



AUBURN

MONTGOMERY®

2017-2018

Graduation Survey Results

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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Executive Summary

Graduating seniors and graduate students were asked to respond to a graduation survey at the end of the semester that they registered for graduation. In the 2017-2018 academic year (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters), 547 (53.4%) students responded to the survey. Of these, 70.6% were undergraduate students.

Just over half (55.5%) of undergraduate respondents began as transfer students, ranging from 43.2% in the College of Business to 68% in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Further exploration of each item could reveal differences in satisfaction levels between first-time freshmen and transfers, but first glance shows similarities between them, as evidenced by their shared satisfaction with their AUM experience being 82.2% and 88.7%, respectively.

Results from the graduation survey should be generalized to the total population with caution, but a response rate above 50% for a population of this size ensures that the results have use. It should also be noted that several programs within some colleges maintain their own databases regarding the employment status of their graduating students, and may report higher percentages of employment at graduation.

Of the Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) undergraduate students who anticipated working full-time after graduation, the percentage securing employment before or near the time of graduation was 57.6%. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences showed the highest percentage of students securing employment at 85.1% percent. The lowest percentage of secured employment was in the College of Arts & Sciences (39.7%).

There were 71.2% of undergraduates who claimed an intent to further their education, either in graduate, undergraduate, or certificate programs. These respondents applied and were accepted into graduate school at a rate of 13.2% at the time of graduation, with 80.5% holding off the application process for some time in the following year.

Overall, students reported being satisfied with how well their undergraduate experiences helped them acquire any of the five core competencies identified by the University, including written and verbal communication, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and intercultural knowledge. Across the University, greater than 80% said that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with each of the competencies listed. The lowest ratings were found among quantitative reasoning skills and intercultural knowledge, while Public Policy & Justice graduates ranked as the most satisfied in all competencies outside of critical thinking.

Both undergraduate and graduate program completers reported being satisfied with their instruction and most experiences that they had in their major. Both populations agreed that they were *least* satisfied with their program's career advising; both percentages being in the low 60s. Of undergraduates seeking full-time employment who were unsatisfied with the career advising they received, 43.2% had yet to find a job at the time of the survey, compared to 35% of those who were satisfied. While that difference is not alarming, the bigger difference can be found among those who found new employment versus those who kept their previous employment. Nearly 20% more unsatisfied undergraduates did not attain new jobs at graduation than their satisfied counterparts, where 69.6% kept their previous job compared to 50.9%. However, whereas both agree on career advising, they differed in their satisfaction with campus being discrimination-free; undergraduates were 67% satisfied versus 83.5% among graduate students.

At least 85.9% of graduate students surveyed were either somewhat or very satisfied that their major field experiences helped them to develop an ability to write effectively and to effectively communicate. Undergraduate respondents were not asked these two questions. Overall, undergraduates and graduates were satisfied with their cumulative experiences

at AUM at a rate of 86.1% and 83.5%, respectively. When students were asked if they would start over at AUM if they had to do it again, 77.3% of undergraduate completers and 84.1% of graduate completers agreed that they would. When asked if they would recommend AUM to others, 91.9% of undergraduate respondents and 93.8% of graduate students agreed that they would.

Introduction

At the end of each semester, undergraduate and graduate students who have registered for graduation are asked about their post-graduation plans and their experiences in their major and at AUM, in general. In this report, results are aggregated for the academic year (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) and disaggregated by the degree they anticipated receiving. Undergraduate degree-seekers were asked additional questions about their transfer status and their undergraduate experiences.

In 2017-2018, 547 graduating students responded to the survey for a response rate of 53.4%. Of these, 386 (70.6%) were undergraduate students and 161 (29.4%) were graduate students.

	AUM (N=547)	Arts & Sciences (n=131)	Business (n=114)	Education (n=144)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=106)	Public Policy & Justice (n=52)
Undergraduate	386 (70.6%)	103 (26.7%)	75 (19.4%)	67 (17.4%)	106 (27.5%)	35 (9.1%)
Graduate	161 (29.4%)	28 (17.4%)	39 (24.2%)	77 (47.8%)	-	17 (10.6%)

All colleges were represented at the undergraduate level; all colleges except for Nursing and Health Sciences (whose new graduate programs have not had a graduating cohort) were represented at the graduate level. With few exceptions, survey respondents were fairly representative of actual completers for each college.

		Arts & Sciences	Business	Education	Nursing & Health Sciences	Public Policy & Justice
Undergraduate	Completers	23.6%	22.7%	14.3%	31.3%	8.1%
	Survey Responses	26.7%	19.4%	17.4%	27.5%	9.1%
Graduate	Completers	18.0%	31.0%	40.6%	-	10.3%
	Survey Responses	17.4%	24.2%	47.8%	-	10.6%

Undergraduate Results

Response Rates and Transfer Status

Of the graduating seniors who answered the survey, most (55.5%) transferred to AUM after attending another school. This was truest for students in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, where 68% of respondents were not a part of an AUM freshman cohort. Keeping in mind this is more of a response rate breakdown, it appears that only the Colleges of Business and Public Policy & Justice graduated more students who started with AUM than not. In the least, we can say that transfer graduates were more likely to complete the graduation survey than our traditional freshmen.

	AUM (N=382)	Arts & Sciences (n=106)	Business (n=74)	Education (n=68)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=100)	Public Policy & Justice (n=34)
Began at AUM	44.5%	48.1%	56.8%	39.7%	32.0%	52.9%
Transferred to AUM	55.5%	51.9%	43.2%	60.3%	68.0%	47.1%

Post-graduation Plans

Undergraduate students were asked if they planned on obtaining further education or gaining employment after graduation. A majority of students at AUM, and a plurality of students in each college, anticipated working full-time and attending graduate/professional school after graduation. Compared with the 2016-2017 report, the Colleges of Education and Nursing & Health Sciences saw considerable increases in students intending to do both, each increasing by 12.5% and 14%, respectively. Approximately one-fourth of undergraduate completers (24.5%) had no plans to further their education.

	AUM (N=323)	Arts & Sciences (n=96)	Business (n=64)	Education (n=61)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=72)	Public Policy & Justice (n=30)
Full-time Employment Only	21.1%	24.0%	28.1%	19.7%	13.9%	16.7%
Part-time Employment Only	2.2%	3.1%	1.6%	3.3%	0.0%	3.3%
Full-time or Part-time Employment and Additional Undergraduate Education	3.4%	4.2%	1.6%	4.9%	2.8%	3.3%
Part-time Employment and Graduate/Professional School	5.6%	11.5%	4.7%	3.3%	2.8%	0.0%
Full-time Employment and Graduate/Professional School	56.3%	43.8%	46.9%	67.2%	72.2%	56.7%
Full-time or Part-time Employment and Enrollment in a Certificate Program	5.9%	5.2%	7.8%	0.0%	6.9%	13.3%
No Planned Full-time Employment and No Further Education	3.4%	5.2%	1.6%	3.3%	0.0%	10.0%

*Note – Some categories include redundant populations, therefore this will not add up to 100%.

Of the undergraduate students who anticipated being employed full-time after graduation, 57.6% of all AUM students had either secured or been offered positions. Nursing students were distinctly the most successful in securing positions (85.1%), while students from the College of Arts & Sciences were least successful (39.7%). At least half of respondents in the Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences were yet to secure employment. Graduates from the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Public Policy & Justice were most likely to find jobs (or keep jobs) that were unrelated to their degree.

Full-time Employment	AUM (N=288)	Arts & Sciences (n=73)	Business (n=56)	Education (n=58)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=74)	Public Policy & Justice (n=27)
Secured Employment, or Offered Employment, Prior to Graduation	57.6%	39.7%	57.1%	44.8%	85.1%	59.3%
<i>*Very Related to Degree</i>	70.0%	33.3%	52.0%	72.2%	98.2%	53.8%
<i>*Marginally Related to Degree</i>	17.1%	29.6%	40.0%	22.2%	0.0%	15.4%
<i>*Unrelated to Degree</i>	12.9%	37.0%	8.0%	5.6%	1.8%	30.8%
Not Employed (Currently, or Will Begin, Searching for Employment)	37.2%	53.4%	35.7%	50.0%	10.8%	40.7%

More than half of all students (56.7%) who said that they secured employment anticipated working in the Tri-County area (Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery counties), and a total 88.2% will remain in-state for work.

Employer Location	AUM (N=127)	Arts & Sciences (n=23)	Business (n=22)	Education (n=16)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=55)	Public Policy & Justice (n=11)
Tri-County Area	56.7%	60.9%	72.7%	75.0%	43.6%	54.5%
Alabama (Outside Tri-County Area)	31.5%	30.4%	27.3%	25.0%	41.8%	0.0%
United States (Outside Alabama)	7.9%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%	18.2%
Another Country	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Multiple Locations	3.9%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	27.3%

According to 2017 data from the Alabama Department of Labor, Alabama's mean hourly wage for all occupations was \$21.05. The mean hourly pay of seniors who reported having secured a full-time position was \$20.03, up \$0.56 from last year. Greater than three-fourths (78.7%) of all AUM graduating seniors reported a starting wage of \$15.00 or greater.

Hourly Pay Rate	AUM (N=80)	Arts & Sciences (n=15)	Business (n=14)	Education (n=8)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=36)	Public Policy & Justice (n=7)
<\$9.99	3.8%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$10.00-\$14.99	17.5%	40.0%	28.6%	37.5%	0.0%	14.3%
\$15.00-\$19.99	22.5%	40.0%	21.4%	62.5%	2.8%	42.9%
\$20.00-\$24.99	37.5%	6.7%	21.4%	0.0%	63.9%	42.9%
\$25.00-\$29.99	13.8%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%
>\$29.99	5.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%

Graduating students were asked how they learned of their secured full-time position. Of the 116 respondents, each of whom may have indicated multiple methods, most (32.8%) learned of the position through a referral by a faculty member, family member, or friend, followed closely by the 30.2% who contacted their employer directly.

Learned of Position	AUM (N=116)	Arts & Sciences (n=29)	Business (n=21)	Education (n=13)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=44)	Public Policy & Justice (n=9)
Referral by Career Services	5.2%	6.9%	9.5%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%
Campus Interview	3.4%	3.4%	9.5%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%
Contacted Employer Directly	30.2%	13.8%	28.6%	23.1%	43.2%	33.3%
Previously Employed by this Organization	23.3%	13.8%	14.3%	23.1%	31.8%	33.3%
Family/Friend/Faculty Referral	32.8%	34.5%	52.4%	53.8%	18.2%	22.2%
Online or Newspaper Job Listing	13.8%	13.8%	4.8%	30.8%	13.6%	22.2%
Family Business	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

*Note – n refers to number of respondents, not responses. Some student indicated multiple/other methods.

When asked what primarily influenced them to accept a position, seniors reported a wide variety of reasons, the most frequent of which being the opportunity for advancement (39.1%) and geographic location (31.3%). This corroborates the results we saw previously where nearly nine-in-ten baccalaureate graduates accepted or kept jobs in Alabama. Despite the small sample size, students in Public Policy & Justice were most likely to report being influenced by previous employment and salary (40% for each). Students in Education (6.3%) were the least quick to jump at their first job offer, and students graduating from the College of Business (59.1%) were most heavily focused on their upward mobility.

Influence on Job Acceptance	AUM (N=128)	Arts & Sciences (n=28)	Business (n=22)	Education (n=16)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=52)	Public Policy & Justice (n=10)
Previous Employment	25.0%	14.3%	18.2%	18.8%	32.7%	40.0%
First Offer	18.0%	32.1%	27.3%	6.3%	9.6%	20.0%
Salary	19.5%	14.3%	22.7%	6.3%	21.2%	40.0%
Geographic Location	31.3%	14.3%	27.3%	25.0%	44.2%	30.0%
Reputation of Company	28.9%	7.1%	18.2%	31.3%	44.2%	30.0%
Opportunity for Advancement	39.1%	39.3%	59.1%	12.5%	40.4%	30.0%

*Note – n refers to number of respondents, not responses. Some student indicated multiple/other influences.

Of the students who anticipated attending graduate school, a total 13.2% applied and were offered admission to a program prior to graduation. A majority of AUM graduates (54.7%) will defer the application process for another year. Public Policy & Justice had the highest graduate/professional school acceptance rate of 23.5%.

Graduate or Professional School	AUM (N=190)	Arts & Sciences (n=57)	Business (n=31)	Education (n=41)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=44)	Public Policy & Justice (n=17)
Have been accepted and plan on attending a graduate program	11.1%	15.8%	12.9%	9.8%	0.0%	23.5%
Have been offered admission to at least one program, but haven't accepted	2.1%	1.8%	3.2%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Wait listed; will attend if accepted	3.7%	1.8%	3.2%	7.3%	2.3%	5.9%
Will begin applying immediately after graduation	25.8%	24.6%	35.5%	22.0%	22.7%	29.4%
Will not apply immediately, but will apply in the next year	54.7%	54.4%	45.2%	53.7%	70.5%	35.3%
Not accepted, but will reapply within five years	2.6%	1.8%	0.0%	2.4%	4.5%	5.9%

Of the students who were admitted to graduate school, 60% said they were accepted by their first choice, one student in Arts and Sciences reported being admitted to their second-choice institution, and 36% of did not indicate a preference for the graduate school to which they were admitted.

Program Choice	AUM (N=25)	Arts & Sciences (n=10)	Business (n=5)	Education (n=6)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=0)	Public Policy & Justice (n=4)
First	60.0%	70.0%	60.0%	33.3%	0.0%	75.0%
Second	4.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No preference indicated	36.0%	20.0%	40.0%	66.7%	0.0%	25.0%

Of the 25 students admitted to graduate school, one reported receiving a graduate assistantship/grant or award. That student was admitted into the Master's of Accountancy program at AUM.

Award	AUM (N=25)	Arts & Sciences (n=10)	Business (n=5)	Education (n=6)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=0)	Public Policy & Justice (n=4)
Graduate Assistantship/Grant or Award	4.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Two-thirds of undergraduate respondents (67.3%) expressed satisfaction that the services provided by the University assisted in preparing them for their post-college goals. Similarly, over three-fourths of students (77.7%) were satisfied that their overall experiences at AUM prepared them for their post-college goals.

University Services Helped Prepare for Post-College Goals	AUM (N=278)	Arts & Sciences (n=84)	Business (n=59)	Education (n=48)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=62)	Public Policy & Justice (n=25)
Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied	67.3%	60.7%	59.3%	79.2%	75.8%	64.0%
Overall Experiences at AUM Helped Prepare for Post-College Goals	(N=278)	(n=84)	(n=59)	(n=48)	(n=62)	(n=25)
Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied	77.7%	70.2%	74.6%	85.4%	85.5%	76.0%

Core Competencies

Students were next asked how well their general undergraduate experiences at AUM helped them acquire various core competencies. Across all colleges, no fewer than 75% of respondents confirmed that they've improved in any of these five areas thanks to AUM.

How satisfied are you that your general undergraduate experiences at AUM helped you to... (Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied)	AUM (N=291)	Arts & Sciences (n=88)	Business (n=61)	Education (n=53)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=62)	Public Policy & Justice (n=27)
Increase your written communication skills	89.7%	92.0%	88.5%	84.9%	90.3%	92.6%
Increase your verbal communication skills	90.7%	90.9%	88.5%	90.6%	91.9%	92.6%
Increase your critical thinking skills	89.7%	88.6%	86.9%	92.5%	91.9%	88.9%
Increase your quantitative reasoning skills	80.4%	75.0%	82.0%	75.5%	85.5%	92.6%
Increase your intercultural knowledge	81.1%	76.1%	78.7%	83.0%	83.9%	92.6%

*Note – 291 students answered at least one of the listed questions, with a minimum of 289 respondents per question.

Major Field Experiences

Seniors responded to a series of questions about their experiences within their major. For all items, the vast majority of respondents reported that they were satisfied (either somewhat or very) with their experiences. Arts & Sciences and Business students expressed that the institution provided high quality career advising at 55.7% and 56.5%, respectively.

Based on what you know now, how satisfied are you that your experiences in your major field at AUM...	AUM (N=304)	Arts & Sciences (n=88)	Business (n=62)	Education (n=56)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=69)	Public Policy & Justice (n=29)
provided a well-integrated set of courses	83.6%	80.7%	77.4%	89.3%	89.9%	79.3%
provided high-quality instruction	86.2%	86.4%	87.1%	85.7%	82.6%	93.1%
provided high-quality program advising	78.6%	79.5%	71.0%	76.8%	84.1%	82.8%
provided high-quality career advising	63.8%	55.7%	56.5%	69.6%	76.8%	62.1%
provided opportunity for communication between faculty and students regarding needs and concerns	85.2%	81.8%	85.5%	87.5%	85.5%	96.6%

*Note – 304 students answered at least one of the listed questions, with a minimum of 302 respondents per question.

Overall AUM Experiences

Graduating seniors were asked to rate their satisfaction with specific aspects of their overall experience at AUM. Responding students expressed a high degree of satisfaction (somewhat or very) with these experiences on the whole. All Colleges' respondents ranked AUM comparatively lower regarding the campus environment being free of discrimination. Arts & Sciences and Public Policy & Justice students were the least satisfied with their financial investment, while Education and Nursing & Health Sciences students rated their course of study and their overall AUM experiences most favorably.

Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, please indicate your satisfaction with the following:	AUM (N=273)	Arts & Sciences (n=83)	Business (n=56)	Education (n=51)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=60)	Public Policy & Justice (n=23)
The accessibility of faculty in general	85.0%	84.3%	89.3%	86.3%	81.7%	82.6%
The extent to which the campus environment was free of discrimination	67.0%	66.3%	71.4%	68.6%	61.7%	69.6%
Your overall course of study	85.3%	80.7%	82.1%	92.2%	91.7%	78.3%
That AUM fosters and exemplifies excellence in education	83.2%	78.3%	85.7%	90.2%	83.3%	78.3%
That the financial investment was worthwhile	75.5%	66.3%	73.2%	84.3%	86.7%	65.2%
Your overall AUM experience	86.1%	81.9%	82.1%	92.2%	91.7%	82.6%

*Note – 273 students answered at least one of the listed questions, with a minimum of 270 respondents per question.

Educational Enrichment Activities

Seniors were asked to report if they participated in activities designed to enhance their educational experiences or to provide a culminating experience. The results clearly illustrate the disciplinary preferences towards culminating experiences, with clinical assignments dominating the health sciences, practica dominating education, and capstones being most prevalent in the College of Business. Internships arranged through AUM have increased slightly since the last academic year, from 32.2% University-wide to 36.4%. However, if you remove the internships provided through the College of Education, the rest of AUM is only able to offer internships to approximately one in every five students (19.7%).

Overall, few students reported participating in a study abroad opportunity or an internship not arranged by AUM (6.8% and 11.9%, respectively). Additionally, graduates of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences were most likely to report participating in community service as a required component of a course or their program of study.

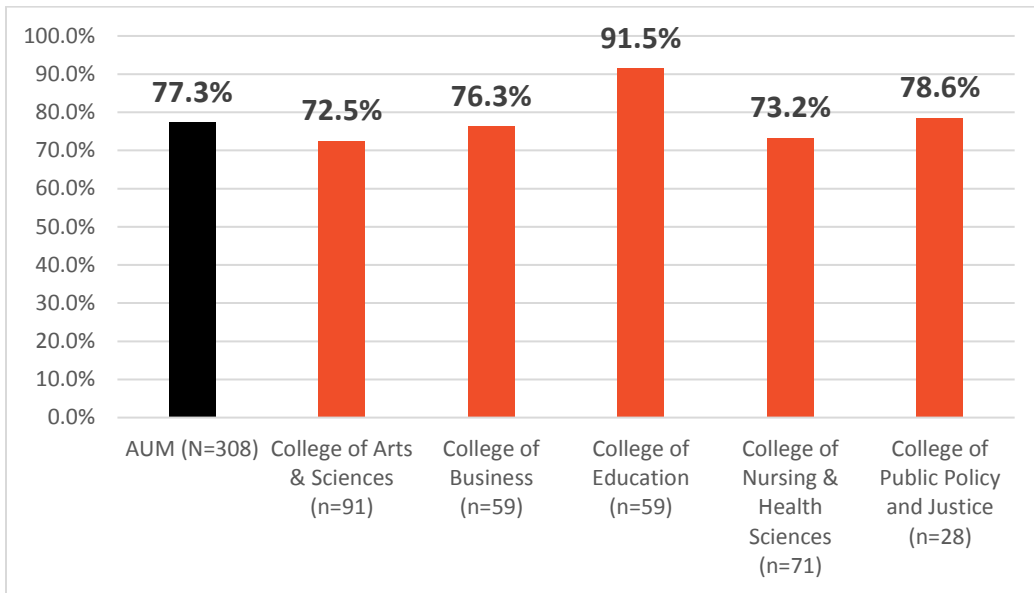
Activities	AUM (N=236)	Arts & Sciences (n=68)	Business (n=43)	Education (n=59)	Nursing & Health Sciences (n=53)	Public Policy & Justice (n=13)
Internship Arranged by AUM, School, or Department	36.4%	13.2%	20.9%	86.4%	24.5%	30.8%
Internship Not Arranged by AUM, School, or Department	11.9%	11.8%	14.0%	11.9%	7.5%	23.1%
Practicum	29.2%	17.6%	2.3%	62.7%	34.0%	7.7%
Clinical Assignment	23.3%	4.4%	2.3%	10.2%	84.9%	0.0%
Capstone Course	20.8%	36.8%	48.8%	0.0%	1.9%	15.4%
Study Abroad	6.8%	8.8%	9.3%	0.0%	3.8%	30.8%
Community Service as Part of a Course	16.9%	4.4%	14.0%	20.3%	30.2%	23.1%
Program Required Community Service	17.8%	8.8%	11.6%	11.9%	41.5%	15.4%
Community Service as Part of an AUM Organization or Group	34.7%	33.8%	44.2%	22.0%	37.7%	53.8%
Community Service not Affiliated with AUM	19.1%	14.7%	20.9%	15.3%	24.5%	30.8%

*Note – n refers to number of respondents, not responses. Some student indicated multiple activities.

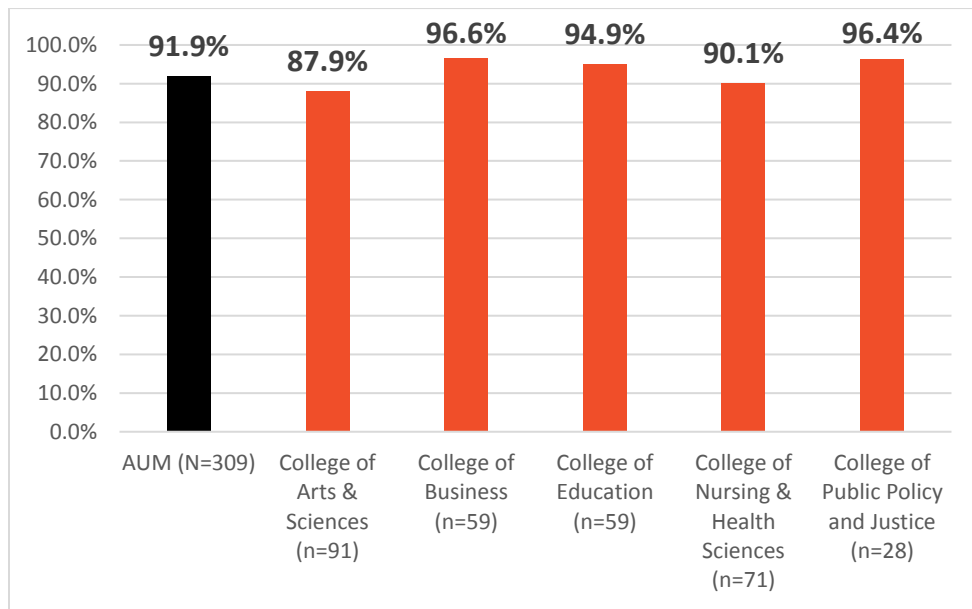
Sentiments for AUM

Graduating seniors were asked two questions to sum up their departing sentiments towards AUM. One asked if students would attend AUM again if they had to do everything over. Over 70% of respondents in each College said they would, with the College of Education receiving top marks with 54 of 59 students answering in the affirmative. The second question asked if students would recommend AUM to others. Over 90% of each College’s graduating seniors agreed that they would recommend AUM to other prospective students, except for the College of Arts & Sciences that narrowly missed the threshold.

Would you start over at AUM if you had to do it again?



Would you recommend AUM to others?



Graduate Results

Post-graduation Plans

Graduate students were asked if they planned on obtaining further education and/or gaining employment after graduation. About half (52.6%) of the respondents in each school anticipated working full-time after graduation, and there's another large cohort of students who intend on attaining additional graduate credentials.

	AUM (N=152)	Arts & Sciences (n=27)	Business (n=37)	Education (n=71)	Public Policy & Justice (n=17)
Full-time Employment Only	52.6%	29.6%	75.7%	50.7%	47.1%
Part-time Employment Only	2.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%
Part-time Employment and Graduate/Professional School	3.9%	11.1%	0.0%	2.8%	5.9%
Full-time Employment And Graduate/Professional School	28.3%	33.3%	16.2%	33.8%	23.5%
Full-time or Part-time Employment and Enrollment in a Certificate Program	13.2%	18.5%	8.1%	12.7%	17.6%

Of the students who anticipated being employed full-time after graduation, 73.1% had secured positions before they walked across the stage. Students in College of Public Policy & Justice were most likely to report having secured employment (85.7%), while students in the College of Arts and Sciences were least likely to do so (52.4%). Of those who secured employment, students in the College of Business all kept the jobs they held prior to graduation (100%), and conversely, the graduates of the College of Education were most likely to be offered new employment upon graduation (29.6%).

Full-time Employment	AUM (N=145)	Arts & Sciences (n=21)	Business (n=37)	Education (n=73)	Public Policy & Justice (n=14)
Secured Employment, or Offered Employment, Prior to Graduation	73.1%	52.4%	78.4%	74.0%	85.7%
<i>*Very Related to Degree</i>	64.3%	45.5%	50.0%	77.1%	63.6%
<i>*Marginally Related to Degree</i>	23.5%	36.4%	32.1%	14.6%	27.3%
<i>*Unrelated to Degree</i>	12.2%	18.2%	17.9%	8.3%	9.1%
Employed Prior to Graduation	92.5%	90.9%	100.0%	70.4%	91.7%
Not Employed (Currently, or Will Begin, Searching for Employment)	22.1%	38.1%	21.6%	19.2%	14.3%

The majority (55.3%) of students who said that they secured employment anticipated working in the Tri-County area (Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery counties). The second largest group of students (32.0%) reported that they would work in Alabama but outside of the River Region area.

Employer Location	AUM (N=103)	Arts & Sciences (n=13)	Business (n=27)	Education (n=54)	Public Policy & Justice (n=9)
Tri-County Area	55.3%	53.8%	59.3%	53.7%	55.6%
Alabama (Outside Tri-County Area)	32.0%	23.1%	37.0%	37.0%	0.0%
United States (Outside Alabama)	6.8%	15.4%	0.0%	7.4%	11.1%
Another Country	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Multiple Locations	5.8%	7.7%	3.7%	1.9%	33.3%

In contrast to the undergraduate section that reported on wages, it is much more common for our graduate degree-earning population to be paid an annual salary. Only 23 graduate students indicated being paid hourly, 12 of which provided an hourly rate, compared with the 55 that reported a salary. The College of Education dominated the sample below, and by student count had the majority of salaries earned between the \$30,000 and \$60,000. Alternatively, the College of Business graduates, aside from one in the College of Education, comprised the population of students earning salaries greater than \$60,000.

Annual Salary	AUM (N=55)	Arts & Sciences (n=5)	Business (n=15)	Education (n=33)	Public Policy & Justice (n=2)
<\$30,000	5.5%	20.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	20.0%	0.0%	26.7%	21.2%	0.0%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	38.2%	60.0%	13.3%	45.5%	50.0%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	18.2%	20.0%	0.0%	24.2%	50.0%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	10.9%	0.0%	33.3%	3.0%	0.0%
>\$80,000	7.3%	0.0%	26.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Graduating graduate students were asked how they learned of the secured full-time position. Most (21.9%) respondents reported that they learned of the position after being previously employed by the organization, while 26.0% said they found the position by contacting the employer directly. Over one-third (44.4%) of the College of Business graduates responses indicated that jobs were found from previous employment with the organization.

Learned of Position	AUM (N=96)	Arts & Sciences (n=12)	Business (n=27)	Education (n=48)	Public Policy & Justice (n=9)
Referral by Career Services	1.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Campus Interview	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%
Contacted Employer Directly	26.0%	33.3%	11.1%	29.2%	44.4%
Previously Employed by this Organization	21.9%	8.3%	44.4%	14.6%	22.2%
Family/Friend/Faculty Referral	26.0%	25.0%	18.5%	31.3%	22.2%
Online or Newspaper Job Listing	17.7%	16.7%	22.2%	14.6%	22.2%
Family Business	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%

*Note – n refers to number of respondents, not responses. Some students indicated multiple/other methods.

When asked what primarily influenced them to accept the full-time position, responding graduate students reported a wide variety of reasons. Over one-fourth (34.4%) of the responses indicated that the primary influence was opportunity for advancement. Previous Employment was the second most commonly cited influence (29.0%) among all students.

Influence on Job Acceptance	AUM (N=93)	Arts & Sciences (n=12)	Business (n=26)	Education (n=46)	Public Policy & Justice (n=9)
Previous Employment	29.0%	16.7%	38.5%	26.1%	33.3%
First Offer	17.2%	25.0%	15.4%	15.2%	22.2%
Salary	18.3%	0.0%	23.1%	19.6%	22.2%
Geographic Location	21.5%	25.0%	15.4%	26.1%	11.1%
Reputation of Company	22.6%	41.7%	23.1%	19.6%	11.1%
Opportunity for Advancement	34.4%	16.7%	61.5%	23.9%	33.3%

*Note – n refers to number of respondents, not responses. Some students indicated multiple/other methods.

Of the graduate students who anticipated attending additional graduate school, (10.0%) were offered admission in programs prior to graduation. 50% of AUM Students will not apply immediately after graduation but will in the next year. Seven students responded “Other”, and four of those indicated not having applied yet, but will apply within five years.

Graduate or Professional School	AUM (N=50)	Arts & Sciences (n=12)	Business (n=6)	Education (n=27)	Public Policy & Justice (n=5)
Have been accepted and plan on attending a graduate program	10.0%	8.3%	0.0%	14.8%	0.0%
Have been offered admission to at least one program, but haven't accepted	2.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wait listed; will attend if accepted	8.0%	8.3%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Will begin applying immediately after graduation	16.0%	8.3%	16.7%	14.8%	40.0%
Will not apply immediately, but will apply in the next year	50.0%	33.3%	50.0%	55.6%	60.0%
Other	14.0%	33.3%	33.3%	3.7%	0.0%

Of this small sample of AUM graduate students who were admitted to graduate school, 33.3% said they were accepted by their first choice.

Program Choice	AUM (N=6)	Arts & Sciences (n=2)	Business (n=0)	Education (n=4)	Public Policy & Justice (n=0)
First	33.3%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%
Second	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%
No indication	33.3%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%

Two of the six students who were accepted into another graduate program listed that they received a graduate assistantship, grant, or award. One received an award from their first choice institution, and the other from their second.

Award	AUM (N=6)	Arts & Sciences (n=2)	Business (n=0)	Education (n=4)	Public Policy & Justice (n=0)
Graduate Assistantship/Grant or Award	33.3%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%

For all schools, a majority of responding graduate level students graduating expressed satisfaction that the university as well as their overall experiences at AUM assisted them prepare for their post-graduation goals.

University Services Helped Prepare for Post-College Goals	AUM (N=127)	Arts & Sciences (n=20)	Business (n=34)	Education (n=61)	Public Policy & Justice (n=12)
Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied	65.4%	50.0%	64.7%	73.8%	50.0%
Overall Experiences at AUM Helped Prepare for Post-College Goals	(n=127)	(n=20)	(n=34)	(n=61)	(n=12)
Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied	77.2%	75.0%	76.5%	83.6%	50.0%

Major Field Experiences

Graduate students then responded to a series of questions about their experiences within their major. For most items, a large majority of students reported that they were satisfied with their experiences. The College of Public Policy & Justice was rated markedly lower than the AUM average in each area outside of writing effectively, but each College's lowest rating was their career advising. Arts & Sciences was significantly lowest in that category with a 37% satisfaction rate.

Based on what you know now, how satisfied are you that your experiences in your major field at AUM:	AUM (N=156)	Arts & Sciences (n=27)	Business (n=38)	Education (n=75)	Public Policy & Justice (n=16)
helped develop an ability to write effectively	86.5%	88.9%	86.8%	85.3%	87.5%
helped develop an ability to effectively communicate verbally	85.9%	77.8%	86.8%	92.0%	68.8%
provided a well-integrated set of courses	83.3%	74.1%	89.5%	88.0%	62.5%
provided high-quality instruction	83.3%	81.5%	78.9%	89.3%	68.8%
provided high-quality program advising	77.6%	77.8%	73.7%	81.3%	68.8%
provided high-quality career advising	61.5%	37.0%	55.3%	74.7%	56.3%
provided opportunity for communication between faculty and students regarding needs and concerns	84.6%	81.5%	84.2%	90.7%	62.5%

*Note – 157 students answered at least one of the listed questions, with a minimum of 156 respondents per question.

Overall AUM Experiences

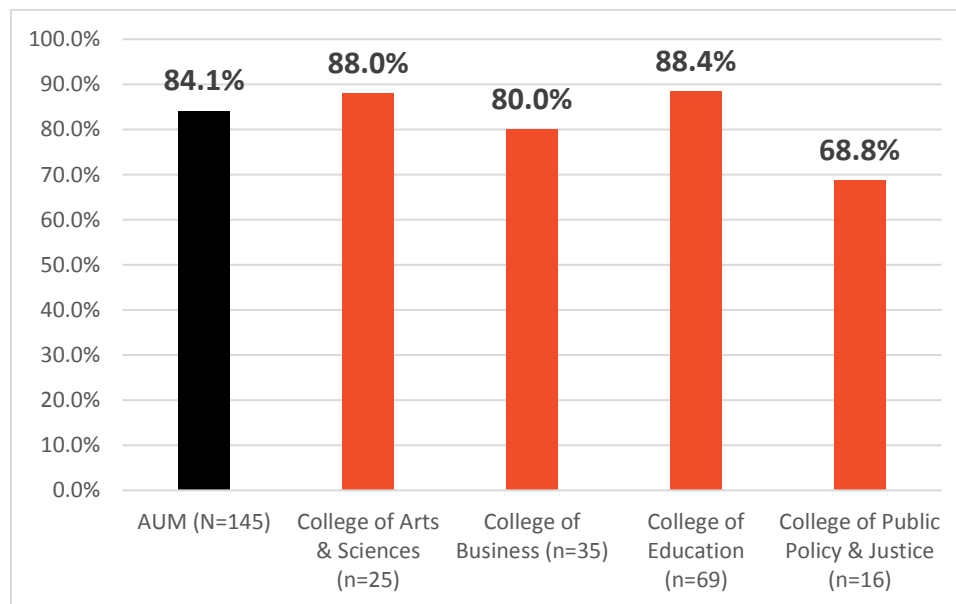
Graduate students were asked to rate their satisfaction with their overall experiences at AUM. Responding students expressed a high degree of satisfaction (somewhat satisfied or very satisfied) with these experiences.

Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, please indicate your satisfaction with the following:	AUM (N=127)	Arts & Sciences (n=23)	Business (n=32)	Education (n=58)	Public Policy & Justice (n=14)
The accessibility of faculty in general	85.8%	95.7%	87.5%	84.5%	71.4%
The extent to which the campus environment was free of discrimination	83.5%	95.7%	87.5%	81.0%	64.3%
Your overall course of study	81.9%	87.0%	87.5%	79.3%	71.4%
That AUM fosters and exemplifies excellence in education	81.1%	69.6%	84.4%	86.2%	71.4%
That the financial investment was worthwhile	78.7%	69.6%	87.5%	77.6%	78.6%
Your overall AUM experience	83.5%	82.6%	84.4%	86.2%	71.4%

Sentiments for AUM

Graduate completers were asked two questions to sum up their departing sentiments towards AUM. One asked if students would attend AUM again if they had to do everything over. Over 80% of respondents in each College outside of Public Policy & Justice confirmed they would; top marks go to the Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences with 88.4% and 88.0%, respectively. The second question asked if students would recommend AUM to others. Over 90% of each College’s graduates agreed that they would recommend AUM to other prospective students.

Would you start over at AUM if you had to do it again?



Would you recommend AUM to others?

