19.3	201	14.0
moderately related	275	22.4	314	21.9
highly related	521	42.5	646	45.0
refused	2	0.2	2	0.1

CQ8. In general, how well did your OSU undergraduate program prepare you for your current position? ⁴	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
not at all	14	1.4	20	1.7
not very well	64	6.2	58	5.0
adequately	527	51.2	553	47.9
very well	418	40.6	510	44.2
refused	6	0.6	14	1.2

⁴ Does not include alumni who said their current position was "not at all" related to their major.



CQ9. What is your approximate total annual salary, including bonuses and other benefits? ⁵	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
<\$15,000	7	0.6	23	1.9
\$15,000 but <\$25,000	31	2.7	128	10.4
\$25,000 but <\$35,000	157	13.7	312	25.3
\$35,000 but <\$45,000	211	18.3	215	17.5
\$45,000 but <\$55,000	180	15.7	186	15.1
\$55,000 but <\$65,000	133	11.6	134	10.9
\$65,000 but <\$75,000	121	10.5	60	4.9
\$75,000 but <\$100,000	149	13.0	49	4.0
over \$100,000	79	6.9	18	1.5
refused	82	7.1	107	8.7

⁵ Includes only alumni employed full time, including those who were employed and in graduate school.



Graduate / Professional School Information

31.7% ($n = 998$) of the alumni surveyed had completed a graduate or professional degree or were currently enrolled in a graduate or professional school. Of these alumni, 57.6% were pursuing or had completed a Master's degree, 8.7% were attending or had attended medical schools, 6.6% were pursuing or had completed law degrees, 6.8% were pursuing or had completed doctoral degrees, 11.2% were pursuing or had completed business degrees, 4.3% were pursuing or had completed veterinary degrees, and 4.6% were pursuing or had completed 'other' degrees (CQ11).

Of the 965 alumni who were attending or had completed graduate school, 41.8% ($n=403$) attended Oklahoma State University, and 22.8% ($n = 220$) attended graduate school at other Oklahoma institutions.

Nearly all respondents (92.4%) stated that their OSU undergraduate program had prepared them very well or adequately for graduate or professional school programs (CQ13).

	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
CQ10. Since you completed your OSU undergraduate degree, have you completed a graduate or professional school program, or are you currently enrolled in such a program?				
yes, currently enrolled	168	12.4	415	23.9
yes, completed a degree	361	26.6	61	3.5
no	827	60.9	1253	72.2
refused	3	0.2	7	0.4

	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
CQ11. What graduate or professional degree are you pursuing or, if you have completed a degree, what degree did you complete?				
master's	308	58.9	267	56.2
doctorate	43	8.2	25	5.3
medical	41	7.8	46	9.7
law	35	6.7	31	6.5
business	68	13.0	44	9.3
vet school	9	1.7	34	7.2
other	19	3.6	27	5.7
refused	0	0.0	1	0.2



CQ13. In general, how well did your OSU undergraduate program prepare you for your graduate or professional school program?	2004		2008	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
not at all	8	1.5	10	2.1
not very well	20	3.8	19	4.0
adequately	203	38.5	196	41.5
very well	284	53.9	240	50.8
refused	12	2.3	7	1.5



Overall Satisfaction

87% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of instruction received in their major and 65% were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the academic advising they received in their major.

91% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall educational experience at Oklahoma State University.

CQ14. How satisfied are you with the quality of instruction you received in your major?

	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
very dissatisfied	12	0.9	22	1.3
dissatisfied	30	2.2	35	2.0
neutral	111	8.2	118	6.9
satisfied	678	50.1	856	49.8
very satisfied	519	38.4	687	39.9
refused	2	0.1	2	0.1

2004

2008

CQ15. How satisfied are you with the academic advising you received in your major?

	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
very dissatisfied	55	4.1	74	4.3
dissatisfied	145	10.7	162	9.4
neutral	269	19.9	304	17.7
satisfied	473	35.0	629	36.5
very satisfied	408	30.2	549	31.9
refused	2	0.1	4	0.2

2004

2008

CQ16. How satisfied are you with your overall educational experience at OSU?

	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
very dissatisfied	13	1.0	13	0.8
dissatisfied	18	1.3	27	1.6
neutral	66	4.9	81	4.7
satisfied	574	42.5	723	42.0
very satisfied	680	50.3	878	51.0
refused	1	0.1	1	0.1



Resident Information (In-State / Out-of-State)

Approximately 63.5% of the participating alumni who provided a zip code were living in Oklahoma and 36.5% were out-of-state. 11.4% of the alumni who provided a zip code were still living in Stillwater.

Current place of residence. Each alumnus who completed the survey was asked to provide his / her current zip code for alumni dispersion to be more accurately described. A total of 2933 valid zip codes were obtained.

Region	<i>n</i>	%
--------	----------	---

Oklahoma

Stillwater	358	11.4
Tulsa	371	11.8
Oklahoma City	260	8.3
Other Oklahoma cities	1008	32.0
All Oklahoma		63.5

Surrounding States

Texas	390	12.4
Kansas	85	2.7
Missouri	55	1.7
Colorado	41	1.3
Arkansas	34	1.1
New Mexico	18	0.6
All surrounding states		19.8

	<i>n</i>	%
--	----------	---

Other States:

California	38	1.2
New York	22	0.7
Illinois	21	0.7
Florida	19	0.6
Georgia	17	0.5
Washington	15	0.5
North Carolina	13	0.4
Virginia	13	0.4
Arizona	11	0.3
Oregon	9	0.3
Pennsylvania	8	0.3
Alaska	7	0.2
Indiana	7	0.2
Maryland	7	0.2
Minnesota	7	0.2
Nebraska	7	0.2
South Carolina	7	0.2
Alabama	6	0.2
Iowa	6	0.2
Louisiana	6	0.2
Massachusetts	6	0.2
Montana	6	0.2

	<i>n</i>	%
--	----------	---

Nevada	6	0.2
Tennessee	6	0.2
Ohio	5	0.2
Connecticut	4	0.1
Kentucky	4	0.1
Michigan	4	0.1
Mississippi	4	0.1
Wisconsin	4	0.1
Washington, D.C.	2	0.1
Maine	2	0.1
New Jersey	2	0.1
Utah	2	0.1
Armed Forces Pacific	1	0.0
Delaware	1	0.0
Hawaii	1	0.0
Idaho	1	0.0
North Dakota	1	0.0
Puerto Rico	1	0.0
Rhode Island	1	0.0
South Dakota	1	0.0
West Virginia	1	0.0
Wyoming	1	0.0



Summary

The 2010 Survey of Alumni from Undergraduate Programs showed Oklahoma State University's graduates were successful in obtaining employment or entry to continuing education and were satisfied or very satisfied with their educational experiences at Oklahoma State University. A large portion of graduates from Oklahoma State University's undergraduate programs continue to live in Oklahoma and contribute to the quality of life in those communities.

Oklahoma State University is highly committed to excellence in student learning, academic and co-curricular programs, and student success and will continue to seek out and identify ways in which Oklahoma State University can better serve the people of the state, region, and nation.

