Texas State University-San Marcos
2010 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 2010 survey, items were added by the School of Social Work and the departments of Accounting, Criminal Justice, Family and Consumer Science, 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 2009 (May, August, or December); graduates had finished their degrees seven to 14 months prior to the survey administration which began in June of 2010. Responses to a web-based survey were solicited by e-mail and postcard.

On June 28, 2009, postcards were mailed to 1,219 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 July 11, 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 July 27 and August 2, and the survey was closed on August 7. A total of 242 usable responses were received, for a response rate of 20 percent after adjusting for bad addresses.

Findings

Employment

- Seventy-two percent of graduates are employed full-time. Nine percent of graduate are unemployed but seeking employment.
- Thirty-four percent of employed graduates hold jobs that require a graduate degree.
- Sixty-three percent of employed graduates work at a job that is directly related to their graduate education, and an additional 23 percent report that their job is somewhat related to their graduate education.
- The most frequent (27%) current annual salary range reported by employed graduates is $40,000 to $49,999, followed by 19 percent earning $30,000 to $39,999 and 15 percent earning $50,000 to $59,999.
- Seventy-four 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

- Ten 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-four percent of graduates who have enrolled in coursework since graduation are working on a Ph.D., and 18 percent are working on a master’s degree.
- Twenty-nine percent of graduates who have enrolled in coursework since graduation are not working towards another degree.

Texas State experiences

- Graduates rated Graduate College workshops highly. All (100%) respondents rated the formatting, IRB, and thesis/dissertation workshops as good or very good.
- Graduates rated Graduate College services and programs positively, with 85 percent agreement or more that 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-eight percent of graduates agreed that professors were available outside the classroom; 96 percent agreed that professors had adequate knowledge about their field; and 94 percent agreed that professors were interested in student progress.
- One-quarter (25%) of graduates reported they sometimes had problems enrolling in required courses because all seats were filled.
- Sixty-one percent of graduates have belonged to a professional organization or association since completing their degree.
- More than one-third (37%) of graduates felt themselves members of the Texas State community to the extent of quite a bit or a great deal, while another 30 percent felt somewhat part of the community.
- Sixty-nine percent of the responding graduates were enrolled full-time during most of their graduate work, and 83 percent of graduates attended most of their graduate classes on the San Marcos campus.
- Sixty-two percent of graduates enrolled mostly in evening classes while working on their degree; and 24 percent enrolled in a mix of daytime and evening classes.
- The greatest area of dissatisfaction for graduates was the availability of parking, with 27 percent indicating they were very dissatisfied and 27 percent were dissatisfied.