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OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Assessment and Testing

2011 Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs

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Table of Contents

Overview	1
Response Rate	1
Residency	1
Employment	2
Continuing Education	2
Methods	2
Instrument Design	2
Survey Administration	3
Results	3
Response Rate	3
Current Employment Information	4
Current Employment	5
Continuing Education and Graduate / Professional School Information	7
Overall Satisfaction	9
Residency	10
Summary	11

Overview

Oklahoma State University is highly committed to excellence in student learning, to high quality academic and co-curricular programs, and to student success. To that end Oklahoma State University is actively 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 2011 OSU Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs was conducted to identify institutional strengths and areas for improvement as indicated by recent graduates, 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 Regents' mandate for assessing student and alumni satisfaction. The survey was conducted in January through April of 2011 and targeted alumni of graduate programs who graduated in calendar years 2005 and 2009. The survey was administered as an online survey and as a telephone interview and included 'common questions' (related to employment and continuing education) and questions related to program outcomes for each degree program.



This report summarizes data from the Common Questions that were given to all alumni. Alumni were also given a set of questions that were developed by the academic program from which they received their degree. Results of program-specific survey questions are summarized in separate reports prepared for each participating academic unit. If you would like to receive a copy of a specific report, please contact the OSU Office of University Assessment and Testing at (405) 744-6687.

Response Rate

A total of 978 alumni completed the survey, resulting in a response rate of 45.1%. A total of 649 alumni were considered unreachable due to invalid contact information. When adjusted for alumni for whom a telephone number could not be determined and alumni who could not be reached in the US, the response rate to the survey was 58.9%.

Residency

57.4% of the alumni who participated in the survey were living in Oklahoma, and 43.6% were living out of state. This represents an increase from the [2009 Survey of Alumni from Graduate programs](#) which found 54.7% of graduates still residing in state. States of residence were unknown for 18.5% of respondents.



Employment

88.7% of alumni reported that they were employed and 4% of alumni identified themselves as currently seeking employment, leaving 7.3% of alumni as not employed and not seeking employment. This is a slight increase from the [2009 Survey of Alumni from Graduate](#) programs where 3% of alumni identified themselves as currently seeking employment.

Most alumni reported working for educational institutions (39.0%) or large corporations (26.8%).



15.1% were employed by small businesses or corporations, and 9.5% were employed by government agencies. Alumni most frequently reported that their annual salary was in the range of \$35,000-44,999 per year (16.9%), though 16% of alumni reported that their annual salary ranged from \$75,000 to \$99,999 and an additional 11% reported an annual salary of greater than \$100,000. 89.8% of employed alumni reported that their OSU education had prepared them very well or adequately for their current position.

Continuing Education

21.6% of alumni had either completed or were currently enrolled in graduate programs or professional schools. 53.4% of these were enrolled in or had attended OSU graduate programs. 64.9% were pursuing or had completed doctoral degrees, 13.1% were pursuing or had completed Master's degrees, and 5.2% were pursuing or had completed business degrees. 88.7% of alumni who 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 OSU graduate degree recipients who graduated in 2005 and 2009. All alumni from all departments in the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Arts and Sciences, Spears School of Business, Education, Engineering, Architecture and Technology, and Human Environmental Sciences, and the Graduate College were included in the sample. The total number of alumni in the target population was 2,311. The survey was conducted in January through April of 2011.

Instrument Design

The OSU Assessment and Academic Improvement Council (AAIC) developed the common questions and each academic department created its own set of department-specific questions. If departments did not provide questions, alumni were asked 8 general questions developed by the Office of University Assessment and Testing. 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.



Survey Administration

The survey was administered online and as a telephone interview. The office of University Assessment and Testing (UAT) sent three rounds of survey invitation emails beginning in January and conducted telephone interviews in February through April of 2011. The Office of Institutional Research and Information Management provided alumni email addresses and telephone numbers. The Office of University Assessment and Testing coordinated the development of the survey instrument, conducted data collection and analysis, and prepared the reports.

Results

Response Rate

A total of 978 alumni completed the survey, resulting in an overall response rate of 42.4%. Out of the initial target population of 2,311 alumni, 973 alumni could not be reached because either there was no phone number available or the number was deemed 'unreachable' due to invalid contact information. After accounting for unreachable and duplicate alumni, the overall adjusted response rate was 58.8%.

Out of the total population of survey respondents, 20.2% were from the College of Education, 18.8% were from the College Engineering and Architecture, 18.5% were from Spears School of Business, 17.4% were from the College of Arts and Sciences, 10.7% were from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 8.2% were from the Graduate College, and 6% were from the College of Human and Environmental Sciences.

The number of alumni in the target population (graduate degree recipients from 2005 and 2009, number of completed surveys, and response rates for each college and department) are shown below. The 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' (i.e., alumni who responded to a survey email or for whom we had a valid U.S. telephone number).

	Number of Alumni	Number of Completed Surveys	Response Rate (%)	Adjusted Response Rate (%)
The Entire Survey Population	2311	978	42.4%	58.8%



Current Employment Information

88.7% of alumni (n=866) reported that they were employed and only 4% of alumni reported seeking employment. Of these, 90.8% were employed full-time. About 39.0% were employed by educational institutions; 26.8% of alumni described their employer as large corporations; 15.1% were employed by small corporations or small businesses; 9.5% were employed by government agencies; 5.1% were employed by nonprofit organizations and 1.1% were self-employed.

The most frequently reported annual salary range for master's and doctoral alumni one and five years post-graduation was at least \$35,000 and less than \$45,000 per year (16.9%). 16.0% of alumni reported annual salaries of \$75,000 but less than \$100,000, and 11.2% reported annual salaries over \$100,000 (Q7). In general, 88.7% of alumni responded that their graduate program prepared them very well or adequately for their current position (Q6). Only respondents who reported that their current position was slightly, moderately, or highly related to their degree program were included in this calculation (n = 204).

CQ1. Are you currently employed?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
yes	709	87.0	157	97.5
no	93	11.4	3	1.9
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	13	1.6	1	.6

CQ2. Are you currently seeking employment? ¹	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
yes	37	39.8	2	66.7
no	56	60.2	1	33.3
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

¹ This question was only asked to those alumni who were currently unemployed.



Current Employment

CQ3. Which of the following best describes your employer?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
large corporation	211	30.7	15	9.7
small business or corporation	118	17.2	9	5.8
federal government	38	5.5	7	4.5
state government	29	4.2	6	3.9
local government	15	2.2	1	.6
nonprofit organization	39	5.7	4	2.6
educational institution or organization	219	31.8	109	70.8
self-employed	8	1.2	1	.6
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	11	1.6	2	1.3

CQ4. Are you employed full-time or part-time?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
full-time	622	89.9	146	94.8
part-time	69	10.0	8	5.2
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	1	.1	0	0.0

CQ5. How closely is your current position related to your graduate studies at OSU?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
not at all related	43	6.2	2	1.3
slightly related	80	11.5	11	7.1
moderately related	160	23.1	25	16.2
highly related	407	58.7	116	75.3
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	3	.4	0	0.0

CQ6. In general, how well did your OSU graduate program prepare you for your current position? ²	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
not at all	20	2.9	3	2.0
not very well	33	4.8	5	3.3
adequately	265	38.5	52	34.2
very well	347	50.4	91	59.9
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	23	3.3	1	.7

² This question was not asked to alumni who reported their current position was "not at all related" to their graduate studies at OSU.



CQ7. What is your approximate total annual salary, including bonuses? ³	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
<\$15k	8	1.3	2	1.4
\$15,000 - <\$25k	13	2.1	1	.7
\$25,000 - <\$35k	45	7.3	7	4.8
\$35,000 - <\$45k	112	18.3	16	11.0
\$45,000 - <\$55k	87	14.2	27	18.6
\$55,000 - <\$65k	58	9.5	26	17.9
\$65,000 - <\$75k	58	9.5	16	11.0
\$75,000 - <\$100k	98	16.0	23	15.9
>\$100k	67	10.9	18	12.4
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	67	10.9	9	6.2

³ This question was only asked to alumni who were employed full-time, including alumni who were employed and in graduate school.



Continuing Education and Graduate / Professional School Information

Of the alumni surveyed, 205 (21.6%) had completed or were currently enrolled in a graduate or professional school. Of these alumni, 64.9% were pursuing or had completed a doctoral degree, 13.1% were pursuing or had completed a Master's degree, 5.2% were pursuing or had completed a business degree, 2.6% were pursuing or had completed a law degree, 1.0% were pursuing or had completed a medical degree, and 12.6% were pursuing or had completed 'other' degrees (Q9).

Of the 189 alumni who reported the name of the school they were attending or from which they had completed graduate school, 47.6% (n=90) attended Oklahoma State University, and 5.8% attended graduate school at other Oklahoma institutions. Most alumni (88.7%) stated that their OSU graduate program had prepared them very well or adequately for additional graduate or professional school programs (Q10).

Most respondents (89% of master's degree recipients and 80% of doctoral degree recipients) stated that their OSU graduate degree program had prepared them very well or adequately for additional graduate or professional school programs.

	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
CQ8. Since you completed your OSU graduate degree, have you completed another graduate or professional school program, or are you currently enrolled in such a program?				
yes, currently enrolled	151	19.0	3	1.9
yes, completed a degree	49	6.2	2	1.3
no	588	74.0	151	96.2
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	7	.9	1	.6

	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
CQ9. What graduate or professional degree are you pursuing or, if you have completed a degree, what degree did you complete?				
master's	24	12.9	1	20.0
doctorate	123	66.1	1	20.0
medical	2	1.1	0	0.0
law	4	2.2	1	20.0
business	10	5.4	0	0.0
vet school	0	0.0	0	0.0
other	22	11.8	2	40.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	1	.5	0	0.0



CQ10. In general, how well did your OSU graduate program prepare you for your graduate or professional school program?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
not at all	6	3.0	0	0.0
not very well	6	3.0	0	0.0
adequately	56	28.1	2	40.0
very well	121	60.8	2	40.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	10	5.0	1	20.0



Overall Satisfaction

In general, alumni were very satisfied with their educational experiences. 89% of master's degree respondents and 92% of doctoral degree respondents reported they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their overall educational experience at OSU.

CQ11. How satisfied are you with the overall educational experience at OSU?				
	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very dissatisfied	14	1.8	2	1.3
dissatisfied	11	1.4	3	1.9
neutral	58	7.3	8	5.1
satisfied	329	41.4	66	42.0
very satisfied	377	47.4	78	49.7
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	6	.8	0	0.0



Residency

Each alumnus who completed the survey was asked to provide their current zip code for alumni dispersion to be more accurately described. A total of 798 valid zip codes were obtained.

57.4% of the alumni who provided zip codes were living in Oklahoma, and 42.6% lived out of state. 17% of respondents that provided a zip code were living in Stillwater. 18.5% of survey respondents failed to provide a zip code.

Region	n	%
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Oklahoma:

Stillwater	137	17.2
Tulsa	78	8.0
Oklahoma City	37	4.6
Other Oklahoma cities	206	25.8
All Oklahoma	458	57.4%

Surrounding States:

Texas	97	12.2
Missouri	16	2.0
Kansas	15	1.9
Colorado	10	1.3
Arkansas	6	.8
New Mexico	5	.6
All surrounding states	149	18.7%

	n	%
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Other States:

Alabama	2	.3
Arizona	1	.1
California	20	2.5
Connecticut	2	.3
Florida	15	1.9
Georgia	7	.8
Hawaii	1	.1
Iowa	9	1.1
Illinois	12	1.5
Indiana	8	1.0
Kentucky	5	.6
Louisiana	6	.7
Maryland	8	1.0
Massachusetts	2	.2
Maine	1	.1
Michigan	5	.6
Minnesota	4	.5
Mississippi	2	.2
Montana	1	.1
North Carolina	9	1.1

	n	%
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North Dakota	1	.1
Nebraska	3	.4
New Hampshire	1	.1
New Jersey	4	.5
Nevada	5	.5
New York	13	1.6
Ohio	5	.6
Oregon	1	.1
Pennsylvania	6	.7
South Carolina	2	.2
South Dakota	3	.4
Tennessee	5	.6
Utah	2	.2
Vermont	1	.1
Virginia	10	1.3
Washington	7	.9
Wisconsin	1	.1
Wyoming	1	.1
All other states	191	23.9%
Not given or invalid	181	18.5%



Summary

The 2011 Survey of Alumni from Graduate 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 overall educational experience at Oklahoma State University. Nearly half of the alumni from graduate programs live in Oklahoma and contribute to the quality of life in those communities.

Oklahoma State University is highly committed to excellence in student learning, to high quality academic and co-curricular programs, and to 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.

