

NPS Graduating Students Survey

AY 2010 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 449 graduating DL students.

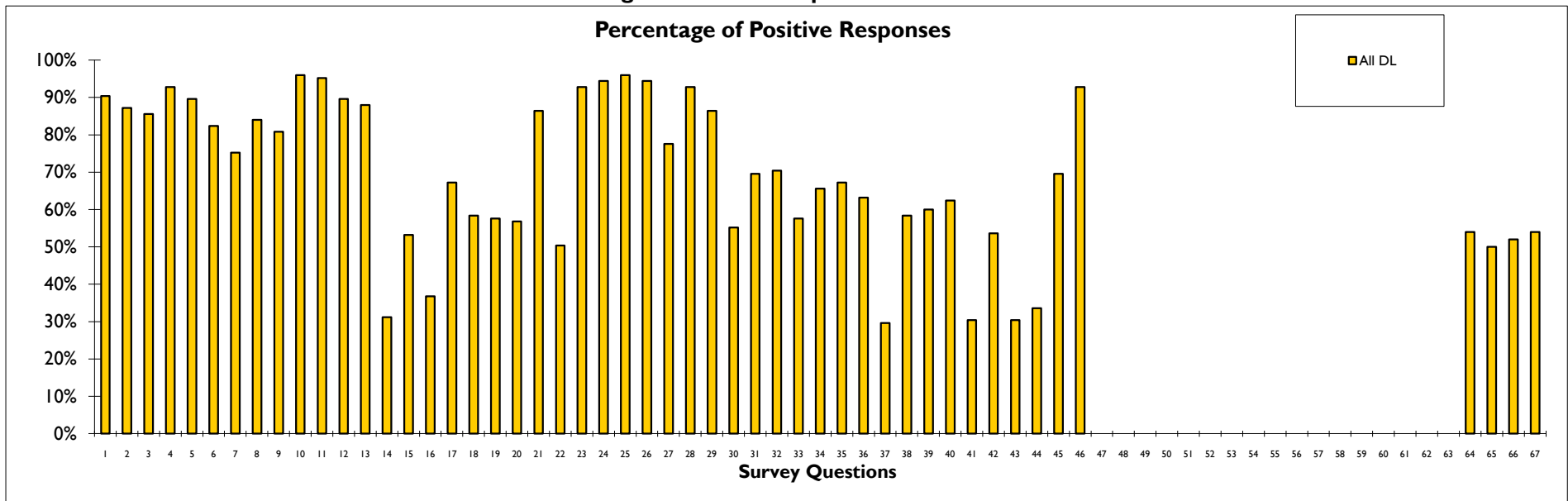
- Total respondents = 125 students 28% response rate

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
10. I understood the body of knowledge and skills I was expected to master for my degree program.	96%
25. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to my success as a student.	96%
11. My academic background was adequate preparation for successful completion of my program.	95%
24. NPS faculty members involved me in active and participative learning experiences	94%
26. NPS faculty in my program were generally available to provide additional assistance outside the classroom when I needed it.	94%
23. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to teaching	93%
28. My faculty appeared to be well qualified for the defense-related teaching and research done in my curriculum or program.	93%
4. My curriculum was related to national security or defense needs.	93%
46. I would recommend NPS to other military officers or defense civilians for their graduate education	93%
1. Instruction and research at NPS had the ultimate goal of enhancing combat effectiveness of the US and Allied armed forces.	90%

Positive Responses = Strongly agree + Agree

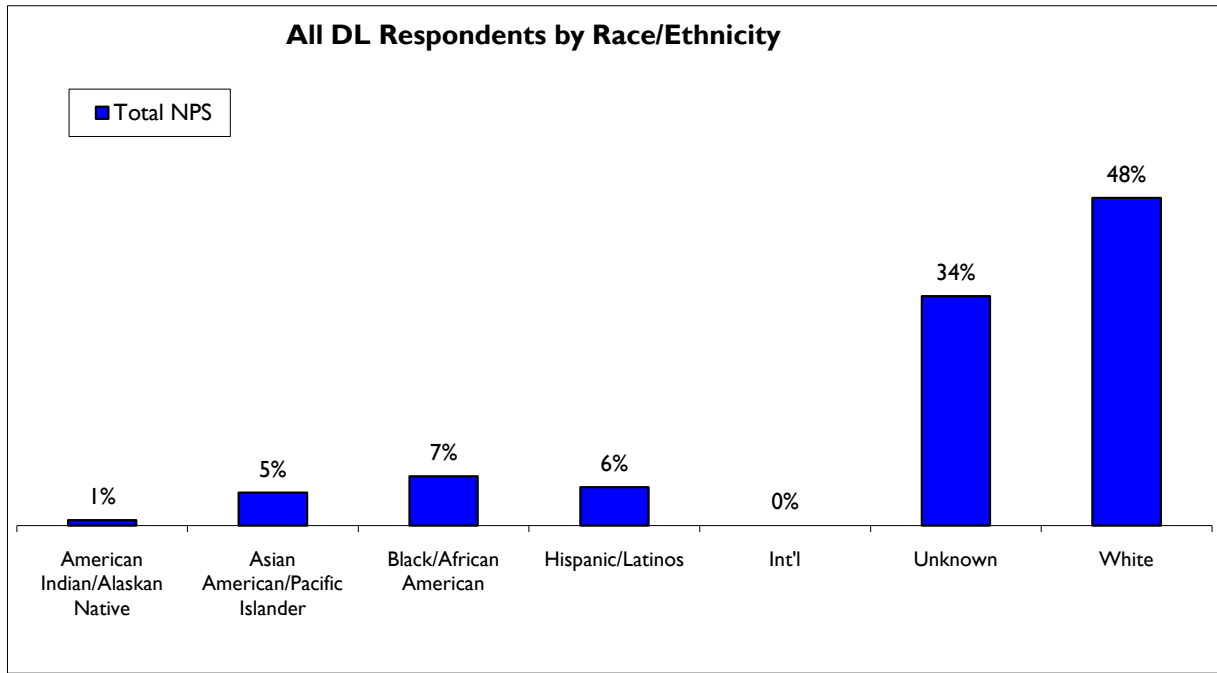
Chart 3

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.	30%
16. My NPS program provided me with sufficient electives to pursue my special military career interests	14%
18. Diversity in culture enriched my NPS education	13%
6. Completing a thesis, group project or capstone project was a valuable component of my NPS education.	12%
20. Diversity in gender enriched my NPS education	12%
19. Diversity in ethnicity enriched my NPS education	10%
15. NPS provided opportunities for learning outside the regular curricular program.	10%
7. My thesis or capstone research project at NPS made a useful contribution to combat effectiveness or another national security need.	10%
17. Diversity in Service enriched my NPS education	9%
45. NPS computer services met all my course work and research needs	9%

Negative Responses = Strongly disagree + Disagree

Chart 4



Exit Survey Demographics

Chart 6

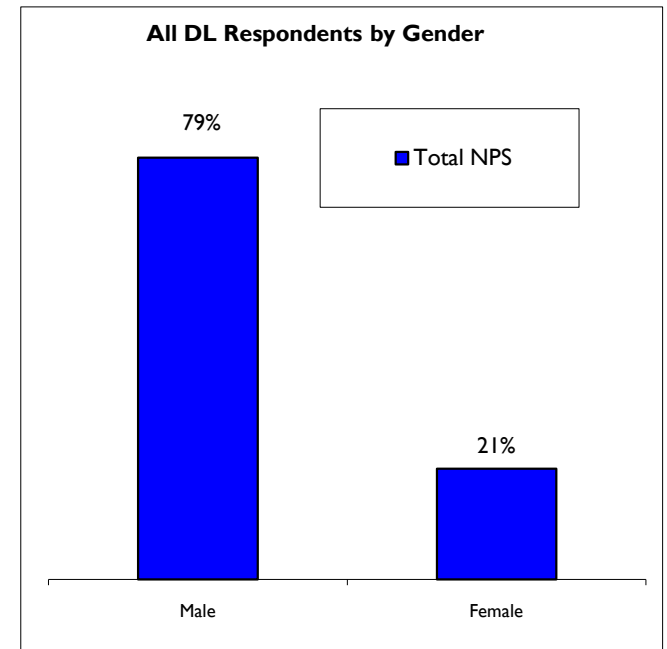


Chart 5

