

Future Plans Survey: Background

Since 1997, the General-Education Committee (GEC) and the Office of Assessment (OOA) administered the *Graduating Student Questionnaire* (GSQ) to graduating senior students at the end of each semester (fall, spring, and summer). In the past, seniors obtained the GSQ from YSU's Office of Events Management and/or YSU's Records Office about one month before graduation. Seniors were invited to voluntarily complete the GSQ and could mail the survey back to the Office of Events Management, which would then forward the surveys to the Office of Institutional Research and Policy Analysis (IRPA).

For the fall 2008 semester, the GSQ was modified to include an assessment of seniors' future plans. However, from fall 2008 through fall 2010 response rates to paper copies of the survey were low, which subsequently triggered a reassessment of the data collection methodology.

Future Plans Survey: Methodology

In spring 2010, the OOA changed the method for administering the Future Plans Survey to graduating seniors by using the OOA's SurveyMonkey account. As an incentive for completing the survey, all respondents who voluntarily provided contact information were included in a random drawing. One senior won a prize (a diploma frame from the YSU bookstore) after the drawing on June 1.

From a population of 863 bachelor degree recipients who had their degrees conferred in spring 2010, 263 students completed the survey, providing a usable response rate of 30%. Results from the survey are presented below.

Additional undergraduate coursework	0.38%
Employment, full-time paid	58.02%
Employment, part-time paid	3.82%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	32.06%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	1.91%
Military service	0.38%
Other	2.67%
Starting or raising a family	0.76%
Grand Total	100.00%

Using the OOA’s SurveyMonkey Account in spring 2011, the OOA administered the Future Plans Survey to all students graduating during the spring 2011 semester (134 associate degrees, 855 bachelor degrees, 194 master degrees, and 21 doctoral degrees). New guidelines for the College Portrait requested participants to check all answers that apply to their future plans.¹ As an incentive for completing the survey, all respondents who voluntarily provided contact information were included in a random drawing. One senior won a prize (a diploma frame from the YSU bookstore) after the drawing on June 1.

From a population of 855 bachelor degree recipients who had their degrees conferred in spring 2011, 205 students completed the survey, providing a usable response rate of 24%. Results from the survey are presented below.

Additional undergraduate coursework	6%
Employment, full-time paid	62%
Employment, part-time paid	17%
Graduate or professional school, full-time	39%
Graduate or professional school, part-time	14%
Military service	2%
Other	5%
Starting or raising a family	10%
Grand Total	n/a

¹ This change in response format is why the grand total was not calculated in the table for 2011.