

Chapter XIV: LOCAL AND STATE ALUMNI AND EMPLOYER SURVEYS

Local Alumni Survey

Who takes it?

A sample of university alumni.

When is it administered?

Every three years. The last one was given in 1996.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the survey?

ACT and Truman State University.

When are the results typically available?

No timetable has been agreed upon..

What type of information is sought?

The Alumni Survey asks first about some demographic information on the former students. The alumni are also asked about when they graduated and what is their highest planned degree. Other information is sought about why Northeast/Truman was selected and how they financed their college education. Alumni are then asked to rate various aspects of their university and curricular experience and their satisfaction with different services on campus. Alumni are asked about how their major affected their knowledge, abilities, and attitudes. They are asked about how their experience affected their ability to continue their education (if they did) and to select and carry out their employment. Finally alumni are asked whether they are willing to have their employer be sent a survey and whether the alumni wish to add any additional comments.

From whom are the results available?

The Assessment and Testing Office.

Distribution regularly made available to whom?

University, division, and discipline averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

Yes.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

Local Employer Survey

Who takes it?

Employers are asked to take it if the employee on the Alumni Survey consent.

When is it administered?

Within a year after the Alumni Survey is returned.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the survey?

Truman State University.

When are the results typically available?

The end of the year in which it is given (end of 1997).

What type of information is sought?

The survey asks for the type of organization where the employee works, the number of employees, the percentage of management positions, the type of skills, knowledge and attitudes that are important to the organization, the toughest type of jobs to fill, rating Northeast/Truman graduates in knowledge and skill areas, general impression of the likelihood of hiring other Northeast/Truman graduates, and suggestions for improving the education process.

From whom are the results available?

Assessment and Testing.

Distribution regularly made available to whom?

University, division, and discipline averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

This is possible but only by cross-referencing this survey with alumni survey.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

General Editor's Comments on the Local Alumni Survey (NMSU/Truman graduates):

The last local alumni survey went out last year and the results are available in 1997. The employee survey is now going out and the results are not immediately available. Here are some comments on the alumni survey.

Here are the ages of the 1651 respondents by percentage:

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| 21-22 | 0.2% |
| 23-24 | 15.0% |
| 25-26 | 31.8% |
| 27-29 | 8.6 % |
| 30-39 | 35.9% |
| 40-59% | 7.2% |
| 60-+ | 0.2% |
| Not given | 1.0% |

1. Here are the percentages who have received these as their final degree (at Truman or elsewhere)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Masters | 34% |
| Specialists, Doctoral, or Professional | 5% |

2. Truman (Northeast) was the first choice of 73%.

3. Those who said they would definitely or probably go to Truman (if they had it to do over again) was 75.6%. Those who were uncertain was 12.9%.

4. The quality of Truman as compared to other universities:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Better | 56.9% |
| About the same | 21.1% |
| Worse | 1.6% |
| Unable to judge | 19% |
| No answer | 1.5% |

5. Regardless of the financial benefits, the university experience improves the quality of their lives.

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Definitely Yes | 72.3% |
| Probably Yes | 22.0% |
| Uncertain | 2.6% |
| Probably No | 1.4% |
| Definitely No | 0.4% |
| No answer | 1.3% |

6. The primary reason for attending Truman/Northeast were:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Cost | 24.4% |
| Academic Reputation | 17.3% |
| Available Program | 14.9% |
| Financial Aid | 14.6% |

7. Here are some of the attributes of their education here. Other choices were "somewhat inadequately or very inadequately. Typically 2-3% left the answer blank.

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Somewhat Adequate</u> | <u>Very Adequate</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Effective Writing | 36.2% | 56.9% |
| Effective Speaking | 44.2% | 46.1% |
| Caring for your Health | 43.4% | 32.0% |
| Applying Mathematics | 41.8% | 32.7% |
| Understanding differences in philosophies and cultures | 43.7% | 31.3% |
| Defining & Solving Problems | 40.2% | 50.9% |
| Leading & Guiding Others | 40.0% | 42.8% |
| Understand & appreciating the arts | 40.0% | 41.1% |
| Understanding scientific principle & methods | 43.5% | 34.9% |
| Overall quality of gen ed | 50.2% | 35.9% |
| Overall quality in major courses | 31.9% | 59.2% |
| Faculty Advising | 32.9% | 33.1% |
| Library Services | 41.1% | 49.2% |
| Library Facilities | 35.3% | 54.5% |
| Computer Services | 41.6% | 17.0% |
| Computer Facilities | 40.5% | 21.0% |
| Racial Harmony | 47.0% | 20.8% |
| University in general | 43.2% | 50.4% |
| Major--subject matter & processes | 41.4% | 49.5% |

State Alumni Survey

Who takes it?

A sample of university alumni.

When is it administered?

Every three years. The last one was given in 1994.

What office administers it?

Coordinating Board of Higher Education for Missouri.

Who originates the survey?
ACT.

When are the results typically available?
No timetable has been agreed upon..

What type of information is sought?
This Alumni Survey asks first about some demographic information on the former students. The alumni are also asked their major and degrees granted at this and other schools. Other information related to debt, GPA, highest degree granted, current job and its salary, preparation for current job, satisfaction with it, salary of first job, educational outcomes, and educational experiences at college. Alumni are asked whether they would attend the same school, their rating, and recommendation to others. Finally they are asked about other co-curricular activities. The averages for Northeast are in one report and those for other Missouri four year schools are in the other.

From whom are the results available?
The Coordinating Board of Higher Education and the Vice President's Office.

Distribution regularly made available to whom?
University averages for this school and other Missouri four-year school are sent to the President, VPAA, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?
No. Sample is too small.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?
To other four-year Missouri schools (in aggregate).

General editor's comments on state alumni survey:

Note that it was given in 1994 but has not apparently seen wide circulation. It does provide comparison to other Missouri four year schools (not specified). Samples are not particularly large (NMSU=126 and statewide=1293).

Here are some interesting comparative numbers:

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Graduates have full-time employment | NMSU 57.14% | Mo. 4 yr. 67.44% |
| Graduates are continuing education full-time | 27.78% | 11.52% |

How well did your experiences at the school prepare you for your current job*?

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Exceptionally well | 15.08% | 11.6% |
| More than adequately | 21.43% | 23.28% |
| Adequately | 24.6% | 35.81% |

*Note that over 30% of NMSU left this blank (since many were in graduate or professional school). The percent blank for Missouri schools was 16.16%.

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| The highest degree sought—professional or graduate | 26.99% | 20.8% |
|--|--------|-------|

Alumni were also asked about certain outcomes of their university experience. (4 point scale; 4 is the highest)

| | NMSU | Mo. 4 yr. |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Verbal skills | 3.27 | 3.14 |
| Defining & solving problems | 3.37 | 3.21 |
| Written skills | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| Citizen-related skills | 2.55 | 2.49 |
| Appreciating the arts | 2.88 | 2.57 |

Here are other alumni ratings on a five point scale (5=greatest agreement)

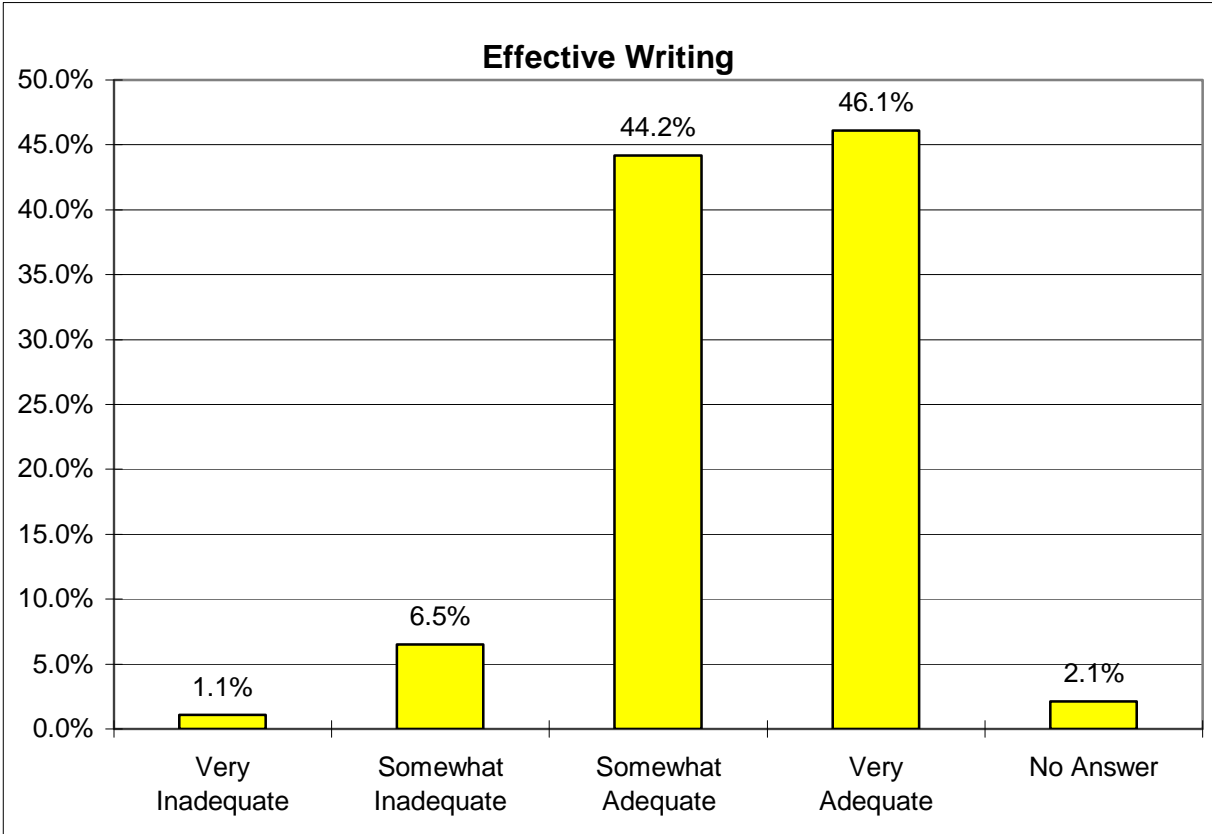
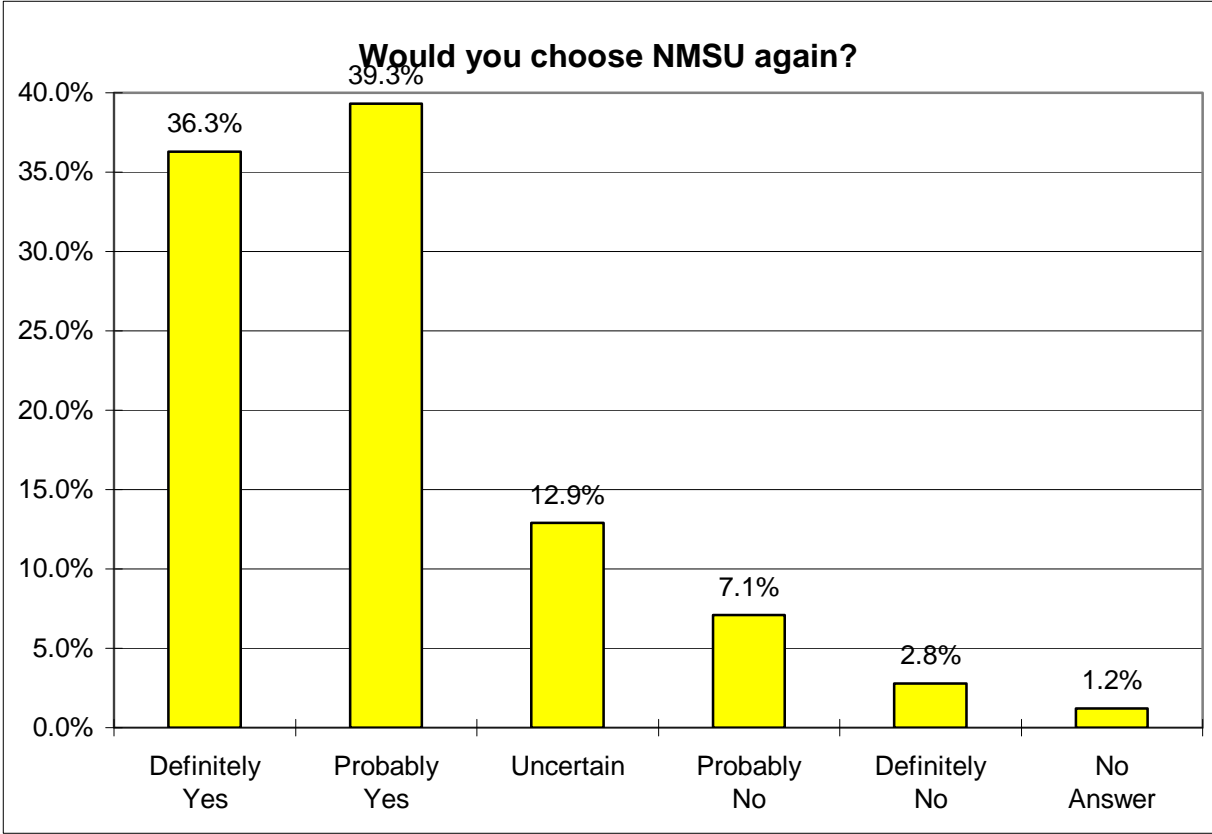
| | NMSU | Mo. 4 yr. |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Quality of academics | 4.46 | 3.89 |
| Student/faculty interaction | 4.02 | 3.55 |
| Rigid degree requirements | 2.70 | 2.95 |
| Low cost | 1.78 | 2.69 |
| Quality of Instruction | 4.14 | 3.91 |
| Quality of major | 4.02 | 4.01 |

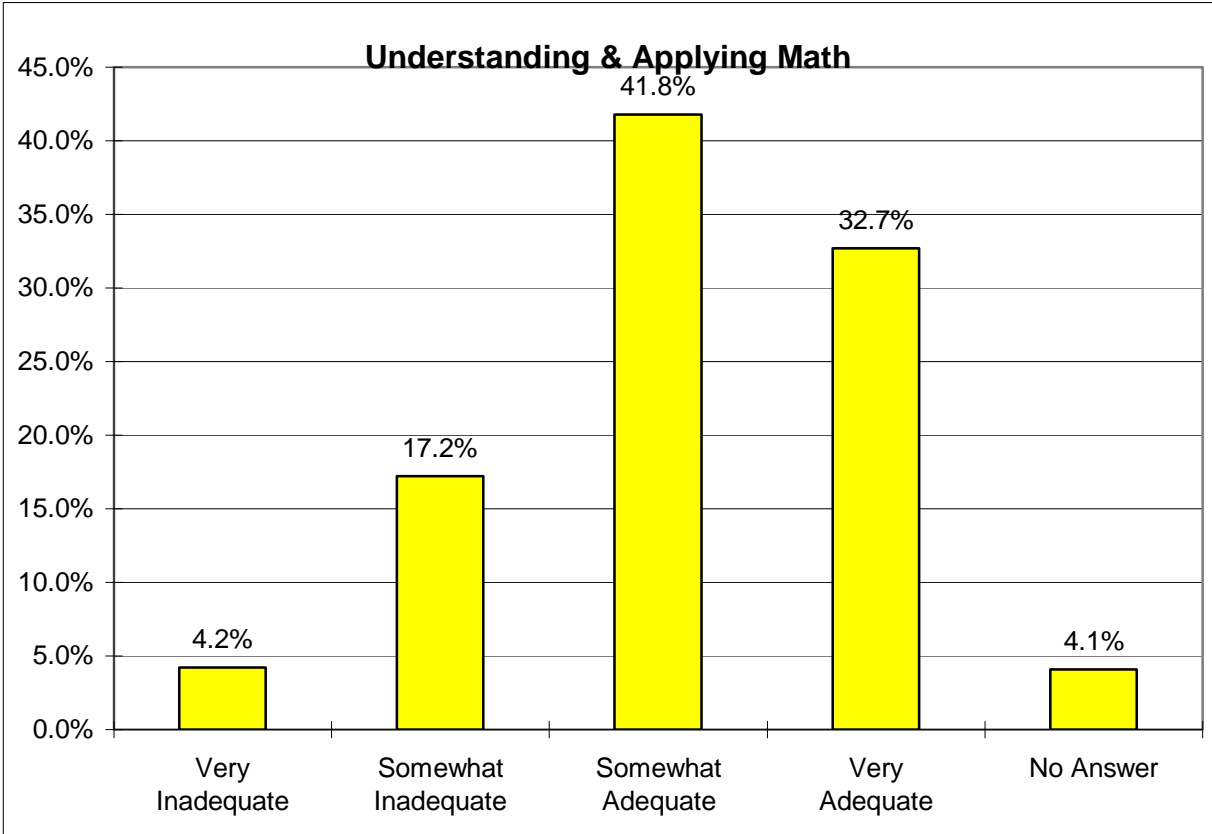
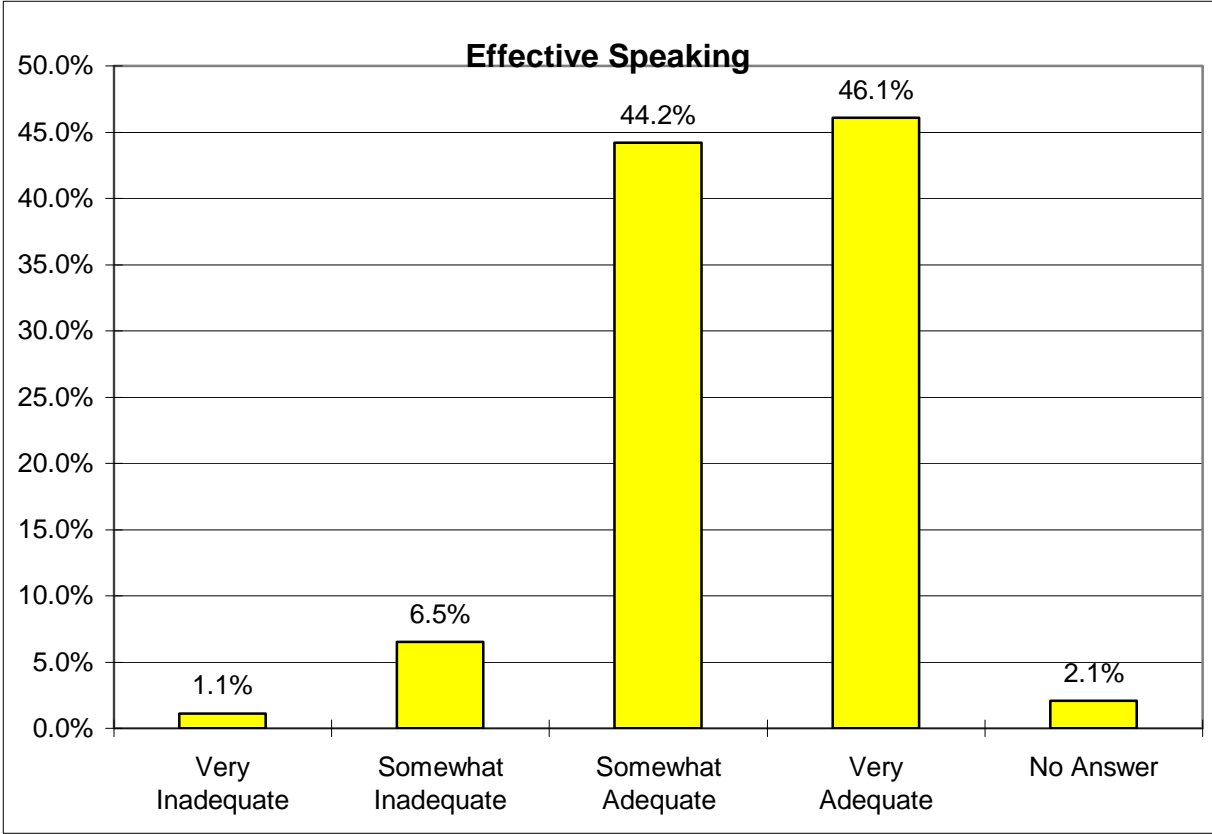
Would you attend the same school?

| | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Definitely yes | 41.27% | 32.87% |
| Probably yes | 34.9% | 40.6% |

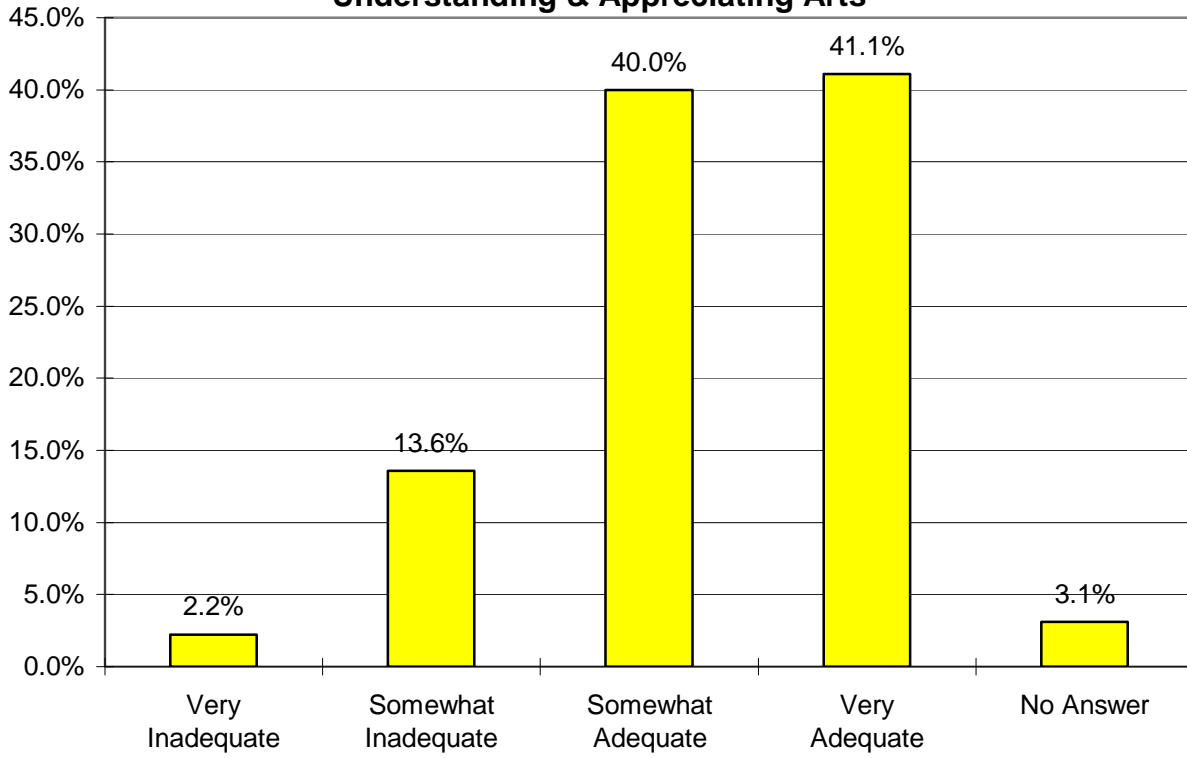
Finally, here is how they would agree with the following statements on a 5 point scale (5 is high).

| | NMSU | Mo. 4 yr. |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Academic success encouraged | 4.34 | 3.92 |
| General education valuable | 3.72 | 3.48 |
| Academic advising | 3.35 | 3.29 |

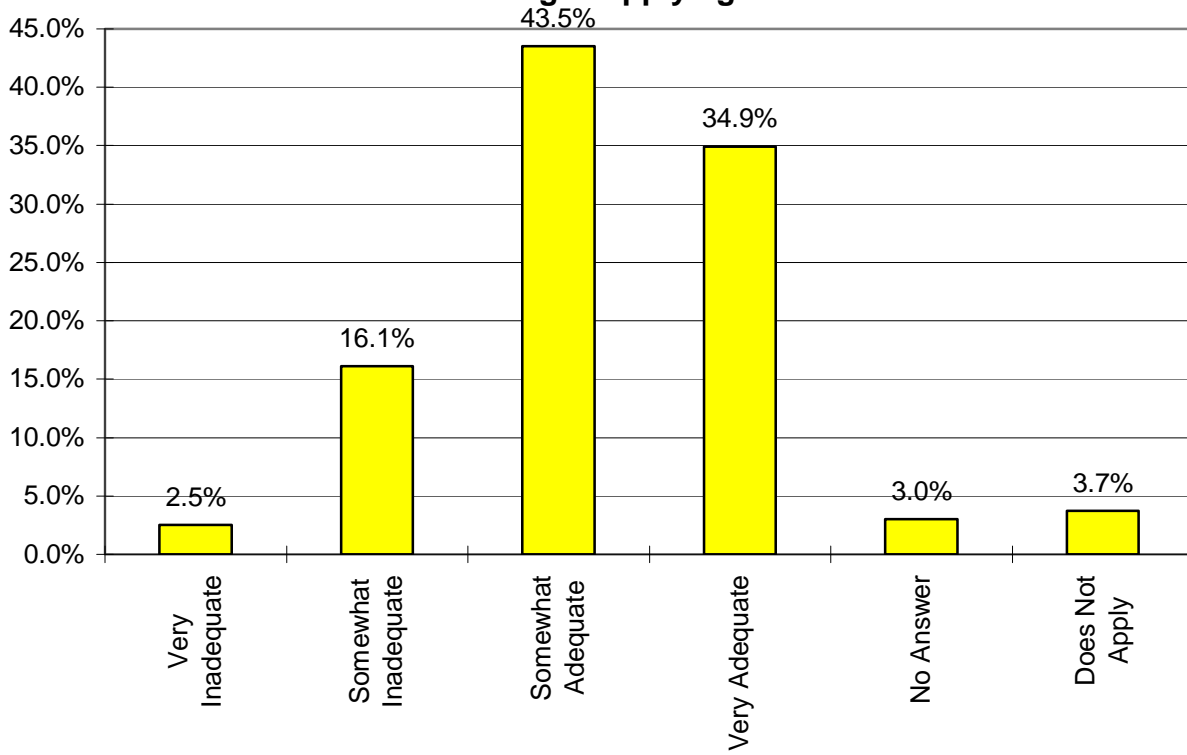




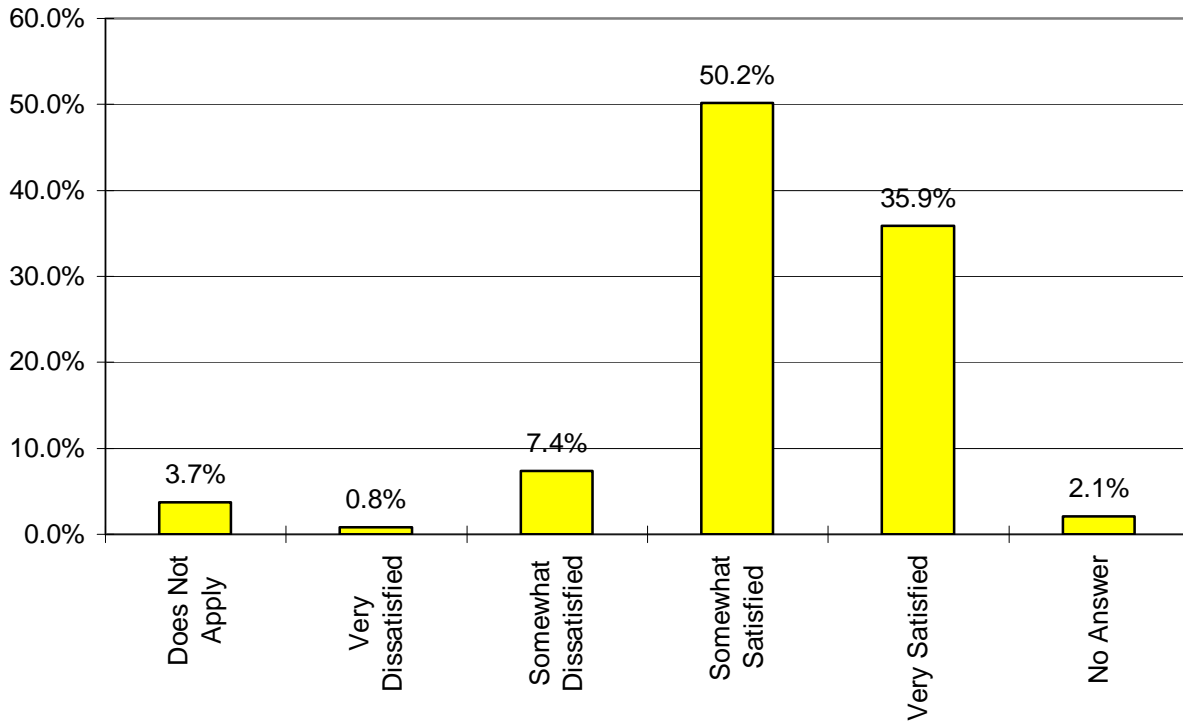
Understanding & Appreciating Arts



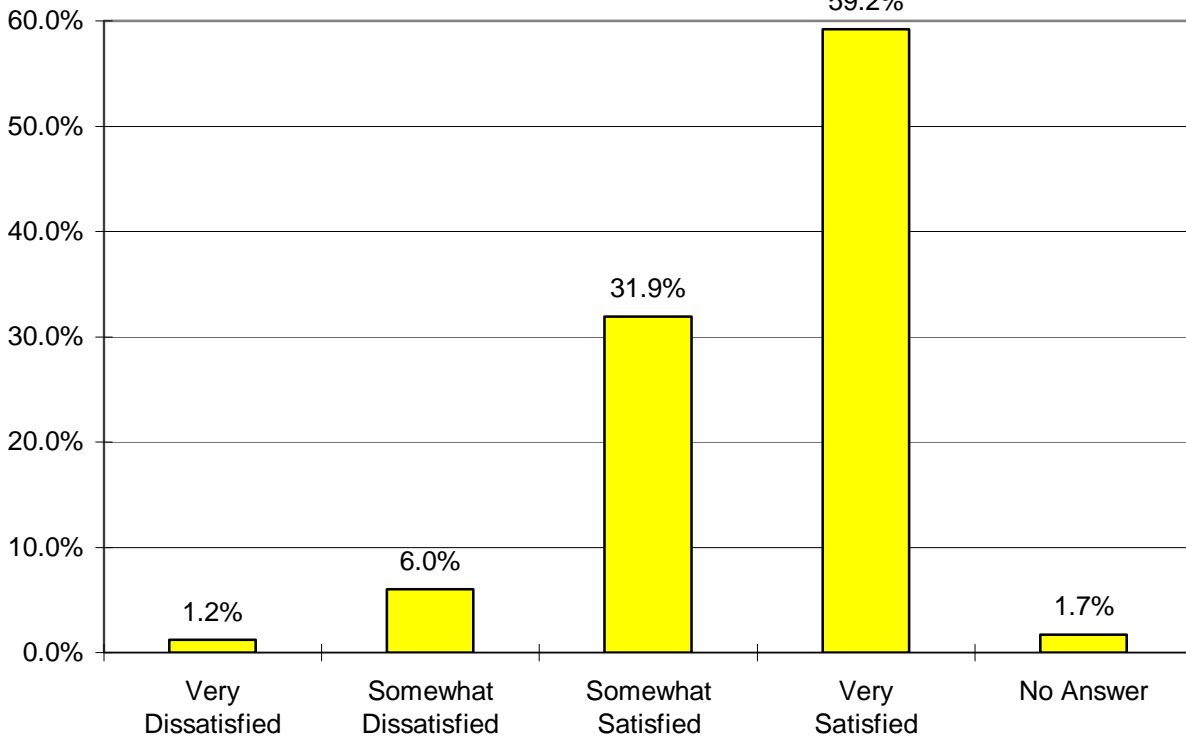
Understanding & Applying Science

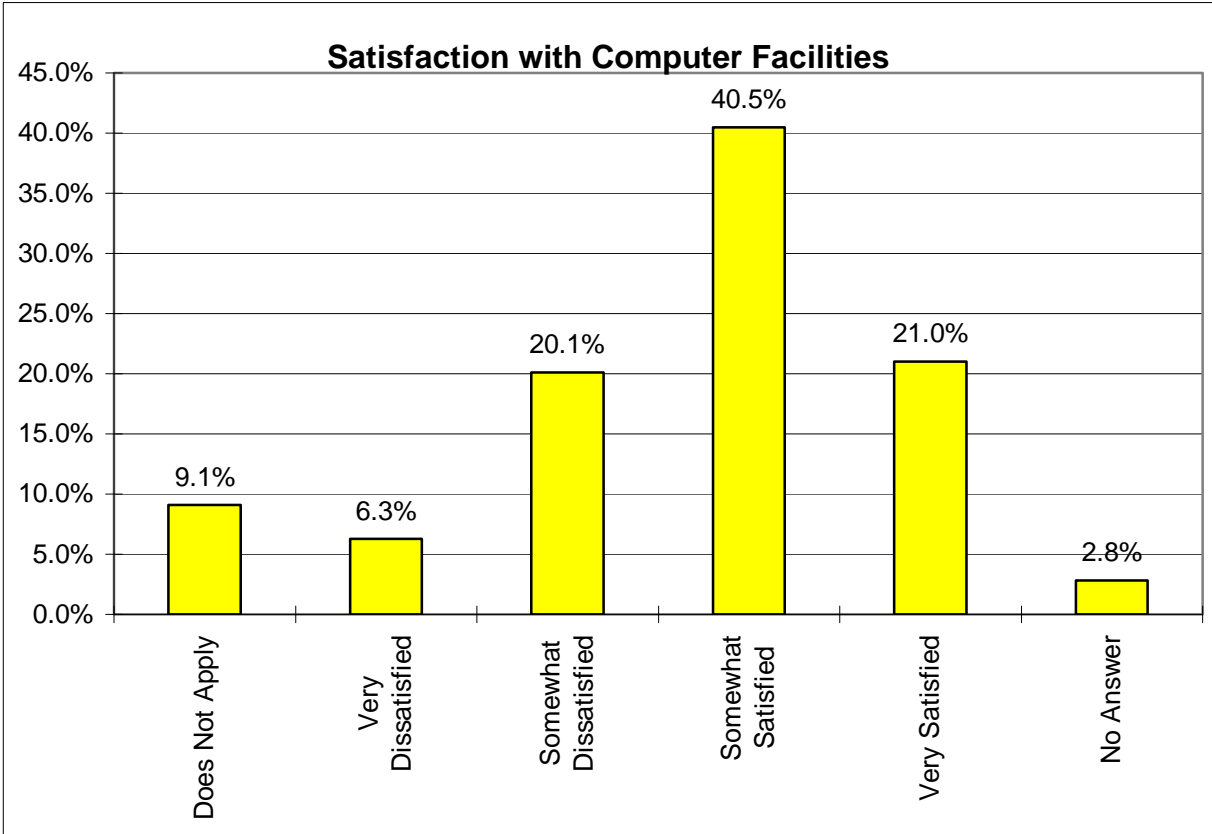
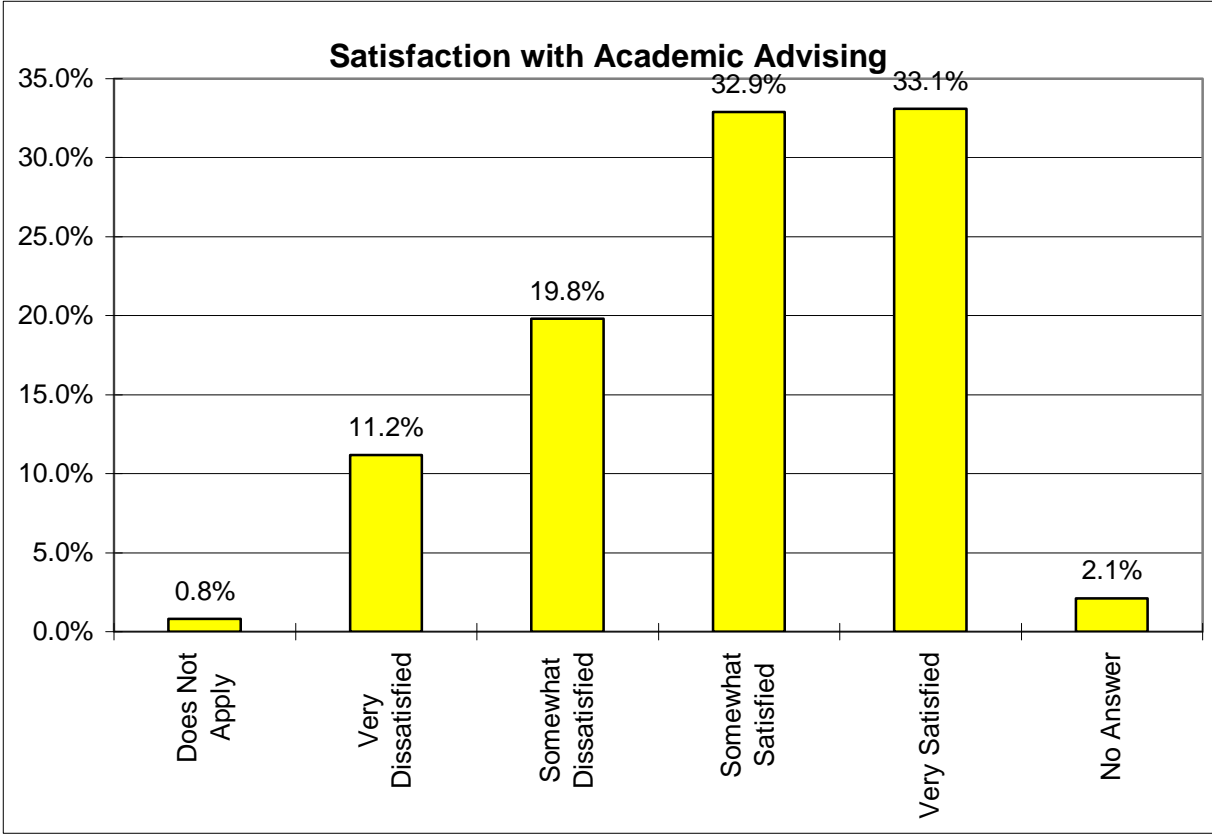


Overall Impression of General Education Courses



Overall Impression of Major Courses





Satisfaction with the University in General

