

Marquette University Senior Survey 2007

Final Report

The Senior Survey

The Marquette University Senior Survey 2007 was conducted as an on-line survey of the 1,300 undergraduate students graduating in May 2007. The survey, developed by the Office of the Provost and the Office for Student Development, consisted of three parts that all students answered: questions about their co-curricular activities during their education at Marquette, questions about their plans after graduation and self-ratings of their abilities learned in the Core of Common Studies. In addition a fourth section contained items developed by specific programs and completed only by students in the specific major. This report summarizes the results on the items completed by all students.

The Respondents

A total of 693 students responded yielding a strong response rate of 53%. The portion of responses received from students in each of the seven undergraduate colleges closely reflected the portion of each college's graduating seniors among the total of graduating seniors. This sample is an adequate representative sample of all 2007 graduating seniors.

Table 1 Graduating Seniors Participation in Survey by College

College	Graduates	% of Total Graduates	Respondents	% of Total Respondents
Arts & Sciences	439	34%	226	33%
Business Admin	272	21%	137	20%
Communication	188	14%	96	14%
Engineering	158	12%	75	11%
Health Sciences	156	12%	103	15%
Nursing	74	6%	49	7%
Professional Studies	13	1%	7	1%
TOTAL	1300		693	

Senior Survey Results

The results are presented around four basic questions reflecting different aspects of a Marquette education. Did the graduating seniors achieve the intended general learning outcomes from their core courses? How involved were these graduating seniors in co-curricular activities during their education at Marquette? How many had international experiences? Where do our seniors plan to be within six months after graduation?

I. Did students achieve the learning outcomes of the Core of Common Studies?

This question is particularly important this year as these are the first students to complete the entire "new" Core of Common Studies curriculum. Students indicated their level of agreement with statements about each learning outcome. Statements began: As the result of what I learned in my

University Core of Common Studies courses I am confident in my abilities to.... (learning outcome).

- ❖ **Most students (86% to 94%) agreed or strongly agreed that they were confident in their abilities to:**
 - Apply the knowledge and methods of various subject areas to life and work challenges.
 - Understand and effectively use both oral and written communication.
 - Respect individuals different from themselves and cultures different from their own.
 - Continually acquire new knowledge to further their understanding of the purpose of life.

- ❖ **A little over a quarter of the students (27%) indicated they were uncertain or did not have confidence in their abilities to understand and use mathematical representations.**

Unlike responses to other core learning outcomes, responses regarding mathematical abilities differed considerably by college. One hundred percent of Professional Studies 88% of Engineering seniors expressed confidence (strong agreement or agreement) in their abilities, whereas 64% of Arts and Sciences seniors and 53% of Communication seniors expressed confidence.

Table 2 Student Self-Rated Abilities on the Core Learning Outcomes

Outcomes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Apply the knowledge and methods of various subject areas to challenges in my life and work.	0%	3%	6%	53%	38%
2. Understand and effectively use written communication.	0%	3%	4%	46%	48%
3. Understand and effectively use oral communication.	0%	4%	5%	49%	42%
4. Understand and effectively use mathematical representations (including statistics, graphs, etc.)	2%	7%	18%	50%	23%
5. Continually acquire new knowledge that will further develop my understanding of the purpose of life.	1%	4%	9%	47%	39%
6. Respect individuals different from me and cultures different from my own.	1%	5%	6%	39%	50%

II. How engaged were the seniors in campus activities and leadership?

❖ **Students were very involved in campus activities and leadership.**

- Most students (90%) participated in campus activities and/or student organizations during their time at Marquette.
- Over 36% (up from 30% last year) of the students held leadership positions in student organizations.

❖ **Most Marquette seniors participated in volunteer community service and/or service learning for credit during their undergraduate years.**

- Eighty-four percent of the students participated in volunteer service activities at least once a year.
- Thirty percent participated in volunteer service once a month or more frequently.
- Over half of the seniors completed one or more service learning courses for credit.
- 30% of the seniors completed two or more service learning courses.

Table 3 Student Participation in Co-Curricular and Service Activities

Survey Items	Responses										
1. Your involvement in campus activities	<table> <tr> <td>Not involved</td> <td>67 (10%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attended activities, not a member</td> <td>133 (19%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Member of one or more student organizations</td> <td>246 (36%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leader or officer of student organization</td> <td>247 (36%)</td> </tr> </table>	Not involved	67 (10%)	Attended activities, not a member	133 (19%)	Member of one or more student organizations	246 (36%)	Leader or officer of student organization	247 (36%)		
Not involved	67 (10%)										
Attended activities, not a member	133 (19%)										
Member of one or more student organizations	246 (36%)										
Leader or officer of student organization	247 (36%)										
2. Frequency of participation in volunteer community service activities during your time at Marquette	<table> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td>109 (16%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Once a year</td> <td>86 (27%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Once a semester</td> <td>194 (28%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Once a month</td> <td>115 (17%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Once a week</td> <td>89 (13%)</td> </tr> </table>	Never	109 (16%)	Once a year	86 (27%)	Once a semester	194 (28%)	Once a month	115 (17%)	Once a week	89 (13%)
Never	109 (16%)										
Once a year	86 (27%)										
Once a semester	194 (28%)										
Once a month	115 (17%)										
Once a week	89 (13%)										
3. Number of service learning courses for credit completed	<table> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>301 (44%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One</td> <td>183 (26%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two</td> <td>103 (15%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three or more</td> <td>104 (15%)</td> </tr> </table>	None	301 (44%)	One	183 (26%)	Two	103 (15%)	Three or more	104 (15%)		
None	301 (44%)										
One	183 (26%)										
Two	103 (15%)										
Three or more	104 (15%)										

III. Did the seniors have international learning experiences during their studies at Marquette?

❖ **One-third of the seniors (up from 29% last year) participated in an international (non USA) program, experience, or travel.**

- Twenty-one percent completed a study abroad program.
- Four percent had international volunteer service experiences and one percent completed an international service learning course.

Table 4 Student Participation in International Experiences

Survey Items	Responses
4. Did you participate in any international (non USA) programs, experiences, or travel during your time at Marquette?	No 465 (67%)
	Yes 228 (33%)
5. What international programs or experiences did you complete?	Study abroad for credit 146 (21%)
	International internship 5 (1%)
	International service learning 4 (1%)
	Les Aspin Center Africa program 8 (1%)
	International volunteer service 27(4%)
	Other international experience 63 (9%)

IV. What are the seniors' near-future plans upon graduation?

❖ **Over two-thirds of the seniors plan to be employed full-time.**

- Sixty-seven percent plan to be employed full-time.
- Three percent will be serving full-time military active duty.
- One-third of the seniors held full-time job offers in April.
- Five percent will be performing community service full-time in organizations such as Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and the Peace Corps.

❖ **Nearly half (48%) of the students plan to be involved in more education within six months.**

- Thirty-two percent planned to be engaged in full-time graduate or professional studies.
- An additional 14% plan to be enrolled part-time in additional education.

❖ **A quarter of the students plan to be engaged in at least part-time volunteer community service within six months.**

Table 5 Students' Plans after Graduation

Survey Items	Number of Students Responding
Current Plans (April 2007)	
6a. Applied for a FT, non-military job	354 (51%)
6b. Offered a FT, non-military job	229 (33%)
6c. Applied to graduate or professional program?	184 (27%)
6d. Accepted to a graduate or professional program?	181 (26%)
6e. Accepted for or called up to active military duty?	21 (3%)
6f. Applied for a FT community service position (e.g. JVC or Teach for America)	37 (5%)
6g. Accepted for FT community service	24 (4%)
Plans in 6 months	
7a. Employed full-time	486 (67%)
7b. Employed part-time	86 (12%)
7c. Serving on active duty in the military	23 (3%)
7d. Seeking additional education full-time	218 (32%)
7e. Seeking additional education part-time	98 (14%)
7f. Performing volunteer community service full-time	35 (5%)
7g. Performing volunteer community service part-time	132 (19%)
7h. Involved in FT parenting or care-giving	9 (1%)

Discussion

I. Use of the Senior Survey 2007 to Document Student Learning

This is the second year that the senior survey has been sent to all students as a learning assessment tool. New to the survey this year are the items in which students indicate their abilities to demonstrate the general core learning outcomes. The survey also contained 5 items specific to a given academic major. Those results were sent to the academic program and are part of each program's learning assessment data.

The aggregated results for all respondents provide assessment information directly relevant to the Marquette mission of providing a transformational education to all students. These results are useful within several limitations. Student self-report is considered an indirect measure of actual student learning (as opposed to actually observing the students and evaluating their performance). Self reports of ability are often higher than those that would be assigned by an external observer when the ability is complex or hard to

define. (Smoot, S. 2002, Eric Monograph ED481050). This effect is moderated for those items that ask for the extent of participation in courses and activities do provide direct evidence.

The following table links the Marquette Undergraduate Integrated Learning Outcomes with specific assessment findings.

Table 6 2007 Seniors and Learning Outcomes Achievement

Integrated Undergraduate Outcomes Upon graduation students will be able to:	Performance Indicators and Percentage of Seniors Meeting Expectations
1. Exercise just, responsible, and competent leadership in professional, intellectual, and societal contexts.	*Leadership positions in campus organizations: 36% of seniors
2. Utilize critical thinking and reflection to effect positive change in themselves, others, and their communities.	*Providing volunteer service at least once a year: 84%, monthly or more: 30% of seniors *Completed a service learning course: 56% of seniors * 25% of seniors plan to provide volunteer service at least part-time within 6 months of graduation.
3. Apply the knowledge and skills of an academic discipline, program, or profession to a career or graduate study.	* Graduate school or employment: 67% were successful by graduation: ---26% Accepted into graduate school ---33% have full-time employment offers ----3% Military active duty: ----5%Accepted for full-time volunteer community service position *91% of seniors agree or strongly agree that they can apply knowledge and skills gained in various subject areas.
4. Communicate in modes appropriate to various subjects and diverse audiences.	*Written communication: 94% of seniors agree or strongly agree. *Oral communication: 91% of seniors agree or strongly agree. *Mathematical representations: among seniors 50% agree and 23% strongly agree
5. Pursue an integration of knowledge into a comprehensive, transcendent vision of life.	*86% of seniors agree or strongly agree that they are able to continually acquire new knowledge to further understanding of the purpose of life.
6. Act for social justice within the diverse, global human family.	*Providing volunteer service at least once a year: 84%, monthly or more: 30% of seniors *Completed a service learning course: 66% of seniors *89% of seniors agree or strongly agree they respect diverse individuals and cultures.

Conclusions about student learning:

II. Student Differences by College

Table 7 Comparisons by College in Campus Activities and Service

Survey Items							
Participation in Co-Curricular and Service Activities by Percentage							
Involvement in Campus Activities	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
Not involved	9.7	9.7	10.3	3.1	16.0	6.9	12.2
Attend activities, not in student org	19.2	19.5	17.6	12.5	17.3	19.6	32.7
Member of at least one student org	35.5	32.7	34.6	45.8	29.3	38.2	38.8
Leader or officer in student org(s)	35.6	38.1	37.5	38.5	37.3	35.3	16.3
Frequency of Volunteer Service	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
Never	15.7	15.5	11.0	19.8	33.3	7.8	8.2
Once a year	26.8	21.7	33.8	29.2	22.7	26.5	32.7
Once a semester	28.0	28.3	29.4	25.0	25.3	25.5	40.8
Once a month	16.6	15.9	20.6	15.6	10.7	20.6	10.2
Once a week	12.8	18.6	5.1	10.4	8.0	19.6	8.2
Number of Service Learning Courses Taken for Credit	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
None	43.6	35.0	48.9	46.9	86.5	33.3	12.2
One	26.5	23.0	28.1	30.2	9.5	24.5	63.3
Two	14.9	15.0	17.0	16.7	1.4	18.6	20.4
Three or more	15.1	27.0	5.9	6.3	2.7	23.5	4.1

Table 8 Comparisons by College of Student Participation in International Experiences

Survey Items							
Responses							
Participation in International Experiences by Percentage							
Participated in Programs, Experiences, or Travel	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
Yes, Participated	32.9	37.2	51.5	30.2	14.7	21.6	20.4
Type of Participation	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
Study abroad for credit	21.1	26.5	37.5	19.8	5.3	7.8	6.1
International internship	0.7	0.0	2.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
International service learning	0.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Les Aspin Center Africa program	1.2	1.8	0.7	2.1	1.3	0.0	0.0
Completed volunteer service program	3.9	4.9	0.0	2.1	4.0	6.9	8.2
Completed other international experience	9.1	9.7	11.0	7.3	6.7	8.8	8.2

Table 9 Comparison by College of Students' Plans after Graduation

Survey Items							
Plans in 6 months							
	MU	CAS	BUS	COM	ENG	HSC	NUR
Employed full-time	67.2	48.7	91.9	85.4	78.7	37.3	93.9
Employed part-time	12.4	19.5	5.1	9.4	8.0	18.6	2.0
Serving on active duty in the military	3.3	4.9	2.9	0.0	4.0	1.0	8.2
Seeking additional education full-time	31.5	46.5	9.6	13.5	22.7	61.8	4.1
Seeking additional education part-time	14.1	10.6	16.2	11.5	22.7	15.7	14.3
Volunteering full-time	5.1	12.4	1.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	0.0
Volunteering part-time	19.0	15.5	29.4	18.8	8.0	18.6	24.5
Parenting full-time	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	4.1

III. Use of Senior Survey 2007 to Improve Student Learning

Results of the Survey will be reviewed and discussed by the following groups during the fall 2007 semester:

University Board of Undergraduate Studies

University Assessment Committee

Deans' Council

Core Curriculum Review Committee

Office of Student Development Directors

University Leadership Council

Academic Affairs Committee of the University Board of Trustees

Each group will consider what actions should be taken by their group, i.e. actions that are within their contributions to student learning. These actions will be listed in the final version of this report.