

## Chapter XV: 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, the survey was sent out in the fall of 1999.

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 administered (end of 2000).

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.

Comments on the Local Alumni Survey (NMSU/Truman graduates):

The last local alumni survey went out in the fall of 1999 and the results were available in 2000. The employee survey went out in the spring of 2000 and the results will be available in late 2000. Here are some comments on the alumni survey.

Here are the ages of the 1236 respondents by percentage:

23-24	9.3%
25-26	33.4%
27-29	13.3%
30-39	41.1%
40-59%	2.7%
60-+	0.3%

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

Masters	30.5%
Specialists, Doctoral, or Professional	6.9%

2. Truman (Northeast) was the first choice of 73.8%.

3. Those who said they would definitely or probably go to Truman (if they had it to do over again was 80.2%. Those who were uncertain was 10.4%.

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	70.3%
Probably Yes	24.3%
Uncertain	3.4%
Probably No	1.6%
Definitely No	0.4%

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

Cost	23.7%
Academic Reputation	23.9%
Available Program	9.1%
Financial Aid	17.2%

7. Here are some of the attributes of their education here. Other choices were "somewhat inadequately or very inadequately.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Somewhat Adequate</u>	<u>Very Adequate</u>
Effective Writing	36.3%	60.3%
Effective Speaking	45%	46.4%
Caring for your Health	47%	31.5%
Applying Mathematics	44.9%	33.9%
Understanding differences in philosophies and cultures	43.3%	37%
Defining & Solving Problems	39.3%	56.1%
Leading & Guiding Others	41.5%	44.8%
Understand & appreciating the arts	43%	43.1%
Understanding scientific principle & methods	47.6%	37%
Overall quality of gen ed	50.2%	42.7%
Overall quality in major courses	31.3%	61.9%
Faculty Advising	36.1%	31%
Library Services	40.4%	52%
Library Facilities	36.2%	56.4%
Computer Services	39.3%	17.1%
Computer Facilities	40.5%	19.5%
Racial Harmony	49.1%	24.5%
University in general	39.6%	56.7%
Major--subject matter & processes	43%	51.8%

### **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. The next administration should be in Spring 2001, for FY99 graduates.

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).

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:

	NMSU	Mo. 4 yr.
Graduates have full-time employment	57.14%	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