

NPS Graduating Students Survey

AY 2009 All Distant Learning (DL) Students Summary Findings

Introduction

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) maintains a constant commitment to high quality education and research relevant to the mission of the Navy and Department of Defense (DoD). Through the use of surveys, student feedback has provided valuable and essential information for evaluating and assessing the school's effectiveness in achieving its strategic goals. Since 1993, a principal vehicle for monitoring student perception of these goals has been the exit survey, administered to graduating students at the end of each academic quarter. Specifically, the exit survey addresses educational effectiveness, support services and resources, and the uniqueness and relevance of the DoD to the graduate education of NPS students.

Methodology

Survey

The NPS Graduating Students Survey consisted of 37 items rated on a five-point Likert scale, extending from strongly disagree to strongly agree, as well as a non-choice option. The last item asks for (open-ended) comments on any experience at NPS. GSEAS has five additional questions beyond the open-ended question. Current WASC standards helped guide the development of the survey items. The relationship between the survey items and the WASC standards can be referenced from the document "Crosswalk of NPS Graduating Student Survey Items with WASC Criteria for Review".

Analysis

Target Population consisted of current term graduating students in NPS degree programs for DL students.

- Surveys were administered to 367 graduating DL students.

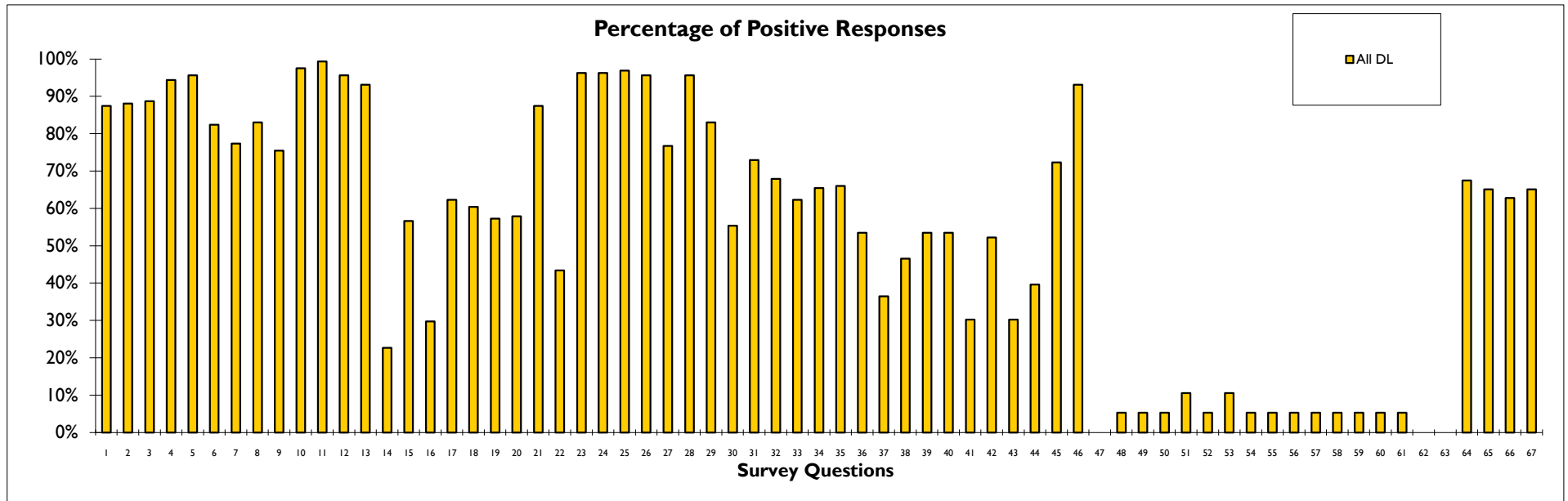
- Total respondents = 159 students 43% response rate

Data Analysis: Survey response data is organized and analyzed for all of the four schools (GSBPP, GSEAS, GSOIS, SIGS), examining percentage of all DL respondents. The top 10 positive responses (Strongly agree + Agree), as well as top 10 negative responses (Strongly disagree + Disagree) are presented. Additionally, a demographic analysis of gender, ethnicity, and service is presented.

Results

Chart I

Percentage of Positive Responses for All DL Students



1. Instruction and research at NPS had the ultimate goal of enhancing combat effectiveness of the US and Allied armed forces.
2. The University administration is committed to supporting teaching and research for the purpose of enhancing combat effectiveness of the US and Allied armed forces.
3. The unique defense-oriented environment made my graduate education at NPS more relevant than it would have been at a civilian university.
4. My curriculum was related to national security or defense needs.
5. My education at NPS is relevant to my future assignments and responsibilities.
6. Completing a thesis, group project or capstone project was a valuable component of my NPS education.
7. My thesis or capstone research project at NPS made a useful contribution to combat effectiveness or another national security need.
8. My coursework and research at NPS were closely integrated.
9. NPS is always working to improve instruction and research.
10. I understood the body of knowledge and skills I was expected to master for my degree program.
11. My academic background was adequate preparation for successful completion of my program.
12. The grades I received at NPS accurately reflected the level of my performance.
13. The tests that I took at NPS were fair and relevant.
14. Refresher courses at NPS were sufficient to prepare me for subsequent course work.
15. NPS provided opportunities for learning outside the regular curricular program.

16. My NPS program provided me with sufficient electives to pursue my special military career interests
17. Diversity in Service enriched my NPS education
18. Diversity in culture enriched my NPS education
19. Diversity in ethnicity enriched my NPS education
20. Diversity in gender enriched my NPS education
21. NPS represented itself accurately in promotional materials and representations about the school
22. I was aware that NPS had an appeals process for student academic complaints.
23. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to teaching
24. NPS faculty members involved me in active and participative learning experiences
25. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to my success as a student.
26. NPS faculty in my program were generally available to provide additional assistance outside the classroom when I needed it.
27. NPS faculty in my program utilized student feedback to improve the educational program.
28. My faculty appeared to be well qualified for the defense-related teaching and research done in my curriculum or program.
29. I received the faculty advice and guidance that I needed to successfully complete my thesis, group project or capstone research project.
30. NPS personnel facilitated my transition to student life
31. Registrar: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.

32. Scheduling: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
33. Student Services: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
34. Program Officer: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
35. Program Office Staff: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
36. Thesis Processing: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
37. Lab Techs: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
38. Books: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
39. Databases: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
40. Journals: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
41. Facilities (computers, study rooms, carrels): NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs
42. Reference Assistance & Instruction: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs
43. Restricted Resources and Services: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs
44. Services (circulation, interlibrary loan, course reserve, printing, etc): NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs
45. NPS computer services met all my course work and research needs

46. I would recommend NPS to other military officers or defense civilians for their graduate education
47. Commuting and parking were not a problem at NPS
48. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Accessible
49. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Adequate in number
50. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Good Working Condition
51. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Equipped w/ Current Technologies
52. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Well Maintained
53. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Responsive to course & research needs
54. The overall quality, appearance and currency of the NON-LABORATORY facilities in my program left me with a favorable, positive impression.
55. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Accessible
56. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Good working condition.
57. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Equipped w/current technologies
58. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: focused on combat capabilities

59. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Well maintained
60. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Responsive to Course & Research Needs
61. The overall quality, appearance and currency of the LABORATORIES in my program left me with a favorable, positive impression.
62. Adequate health services were available for my family and me while at NPS.
63. Open-Ended Response
64. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I understand the capabilities and limitations of current/future technologies in battle space environments.
65. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I am able to apply emerging and advanced technologies to enhanced joint war-fighting capabilities.
66. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I am able to anticipate, respond, and lead in future complex, rapidly changing technological environments.
67. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I will be able to represent the technical needs and interests of my service both within my service, as well as to other services, constituencies and communities (including OSD, Joint Staff and industry).
68. Did you attend the majority of your courses on the NPS campus?

Chart 2

Top 10 Positive Responses for All DL Students

Survey Question	% All Resident Respondents
11. My academic background was adequate preparation for successful completion of my program.	99%
10. I understood the body of knowledge and skills I was expected to master for my degree program.	97%
25. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to my success as a student.	97%
24. NPS faculty members involved me in active and participative learning experiences	96%
23. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to teaching	96%
26. NPS faculty in my program were generally available to provide additional assistance outside the classroom when I needed it.	96%
12. The grades I received at NPS accurately reflected the level of my performance.	96%
28. My faculty appeared to be well qualified for the defense-related teaching and research done in my curriculum or program.	96%
5. My education at NPS is relevant to my future assignments and responsibilities.	96%
4. My curriculum was related to national security or defense needs.	94%

Positive Responses = Strongly agree + Agree

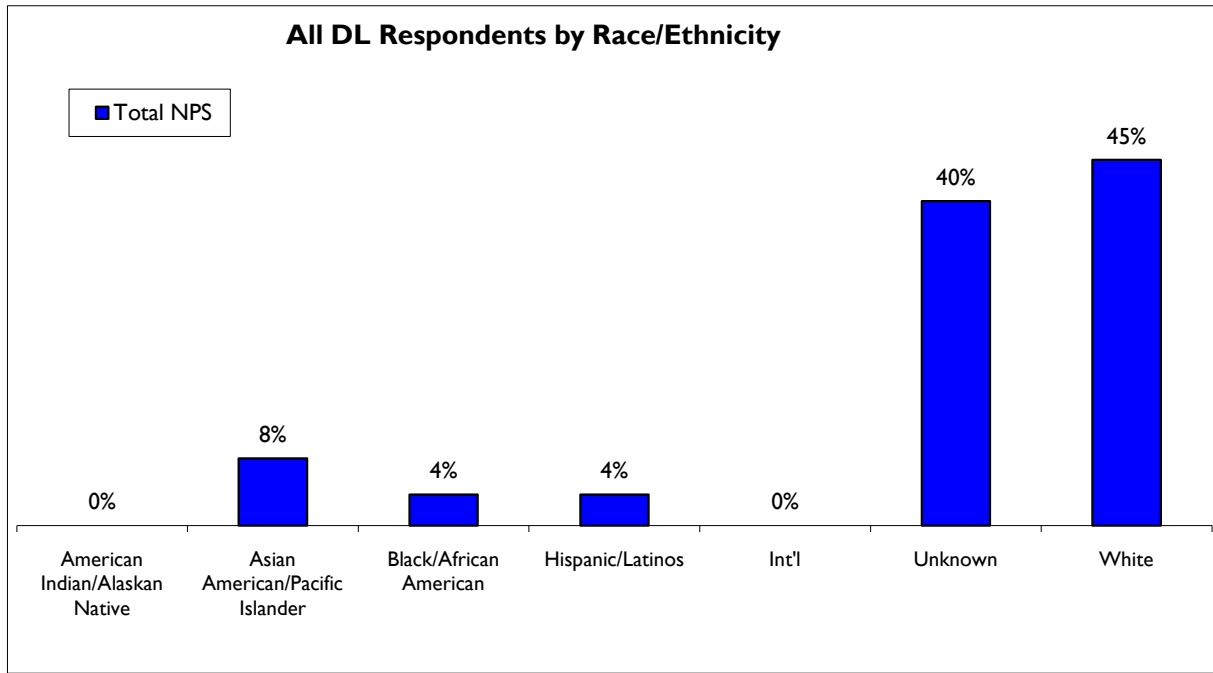
Chart 3

Top 10 Negative Responses for All DL Students

Survey Question	% All Resident Respondents
22. I was aware that NPS had an appeals process for student academic complaints.	33%
16. My NPS program provided me with sufficient electives to pursue my special military career interests	15%
7. My thesis or capstone research project at NPS made a useful contribution to combat effectiveness or another national security need.	13%
6. Completing a thesis, group project or capstone project was a valuable component of my NPS education.	13%
15. NPS provided opportunities for learning outside the regular curricular program.	12%
29. I received the faculty advice and guidance that I needed to successfully complete my thesis, group project or capstone research project.	9%
20. Diversity in gender enriched my NPS education	9%
19. Diversity in ethnicity enriched my NPS education	9%
18. Diversity in culture enriched my NPS education	9%
21. NPS represented itself accurately in promotional materials and representations about the school	7%

Negative Responses = Strongly disagree + Disagree

Chart 4



Exit Survey Demographics

Chart 6

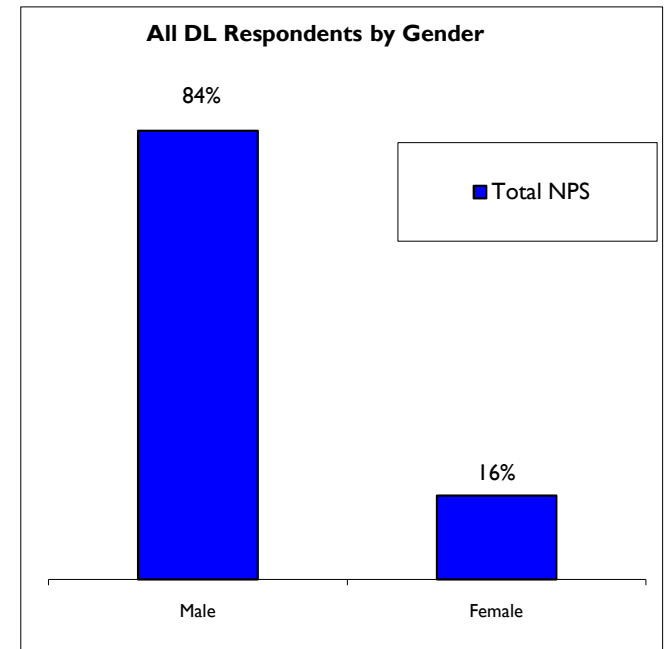


Chart 5

