Texas State University-San Marcos
2012 Graduate Alumni Survey Results

Introduction

The Texas State University-San Marcos Graduate Alumni Survey is administered each summer to collect information from alumni who received master’s or doctoral degrees during the previous calendar year. Academic departments are invited to contribute graduate program-specific survey items. In the 2012 survey, items were added by the McCoy College of Business Administration, the School of Family and Consumer Science, the School of Social Work, and the departments of Accounting, Criminal Justice, and History.

Method

The target population for this survey consisted of alumni who received master’s or doctoral degrees from Texas State in calendar year 2011 (May, August, or December); graduates had finished their degrees seven to 14 months prior to the survey administration which began in June of 2012. Responses to a web-based survey were solicited by e-mail and postcard.

On July 16, 2012, postcards were mailed to 1,328 graduates inviting them to participate in the Graduate Alumni Survey. A link to the web survey was provided on the postcard, and graduates were informed that e-mail messages inviting survey participation would follow. On August 6, e-mails were sent to graduates for whom we had an e-mail address on file and who had not responded to the survey. Follow up reminder messages were sent on August 16 and 28, and the survey was closed on August 31. A total of 271 usable responses were received, for a response rate of 21 percent after adjusting for bad addresses.

Findings

Employment

- Eighty-one percent of graduates are employed full-time. Only five percent of graduates are unemployed but seeking employment.
- Thirty-three percent of employed graduates hold jobs that require a graduate degree.
- Fifty-nine percent of employed graduates work at a job that is directly related to their graduate education, and an additional 28 percent report that their job is somewhat related to their graduate education.
- The most frequent (26%) current annual salary range reported by employed graduates is $40,000 to $49,999, followed by 21 percent earning $30,000 to $39,999 and 16 percent earning $50,000-$59,999.
- Seventy-three percent of graduates reported that their Texas State graduate education prepared them well or very well to compete with peers at their place of employment.
Continuing Education

- Eight percent of recent graduates have enrolled full-time at a college or university after receiving their graduate degree, and an additional four percent have enrolled part-time.
- Forty-seven percent of graduates who have enrolled in coursework since graduation are working on a Ph.D., nine percent are working on an Ed.D., and 12 percent are working on a master’s degree. Twenty-four percent are not working towards another degree.

Texas State experiences

- Graduates rated Graduate College workshops well. The most highly rated workshop was the “Thesis/Dissertation” workshop, rated as good or very good by 95 percent of graduates who attended.
- Graduates rated Graduate College services and programs positively, with 87 percent or more agreement that all services were useful or provided in an appropriate manner.
- In general, graduates rated their program faculty as knowledgeable, available, and interested in students’ progress. Ninety-nine percent of graduates agreed that professors had adequate knowledge about their field, 98 percent agreed that professors were available outside the classroom, and 93 percent agreed that professors were interested in student progress.
- Three out of 10 (30%) of graduates reported they sometimes had problems enrolling in required courses because all seats were filled; 18 percent disagreed that courses were offered frequently enough for them to complete degree requirements within the time planned.
- Sixty-seven percent of graduates have belonged to a professional organization or association since completing their degree.
- Thirty-four percent of graduates felt themselves members of the Texas State community to the extent of quite a bit or a great deal, while another 35 percent felt somewhat part of the community.
- Seventy-six percent of the responding graduates were enrolled full-time during most of their graduate work, and 86 percent of graduates attended most of their graduate classes on the San Marcos campus.
- Fifty-seven percent of graduates enrolled mostly in evening classes while working on their degree; and 30 percent enrolled in a mix of daytime and evening classes.
- The greatest area of dissatisfaction with general university services was the availability of parking, with 57 percent indicating dissatisfaction. Other areas of concern include career services (35%), dining facility hours of operation (24%), and availability of buses/tram (22% dissatisfaction).