



## I. INTRODUCTION

In an effort to obtain outcomes and contact information from as many of our graduating students as possible, in Spring 2009 a brief 15-item Graduating Student Survey (GSS) was developed by the Office of Institutional Research with input from St. John's community. It was incorporated into the BANNER online process used by students - excluding School of Law - to register for participation in commencement exercises. The survey has been revised several times, and now it has 23 items, but the same procedure has been followed since 2009.

In 2013, 73 undergraduates (60% of graduating student population) and 168 graduate students (33%) from the School of Education (EDU) participated in the GSS survey. The survey participants were quite representative of the graduating student population in student gender and ethnicity.

This report, prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, presents the GSS 2013 survey results for the School of Education. The report provides highlights of the survey results first, followed by more detailed findings. Table 1 in the appendix to this report provides trend data for individual survey items for EDU undergraduate and graduate students, and Table 2 presents the 2013 data by college.

The GSS 2013 reports for St. John's University and by college are available online at: <http://www.stjohns.edu/about/ir/surveys>

## II. HIGHLIGHTS

For EDU students, overall satisfaction with their St. John's experience remained high: 97% of undergraduates and 99% of graduate students in 2013 were *satisfied / very satisfied* with their overall experience at St. John's.

Student ratings on the quality of instruction also remained high: 86% of undergraduates and 93% of graduate students in 2013 rated it as *excellent / good*.

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 91% of undergraduates and 95% of graduate students indicated to a large/some extent in 2013. The graduate students who responded to the survey include students who received their undergraduate education from St. John's, and

those in the combined programs (bachelor's and master's, etc.). This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum.

In 2012, 70% of undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment, and it fluctuated down to 67% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 77% to 79%.

About four-fifths of undergraduates and two-thirds of graduate students in 2013 perceived that the Catholic and Vincentian Mission had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience.

When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 98% of undergraduates and 91% of graduate students were *satisfied / very satisfied*.

From 2012 to 2013, the percentage of students with internships (including student teaching or clinical rotation) dropped from 82% to 74% for undergraduates, but it increased from 54% to 55% for graduate students.

When asked about their plans after graduation, 26% of undergraduates indicated that they would keep their current jobs or had accepted a job offer, and 44% of them planned to further their education. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 51% and 8%.

When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 77% of undergraduates and 83% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent*.

When asked how well St. John's provided a global experience through studying abroad, in the classroom, or student activities, 38% of undergraduates and 52% of graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, 73% of undergraduates and 75% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent*.

When asked how well St. John's integrated technology into the learning experience, 71% of undergraduates and 82% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent*.

Regarding the quality of academic advising, 71% of undergraduates and 76% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent*.

When asked to what extent their experience at St. John's allowed for the development of a faith dimension in their life, 72% of undergraduates and 55% of graduate students indicated "to some or a great extent."

### III. DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

This section covers detailed survey results. It consists of five parts: 1) Student overall perceptions, 2) Internships, job status, and further education for undergraduates, 3) Internships, job status, and further education for graduate students, 4) Global experience, technology, and academic advising, and 5) St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission, services, activities, and alumni relations.

#### 1. Student Overall Perceptions

As shown in the following table, student overall satisfaction remained high in 2013: 97% of undergraduates and 99% of graduate students in EDU were *satisfied* / *very satisfied* with their overall St. John's experience (Question 20, Table 1 in the appendix). (Please note that the combined *satisfied* / *very satisfied* percentage is the sum of the two percentages for *satisfied* and *very satisfied*. Therefore, the combined percentage may be one point higher or lower than the sum of the two due to decimal rounding.)

	Undergraduates		Graduate Students	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
<b>Overall satisfaction with experience at St. John's</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>99%</b>
Very satisfied	44%	41%	40%	50%
Satisfied	53%	56%	54%	49%
<b>Quality of instruction</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>93%</b>
Excellent	33%	23%	48%	55%
Good	57%	63%	44%	38%
<b>Value added by core courses</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>95%</b>
To a large extent	N/A	30%	N/A	49%
To some extent	N/A	61%	N/A	46%
<b>Tuition paid as a worthwhile investment</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>79%</b>
Strongly agree	13%	16%	19%	21%
Agree	57%	51%	58%	58%
<b>Impact of Catholic and Vincentian Mission</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Very positive	23%	20%	15%	19%
Positive	56%	59%	47%	46%
<b>Satisfaction with University's support of internship</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>91%</b>
Very satisfied	39%	52%	27%	45%
Satisfied	57%	46%	60%	46%

Student ratings on the quality of instruction also remained high in 2013: 86% of undergraduates and 93% of graduate students rated it as *good / excellent*. (Q11)

When asked to what extent St. John's core courses added value to their undergraduate education, 91% of undergraduates and 95% of graduate students indicated *to a large/some extent* in 2013. The graduate students who responded to the survey include students who received their undergraduate education from St. John's, and those in the combined programs (bachelor's and master's, etc.). This is a new question added in GSS 2013 for an indirect assessment of the core curriculum. (Q12)

In 2012, 70% of undergraduates *agreed / strongly agreed* that tuition paid was a worthwhile investment, and it fluctuated down to 67% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 77% to 79%. (Q14)

Regarding the impact of the Catholic and Vincentian Mission, the percentage of undergraduates perceived that it had a *positive / very positive* impact on their experience at St. John's remained the same, 79% in both 2012 and 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 62% to 65%. (Q17)

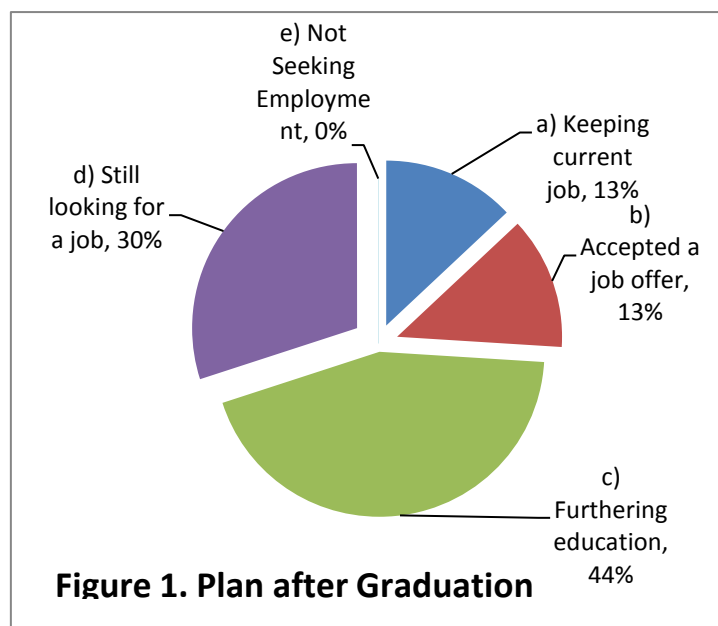
When asked whether they were satisfied with the University's support of internship programs, 96% of undergraduates were *satisfied / very satisfied* in 2012, and it increased to 98% in 2013. For graduate students, the percentage increased from 87% to 91%. (Q8)

Table 1 in the Appendix provides the GSS 2009 to 2013 trend data for each survey item. The following results mainly concentrate on the 2013 data.

## 2. Undergraduate Students: Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2013 data indicate that 65% of EDU undergraduates were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014: 3% planned to pursue a bachelor's degree, 59% for master's, and 3% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Question 1, Table 1).

When asked about their employment plans, as Figure 1 reveals, 13% indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 13% had accepted a job offer, 30% were still looking, and the remaining 44% were planning to further their education. (Q3, Table 1).



When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 30% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 47% *good*, 19% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. (Q9, Table 1).

When asked how well the University Career Services did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 32% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 40% *good*, 24% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).

The data indicate that 74% of undergraduates had internships. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 6% had academic internships for credit, 4% experienced paid internships, 0% had unpaid internships (non-credit), and 74% completed student teaching (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 74%). (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 26% of undergraduates who didn't have any internship, 2% wanted to participate but were unable to secure one, 6% were not eligible, 17% were not interested, and 2% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

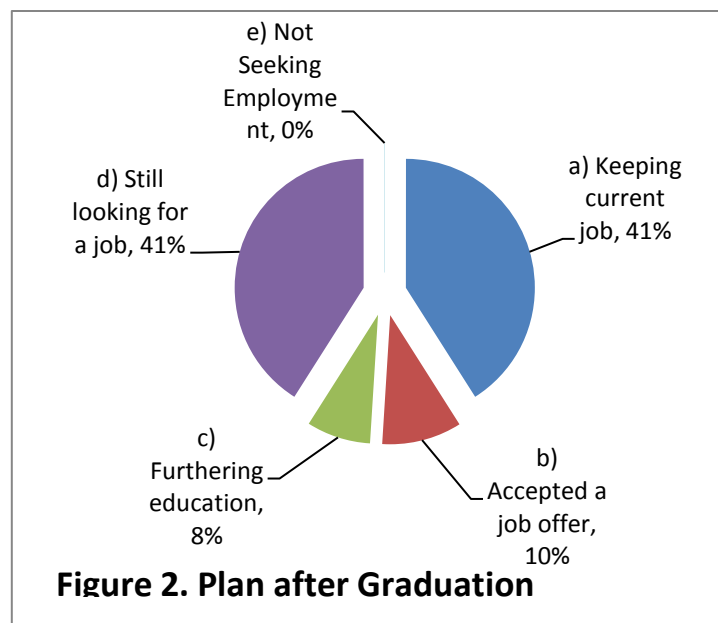
For undergraduates who had internships, 80% of them found an internship through an academic department, 29% on their own, 7% through the University Career Services, and 5% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100%). (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 52% of undergraduates were *very satisfied*, 46% *satisfied*, 2% *dissatisfied*, and 0% *very dissatisfied*. (Q8, Table 1)

### 3. Graduate Students: Internships, Job Status, and Further Education

The GSS 2013 data reveal that 15% of EDU graduate students were planning to pursue further studies in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014: 3% for master's, 8% for doctorate, and 4% for professional (MD, JD, etc.). (Q1, Table 1).

When asked about their employment plans, as Figure 2 presents, 41% of them indicated that they would keep their current jobs, 10% had accepted an offer, 41% were still looking, 8% were planning to further their education, and 0% not seeking employment. (Q3, Table 1).



When asked how well St. John's did at providing course work and academic experiences that prepared students for their career and job placement, 44% of graduate students rated it as *excellent*, 39% *good*, 13% *fair*, and 4% *poor*. (Q9, Table 1).

When asked how well the University Career Services did at providing them with career preparation for job placement, 24% of graduate students rated it as *excellent*, 39% *good*, 25% *fair*, and 11% *poor*. (Q10, Table 1).

The data indicate that 55% of graduate students had internships. Regarding the type of internships that students completed, 35% had academic internships for credit, 4% experienced paid internships, 5% had unpaid internships (non-credit), and 17% participated in student teaching (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 55%). (Q6, Table 1)

For the remaining 45% of graduate students who didn't have any internship, 2% were unable to secure an internship, 12% were not eligible, 27% were not interested, and 4% indicated that they couldn't afford to take one. (Q5, Table 1)

For graduate students who had internships, 52% of them found an internship on their own, 43% through an academic department, 4% through the University Career Services, and 10% through other channels (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100%). (Q7, Table 1)

When asked to rate their satisfaction with the University's support of internship programs, 45% of graduate students were *very satisfied*, 46% *satisfied*, 6% *dissatisfied*, and 2% *very dissatisfied*. (Q8, Table 1)

#### **4. Global Experience, Technology, and Academic Advising**

When asked how well St. John's provided a global experience through studying abroad, in the classroom, or student activities, 38% of undergraduates and 52% of graduate students indicated that they had no exposure to global experience. For the students who had such experience, 35% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 38% *good*, 24% *fair*, and 3% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 37%, 38%, 22%, and 3%. (Q.15, Table 1)

When asked how well St. John's integrated technology into the learning experience, 27% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 44% *good*, 29% *fair*, and 0% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 36%, 46%, 16%, and 2%. (Q.16, Table 1)

Regarding the quality of academic advising, 29% of undergraduates rated it as *excellent*, 42% *good*, 24% *fair*, and 5% *poor*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 33%, 43%, 18%, and 6%. (Q.13, Table 1)

## 5. St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission, Service, Activities, and Alumni Relations

When asked how St. John's Catholic and Vincentian Mission impacted their experience at St. John's, 20% of undergraduates rated it as *very positively*, 59% *positively*, 17% *no impact*, 4% *negatively*, and 0% *very negatively*. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 19%, 46%, 35%, 0%, and 0%. (Q.17, Table 1)

When asked to what extent their experience at St. John's allowed for the development of a faith dimension in their life, 15% of undergraduates indicated "to a great extent," 57% "to some extent," and 28% "not at all." The corresponding figures for graduate students were 14%, 41%, and 45%. (Q.18, Table 1)

When asked whether they were affiliated with any of the student clubs, organizations, or societies during their years at St. John's, 81% of undergraduates and 39% of graduate students indicated that they were affiliated with one or more clubs, organizations, or societies. For undergraduate students, 59% belonged to Honor societies, 15% the Academic category, 7% Cultural, 20% the Special Interests category, and 26% other. For graduate students, 19% belonged to Honor societies, 6% the Academic category, 4% the Special Interests category, 3% Cultural, and 15% other (This is a check-all-that-apply question. The total percentage may add up to more than 100%). (Q.19, Table 1)

When asked whether they wanted to be involved in service after graduation, 34% of undergraduates said YES and 66% indicated NO. For graduate students, 21% said YES and 79% indicated NO. (Q.23, Table 1)

When asked whether they would like to be contacted for certain activities in the future, 17% of undergraduates indicated YES for alumni relations events, 17% for mentoring roles with students, 0% for recruitment events with the Office of Admissions, 0% for leadership roles in organizing alumni functions, and 43% would like to get assistance with career decisions and job search. The corresponding figures for graduate students were 14%, 13%, 2%, 6%, and 30% (This is a check-all-that-apply question.). (Q.22, Table 1)

The results of the GSS survey are the perceptions of EDU students who have successfully completed their programs at St. John's. The data are very useful, and can be used with other data for action plans to improve student engagement and experience. Please share any initiatives you develop to respond to these results, with Dr. Yuxiang Liu, Director of Institutional Assessment, in the Office of Institutional Research at [LiuY@stjohns.edu](mailto:LiuY@stjohns.edu).

This is the fifth administration of the GSS survey. We will continue to administer it annually along with other student surveys in order to develop a more comprehensive

picture of our students, make continuous improvement in student learning, and ensure success for all.