



## General Student Survey: Fall 2014

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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### Overview:

The General Student Survey (GSS) was designed to gather student perceptions regarding various facets of the educational experience at the University of South Alabama. The GSS was conducted electronically via the Class Climate survey system. The GSS included Likert type scales and multiple-choice questions. The survey collection was left open from 2014, October 20 to 2014, November 14. Reminder e-mails were sent to participants every three days until the close of the survey. Participation was voluntary, and participants were entered into a raffle for completing the survey.

### Sampling Method:

Stratified random sampling was used to select the sample from a population of students listed in the Fall 2014 census database. Stratification was based on (1) year classification (e.g., freshmen), (2) gender, and (3) race. Race was coded as either white or non-white in the sampling process. Each strata was sampled based on the percentage that it represented within the census population. Under-represented strata were oversampled. Non-white students and male students were oversampled for each of the year classifications.

### Sample:

The final sample consisted of 3,636 students. 827 participants responded to the survey for a response rate of 23%. The respondent demographics are displayed in the following tables ( $n$  = number of respondents). Two respondents were missing demographic data for Tables 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3.

## 1). Demographics

Table 1.1: Sex

| Sex    | <i>n</i> | Percent |
|--------|----------|---------|
| Female | 491      | 59.5    |
| Male   | 334      | 40.5    |
| Total  | 825      | 100.0   |

Table 1.2: Classification

| Classification | <i>n</i> | Percent |
|----------------|----------|---------|
| Freshmen       | 213      | 25.8    |
| Sophomore      | 104      | 12.6    |
| Junior         | 108      | 13.0    |
| Senior         | 195      | 23.6    |
| Graduate       | 205      | 24.8    |
| Total          | 825      | 100.0   |

Table 1.3: Race

| Race                             | <i>n</i> | Percent |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native    | 6        | .7      |
| Asian                            | 33       | 4.0     |
| Black, Non-Hispanic              | 134      | 16.2    |
| Hispanic                         | 26       | 3.2     |
| Multiracial                      | 14       | 1.7     |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 2        | .2      |
| Non-Resident Alien               | 48       | 5.8     |
| Unknown                          | 11       | 1.3     |
| White, Non-Hispanic              | 551      | 66.8    |
| Total                            | 825      | 100.0   |

Table 1.4: Housing

| Question                             | <i>n</i> | On Campus (%) | Off Campus (%) |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| Do you live on campus or off campus? | 815      | 21.6          | 78.4           |

Table 1.5: Housing complex

| Question   | <i>n</i> | The Edge (%) | The Grove (%) | Campus Quarters (%) | Other (%) |
|--|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|
| If you live off campus please select your housing location from this list. | 635      | 3.5          | 4.1           | 4.6                 | 87.9      |

Table 1.6: Education

| Question  | <i>n</i> | < Bachelor's (%) | Bachelor's (%) | Master's (%) | Doctoral (%) |
|---|----------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| What is the highest level of education that you wish to acquire?                        | 805      | 1.6              | 26.8           | 39.1         | 32.4         |
| What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents or guardian? | 797      | 40.7             | 25.5           | 16.3         | 6            |

### Analysis and Charts:

The six facets of student educational experience assessed by the General Student Survey will be presented in the tables to follow. Depending on the type of question and specific answer choices, the tables provide response percentages or the most frequently selected answer choices. The tables also provide the written question and number of respondents for each specific question (represented by *n*).

## 2). Academic Facilities & Technology

Table 2.1: Facilities &amp; technology

| Question   | <i>n</i> | N/A<br>( <i>n</i> ) | Very<br>Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Satisfied<br>(%) | Very<br>Satisfied<br>(%) |
|--|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Facilities for Classrooms.   | 684      | 140                 | 1.6                         | 6.6                 | 64.5             | 27.3                     |
| Facilities for labs (STEM).  | 562      | 262                 | 2.3                         | 8.7                 | 60.9             | 28.1                     |
| Facilities for computer labs.  | 576      | 249                 | 2.4                         | 9.5                 | 59.0             | 29.0                     |
| Quality of technology in classrooms.                                 | 662      | 160                 | 1.8                         | 10.4                | 60.7             | 27.0                     |
| Quality of technology in labs.                                       | 501      | 316                 | 2.0                         | 11.2                | 58.3             | 28.5                     |
| Quality of technology in computer labs.                              | 548      | 272                 | 2.2                         | 10.4                | 58.0             | 29.4                     |
| Availability of computers or other technology in classrooms.         | 600      | 219                 | 3.8                         | 16.7                | 53.7             | 25.8                     |
| Availability of computers or other technology in labs (STEM).        | 485      | 337                 | 4.1                         | 10.9                | 57.3             | 27.6                     |
| Availability of computers or other technology in computer labs.      | 542      | 279                 | 2.4                         | 7.9                 | 58.3             | 31.4                     |
| Hours of Operation of computer labs.                                 | 550      | 273                 | 2.9                         | 13.6                | 54.2             | 29.3                     |
| The use of technology by your professor.                             | 694      | 126                 | 3.2                         | 7.5                 | 60.2             | 29.1                     |
| Availability of printing capabilities within individual departments. | 591      | 226                 | 7.1                         | 22.5                | 46.9             | 23.5                     |

Table 2.2 Types of technology

| Question  | <i>n</i> | Most Used | 2nd       | 3rd      | 4th                |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| What types of technology do you use in your classes?                | 827      | Computers | MS Office | None     | Technical Software |
| What types of technology do you use to complete course assignments? | 827      | Computers | MS Office | Scanners | Technical Software |

Table 2.3: JagTran

| Question  | <i>n</i> | N/A<br>( <i>n</i> ) | Strongly<br>Disagree (%) | Disagree<br>(%) | Agree (%) | Strongly<br>Agree (%) |
|---|----------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| The JagTran hours of operation are adequate.                              | 417      | 408                 | 7.9                      | 12.2            | 57.6      | 22.3                  |
| The Jagtran arrives to stops on its designated route at the correct time. | 392      | 431                 | 14.3                     | 29.8            | 43.6      | 12.2                  |
| The JagTran helps you arrive to class on time.                            | 383      | 441                 | 21.9                     | 31.3            | 35.8      | 11                    |

### 3). Learning Engagement

Table 3.1: Activity hours/ week

| Question   | <i>n</i> | None<br>( <i>n</i> ) | 1 to 10<br>Hours (%) | 11 to 20<br>Hours (%) | 21 to 30<br>Hours (%) | More than<br>30 (%) |
|--|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Working on campus (for pay).   | 123      | 701                  | 29.3                 | 56.9                  | 8.1                   | 5.7                 |
| Working off campus (for pay).  | 420      | 399                  | 11.7                 | 22.1                  | 22.6                  | 43.6                |
| Preparing for class.   | 797      | 18                   | 31.4                 | 37.8                  | 18.7                  | 12.2                |
| Volunteering or participating in community service that is not required for a class. | 379      | 441                  | 80.7                 | 13.7                  | 3.4                   | 2.1                 |
| Working in a lab or participating in research that is not required for a class.      | 197      | 622                  | 68                   | 22.8                  | 6.1                   | 3                   |
| Reading assigned sections of text.   | 781      | 42                   | 66.1                 | 22.9                  | 5.9                   | 5.1                 |
| Writing assigned papers or reports.  | 757      | 64                   | 59.6                 | 28.1                  | 8.3                   | 4                   |
| Participating in co-curricular activities.   | 330      | 485                  | 64.5                 | 23.3                  | 7.6                   | 4.2                 |
| Attending campus events.   | 415      | 406                  | 83.1                 | 10.6                  | 4.1                   | 2.2                 |

Table 3.2: Learning engagement activities

| Question  | <i>n</i> | N/A<br>( <i>n</i> ) | Very<br>Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Satisfied<br>(%) | Very<br>Satisfied<br>(%) |
|---|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Quality Enhancement Plan/<br>Team Based Learning.                           | 326      | 495                 | 14.4                        | 17.5                | 51.2             | 16.9                     |
| Learning communities.   | 281      | 540                 | 5.3                         | 15.3                | 56.9             | 22.4                     |
| Reading <u>Listening</u><br><u>Is an Act of Love</u> as<br>part of a class. | 90       | 725                 | 13.3                        | 11.1                | 60               | 15.6                     |
| Service learning<br>(volunteering as a<br>part of class).                   | 152      | 669                 | 3.9                         | 6.6                 | 63.8             | 25.7                     |
| Faculty led<br>research.  | 110      | 709                 | 6.4                         | 6.4                 | 59.1             | 28.2                     |
| Study abroad.   | 98       | 716                 | 2                           | 8.2                 | 59.2             | 30.6                     |
| First Year<br>experience.   | 383      | 431                 | 7.6                         | 13.8                | 56.9             | 21.7                     |

#### 4). Learning Options

Table 4.1: Online course options

| Question   | <i>n</i> | Very<br>Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Dissatisfied<br>(%) | Satisfied<br>(%) | Very<br>Satisfied<br>(%) |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| How satisfied are you<br>with available options to<br>take courses online? | 809      | 7.5                         | 16.1                | 56.7             | 19.7                     |

Table 4.2: Online courses &amp; materials online

| Question   | <i>n</i> | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|--|----------|---------|--------|
| Would you take more<br>courses that were offered<br>completely online if they<br>were available? | 812      | 37.7    | 62.3   |
| Regardless of course<br>format, do you prefer to<br>have access to course<br>materials online?   | 798      | 93.6    | 6.4    |

Table 4.3: Semester preference

| Question   | <i>n</i> | Fall (%) | Spring (%) | Summer<br>(%) |
|--|----------|----------|------------|---------------|
| What semester(s) would<br>you prefer to take online<br>courses in? | 827      | 52.1     | 56.6       | 72.3          |

Table 4.4: Course format preference

| <b>Question</b>                                     | <b>n</b> | <b>All on campus (%)</b> | <b>All online (%)</b> | <b>Blended (%)</b> |
|---|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| When taking a course what is your preferred format? | 817      | 36.7                     | 20.9                  | 42.4               |

Table 4.5: Quality of instruction

| <b>Question</b>   | <b>n</b> | <b>N/A (n)</b> | <b>Poor (%)</b> | <b>Only Fair (%)</b> | <b>Good (%)</b> | <b>Excellent (%)</b> |
|---|----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Rate the overall quality of instruction in your course(s) taken online.                             | 640      | 183            | 8.3             | 16.4                 | 49.7            | 25.6                 |
| Please rate the quality of instruction for your blended (some online and some on-campus) course(s). | 589      | 235            | 6.3             | 13.6                 | 49.2            | 30.9                 |
| Rate the overall quality of instruction in your course(s) taken on-campus.                          | 670      | 149            | 1.8             | 7.9                  | 51.5            | 38.8                 |

Table 4.6: Sakai &amp; course availability

| <b>Question</b>  | <b>n</b> | <b>N/A (n)</b> | <b>Very Dissatisfied (%)</b> | <b>Dissatisfied (%)</b> | <b>Satisfied (%)</b> | <b>Very Satisfied (%)</b> |
|--|----------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Sakai/ USAonline.  | 815      | 8              | 2.5                          | 6.4                     | 61.5                 | 29.7                      |
| Availability of MAJOR SPECIFIC courses needed to progress in or complete your degree.    | 758      | 64             | 5.8                          | 15.8                    | 52.4                 | 26                        |
| Availability of GENERAL EDUCATION courses needed to progress in or complete your degree. | 668      | 155            | 2.5                          | 10.3                    | 63                   | 24.1                      |

## 5). Library

Table 5.1: Reason & uses of Marx Library

| Question   | <i>n</i> | Most Used   | 2nd                      | 3rd              | 4th          |
|--|----------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| What is the primary reason for using the Marx Library? | 827      | To Study    | Conduct Library research | Group assignment | Use computer |
| Which Marx Library services do you use?                | 827      | Study rooms | Reference service        | PAWS Computers   | ARC Lab      |

Table 5.2: Hours/ week

| Question  | <i>n</i> | 1 to 10 Hours (%) | 11 to 20 Hours (%) | 21 to 30 Hours (%) | More than 30 (%) |
|---|----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| In hours per week, how often do you visit the Marx Library on campus? | 504      | 91.5              | 6.4                | 1.6                | 0.6              |
| In hours per week, how often do you use the Marx Library online?      | 414      | 95.3              | 3.6                | 0.7                | 0.4              |



Table 5.3: Sufficiency of Marx Library

| <b>Question</b>   | <b><i>n</i></b> | <b>N/A<br/>(<i>n</i>)</b> | <b>Strongly<br/>Disagree (%)</b> | <b>Disagree<br/>(%)</b> | <b>Agree (%)</b> | <b>Strongly<br/>Agree (%)</b> |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Marx Library is sufficient for my general needs.                        | 608             | 191                       | 0.8                              | 2.6                     | 64.3             | 32.2                          |
| The Marx Library provides sufficient resources for academic needs.          | 597             | 203                       | 0.8                              | 4.5                     | 63.3             | 31.3                          |
| Marx Library resources are readily available for my needs.                  | 596             | 202                       | 1                                | 3.2                     | 64.6             | 31.2                          |
| Technology in the Marx Library is sufficient.                               | 570             | 228                       | 0.9                              | 8.8                     | 64               | 26.3                          |
| Technology in the Marx Library is readily available.                        | 563             | 231                       | 0.7                              | 5.3                     | 66.6             | 27.4                          |
| The hours of operation of the Marx Library are sufficient.                  | 585             | 210                       | 4.6                              | 6                       | 57.9             | 31.5                          |
| The Marx Library (online) is sufficient for my general needs.               | 577             | 220                       | 1.2                              | 4.5                     | 63.3             | 31                            |
| The Marx Library (online) provides sufficient resources for academic needs. | 578             | 221                       | 1.2                              | 6.2                     | 61.6             | 31                            |
| Marx Library (online) resources are readily available for my needs.         | 581             | 218                       | 1                                | 4                       | 63.7             | 31.3                          |