



# Graduate Exit 2009 Survey Results

Strategic Research & Analysis

Valdosta State University

<http://www.valdosta.edu/sra>

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*Questions about the information contained in this report should be directed to Strategic Research & Analysis. Information in this report can be used with appropriate citations to Strategic Research & Analysis for our work.*

# Structure of Report

- Overview
- Highest Rated Items
- Respondent Demographics
- Program Perceptions
- Overall Perceptions
- Future Plans
- Appendices – Summaries of Survey Responses

# Overview

- This survey is applicable to all graduating graduate students for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).
- Participants are asked to:
  - rate aspects of their course curriculum and their experiences at VSU.
  - rate their overall perception of VSU's social and learning experiences.
  - indicate their future plans after graduation.

# Overview

- In 2009, the Graduate Exit survey was revised and conducted online via BANNER for the first time.
- Students were able to take the survey in BANNER from November 1, 2008 to May 15, 2009.
- A total of 97 responses were received via BANNER.
  - Exhibits 1 through 24 illustrate survey responses in graphical format.
  - Exhibit 25 (located in Appendix A) provides tabular summaries of responses.

# Overview

- A total of 72 responses to the original paper format were also received in FY2009.
- As the paper survey differs substantially from the revised version of the survey in BANNER, responses from the two groups of respondents could not be combined.
  - Exhibits 26 to 28 (located in Appendix B) provide tabular summaries of responses from the paper surveys.
- The overall response rate, based on BANNER and paper surveys, was 35%.

# Highest Rated Items

## Effectiveness of courses and instruction:

- Course availability in the major field of study was rated as excellent or good by over 90% of participants.
- Quality of overall instruction in required courses was rated as excellent or good by over 90% of participants.
- Course curriculum in the major field of study was rated as excellent or good by over 90% of participants.

## Overall Perception:

- Faculty in the major academic department were rated as excellent or good by over 85% of participants.
- Overall satisfaction with VSU was rated as excellent or good by over 90% of participants.
- Over 85% of participants would recommend VSU to others.



# Demographics

# Demographics

- Exhibit 1 shows that 76.3% of participants are White.
- Exhibit 2 shows that 33.0% of participants ranged in age from 22 to 25 years.

EXHIBIT 1: ETHNICITY

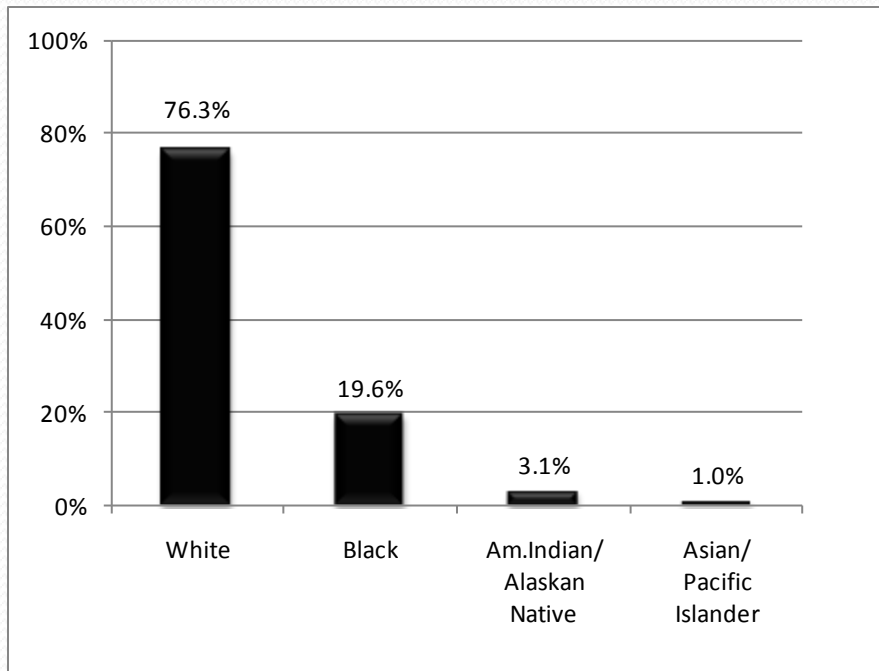
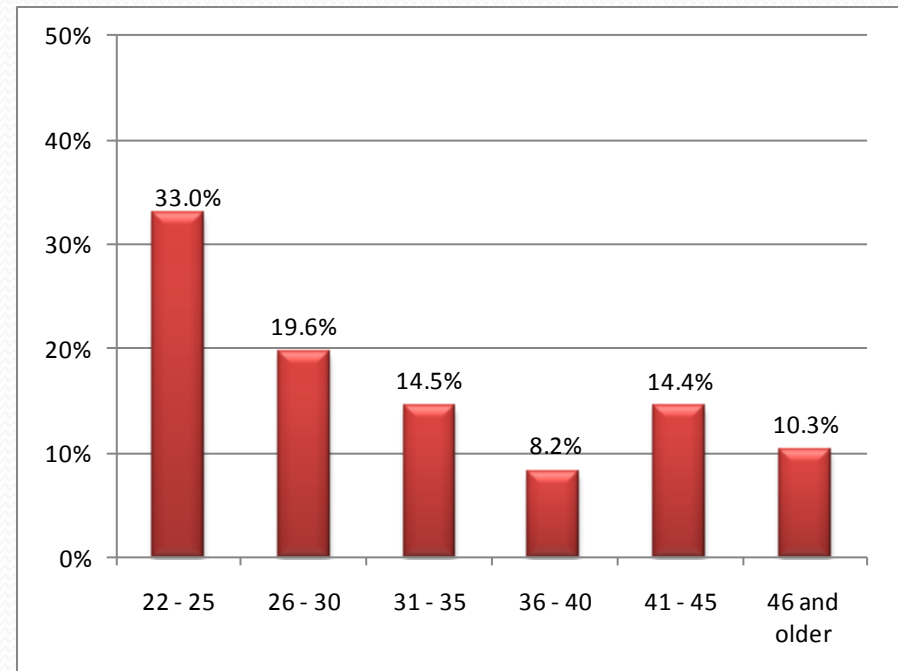


EXHIBIT 2: AGE



Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.



# Demographics

- Exhibit 3 shows that graduate students from Social Work were the largest participating group (25.8%).
- Exhibit 4 shows that 63.9% of participants pursued their degree in the College of Education.

EXHIBIT 3: LARGEST MAJORS

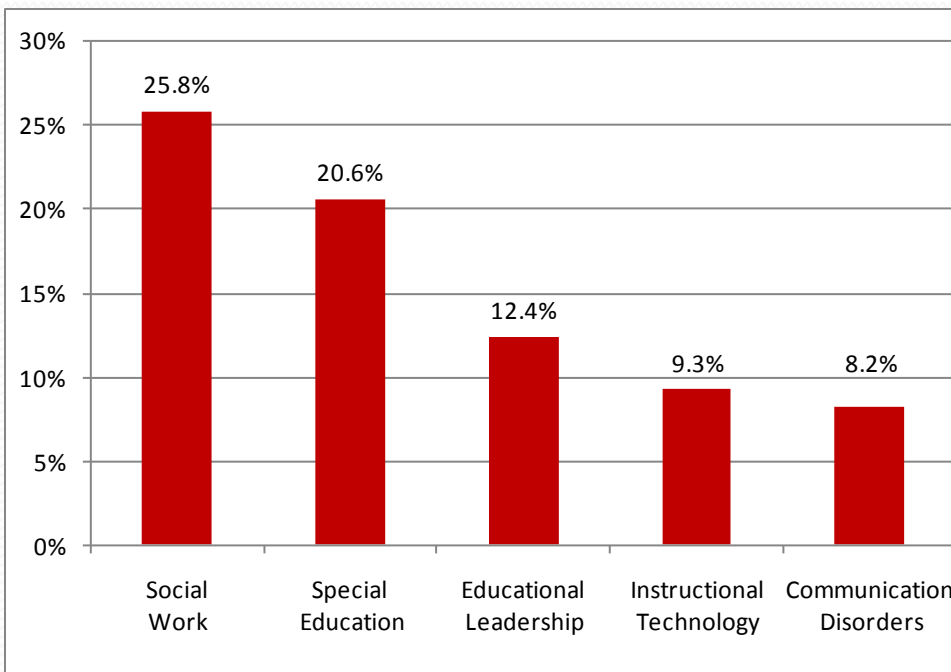
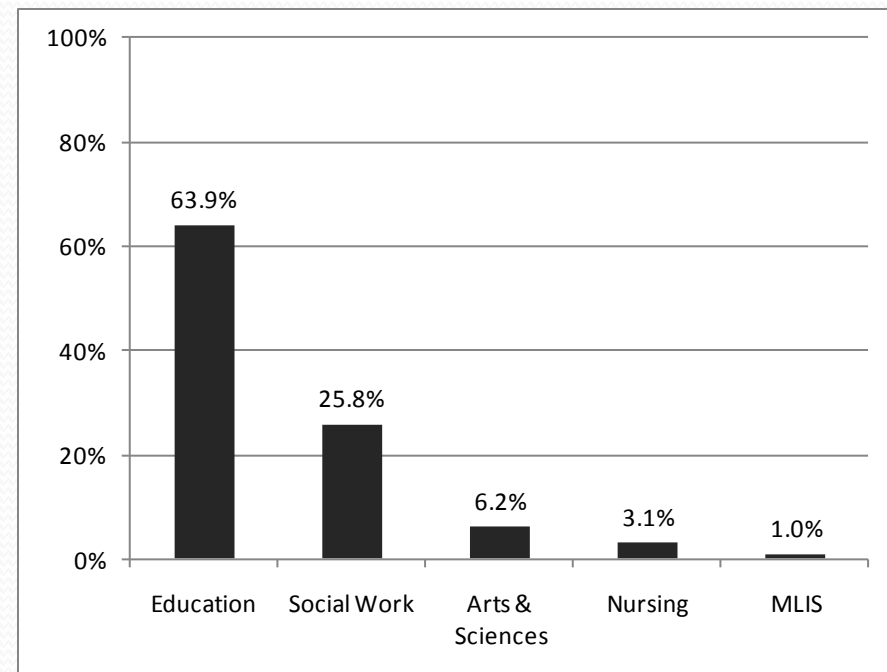


EXHIBIT 4: COLLEGE



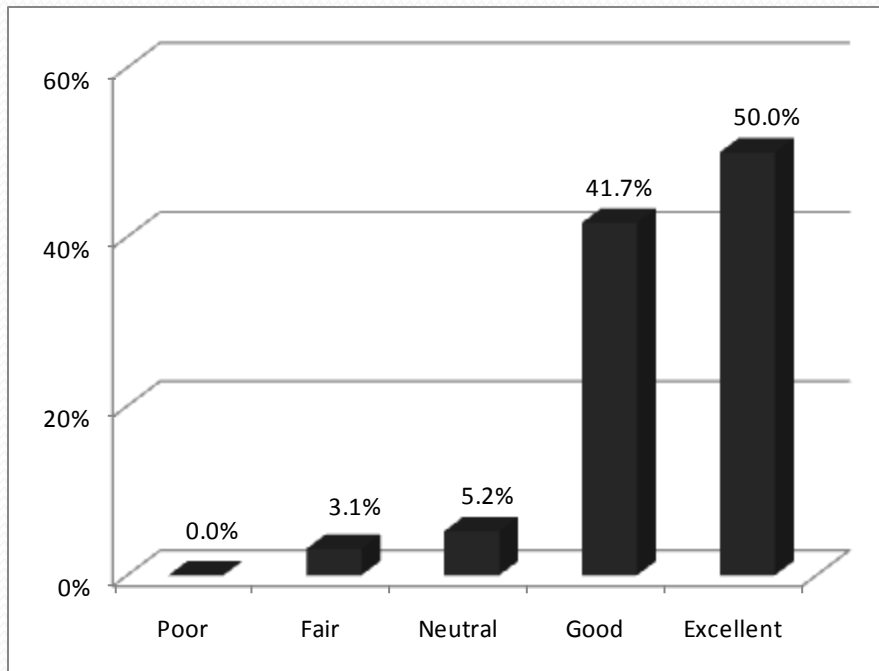


# Program Perceptions

# Course Availability

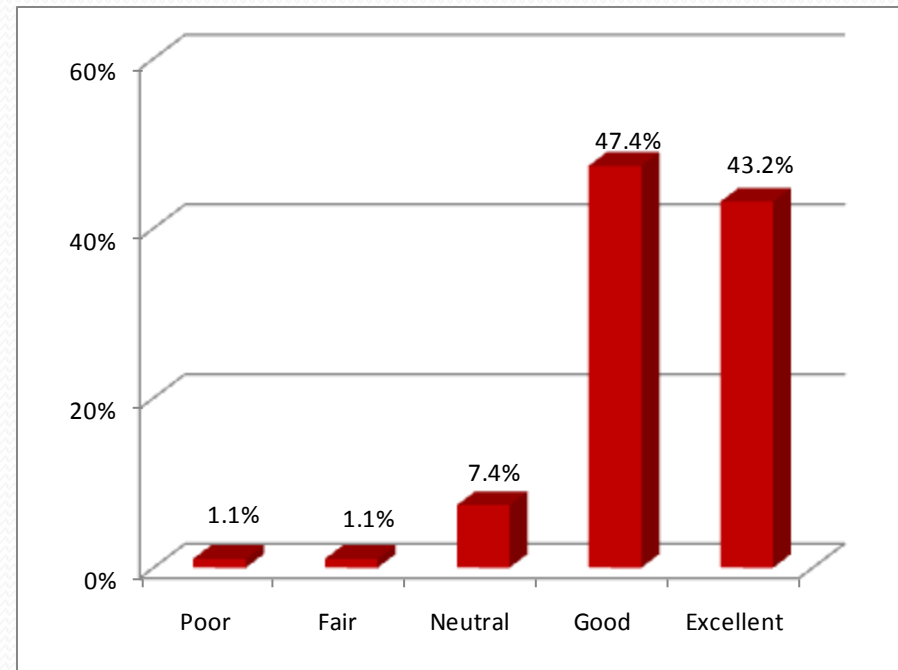
- Exhibit 5 shows that 91.7% of participants rated the availability of required courses as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 6 shows that 90.6% of participants rated the availability of courses in their field of study as either good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 5: AVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED COURSES



Source: VSU SRA Office, September, 2009.

EXHIBIT 6: AVAILABILITY OF COURSES IN MY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY



# Overall Quality of Instruction

- Exhibit 7 shows that 93.6% of participants rated the overall quality of instruction in required courses as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 8 shows that 89.5% of participants rated the overall quality of instruction in their major field of study as good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 7: OVERALL QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN  
REQUIRED COURSES

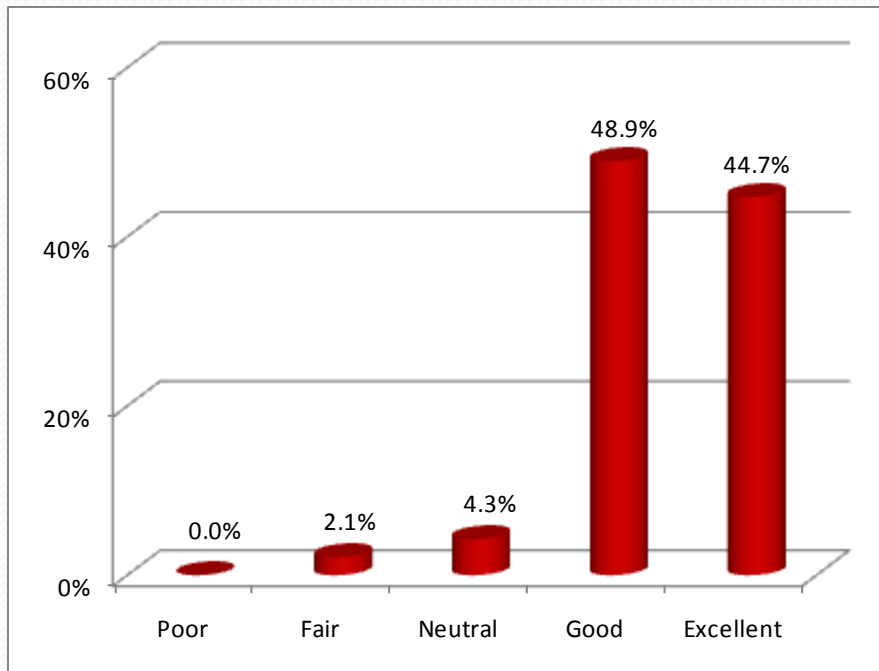
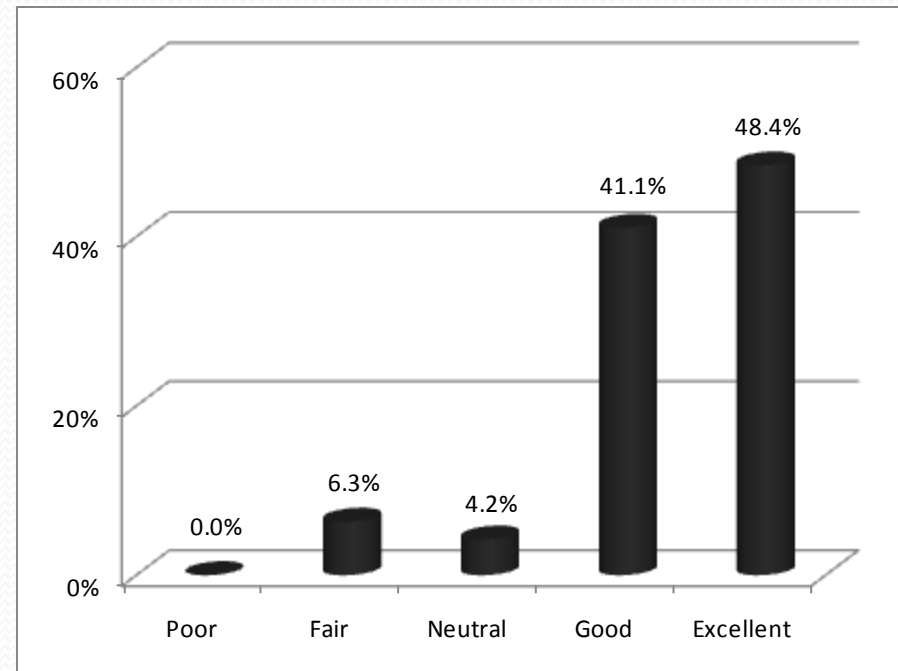


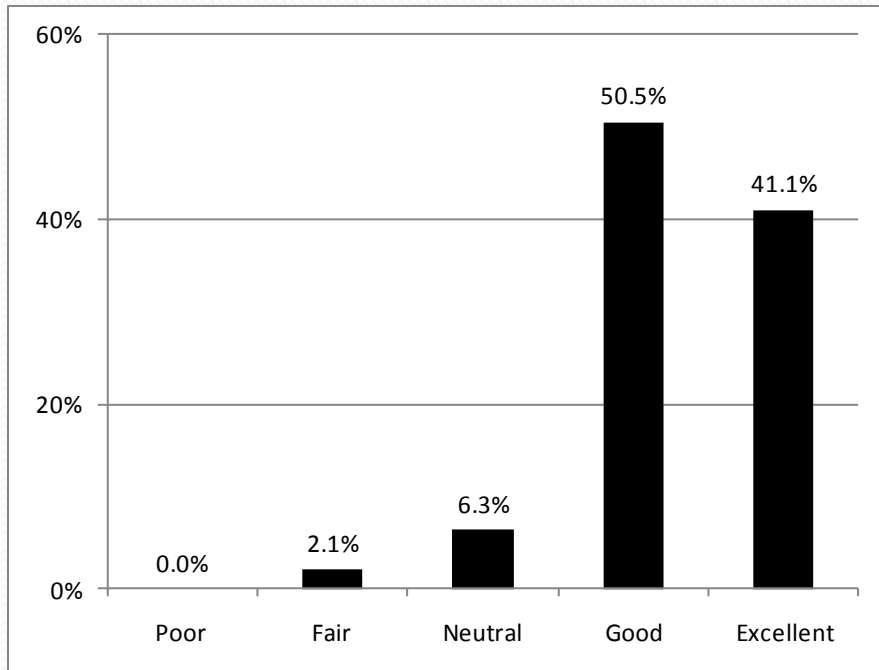
EXHIBIT 8: OVERALL QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN MY  
MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY



# Course Curriculum

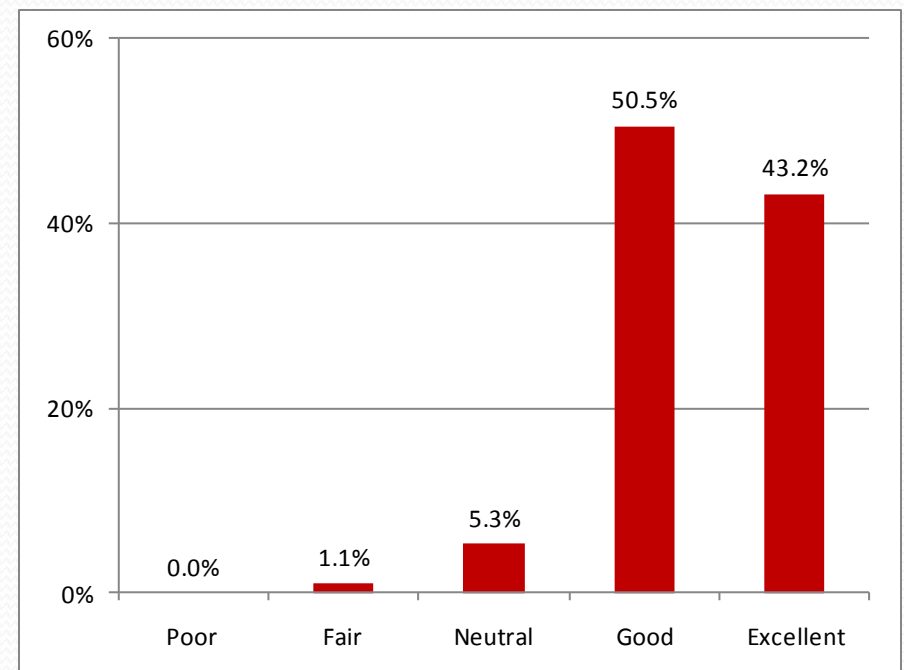
- Exhibit 9 shows that 91.6% of participants viewed the curriculum of required courses as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 10 shows that 93.7% of participants viewed the curriculum in their major field of study as good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 9: CURRICULUM OF REQUIRED COURSES



Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.

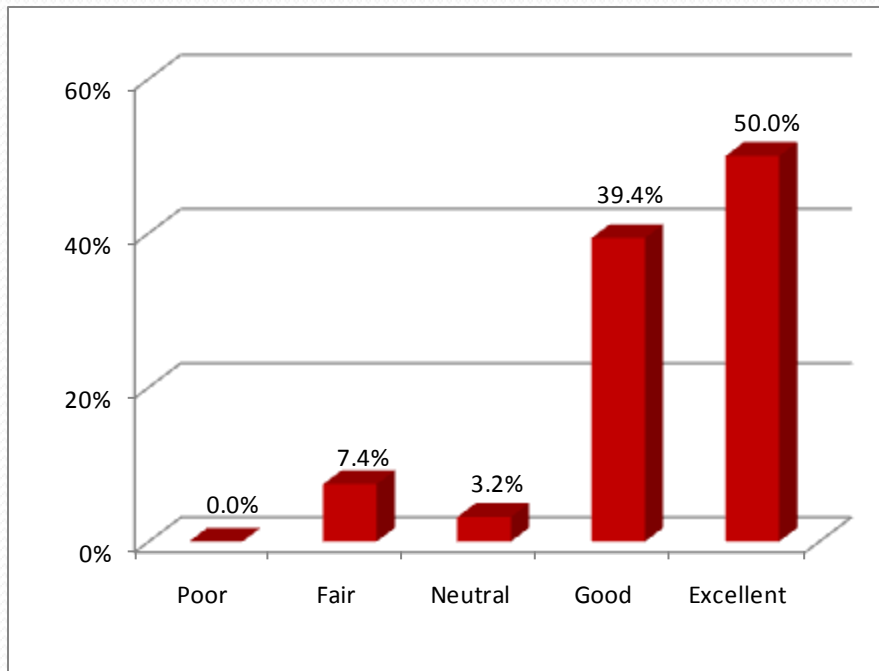
EXHIBIT 10: CURRICULUM IN MY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY



# Interaction with Faculty

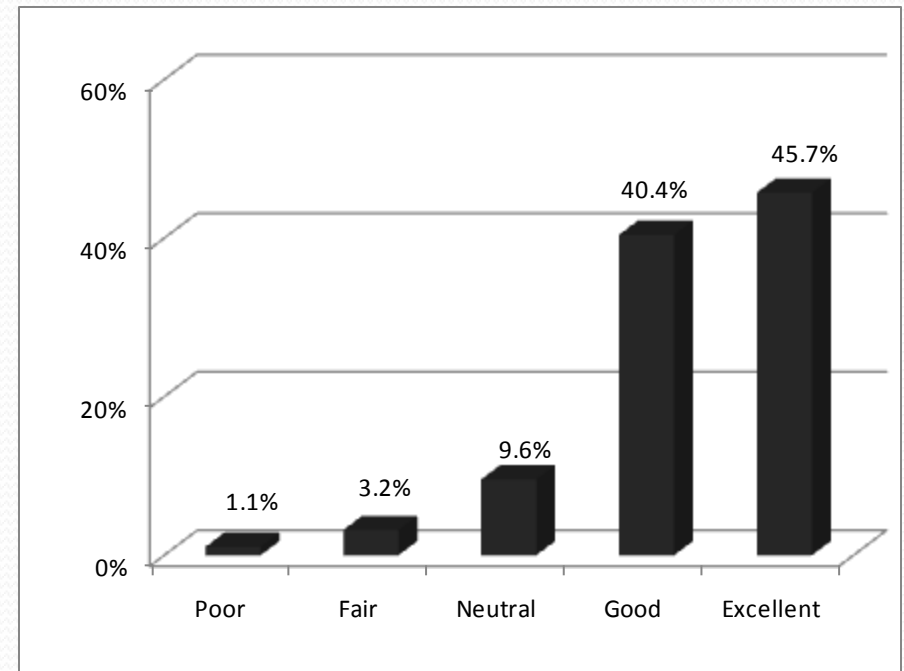
- Exhibit 11 shows that 89.4% of participants believed that the faculty in their academic department were good or excellent.
- Exhibit 12 shows that 86.1% of participants believed that the opportunities for interaction with faculty were good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 11: FACULTY IN MY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT



Source: VSU SRA Office, September, 2009.

EXHIBIT 12: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION WITH FACULTY



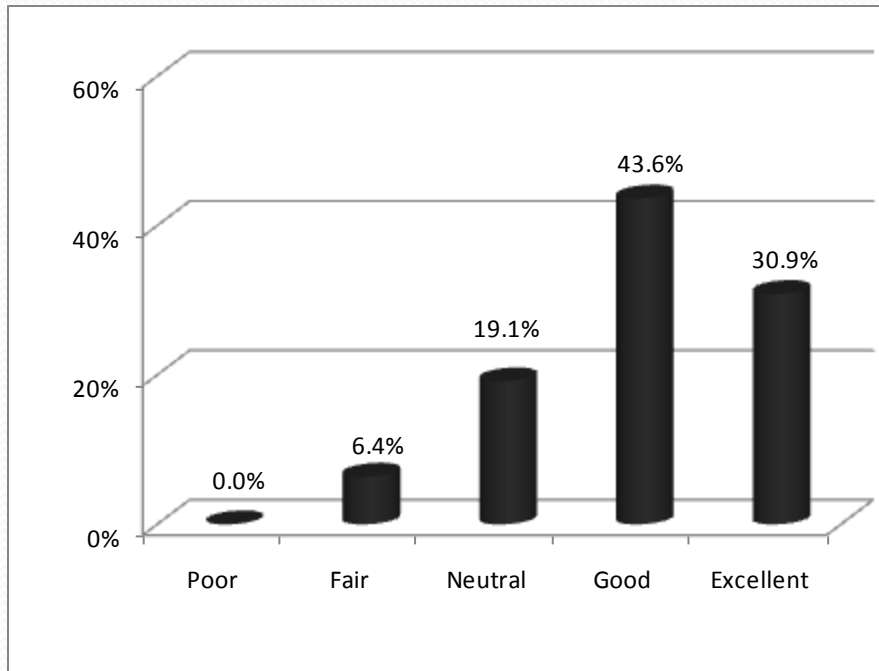


# Overall Perceptions

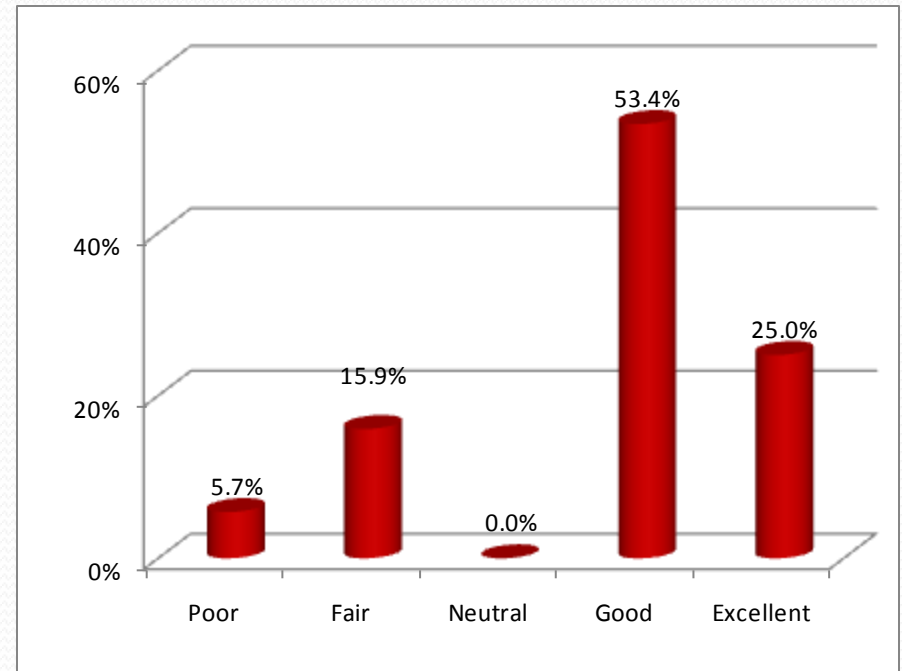
# Experience Ratings

- Exhibit 13 shows that 74.5% of participants rated Odum Library’s collections and resources, including online databases, as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 14 shows that 78.4% of participants rated Student Financial Services/Bursary and the fee payment process as good or excellent.

**EXHIBIT 13: ODUM LIBRARY’S COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING ONLINE DATABASES**



**EXHIBIT 14: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES/BURSARY AND THE FEE PAYMENT PROCESS**





# Experience Ratings

- Exhibit 15 shows that 78.2% of participants who used the Student Success Center rated it as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 16 shows that 63.9% of participants rated their social experiences at VSU as either good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 15: STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

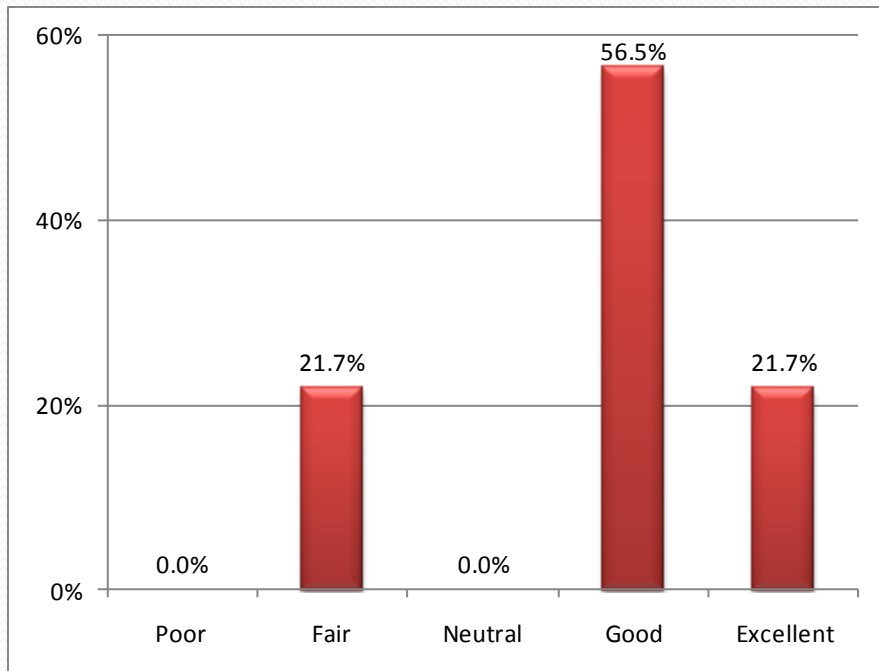
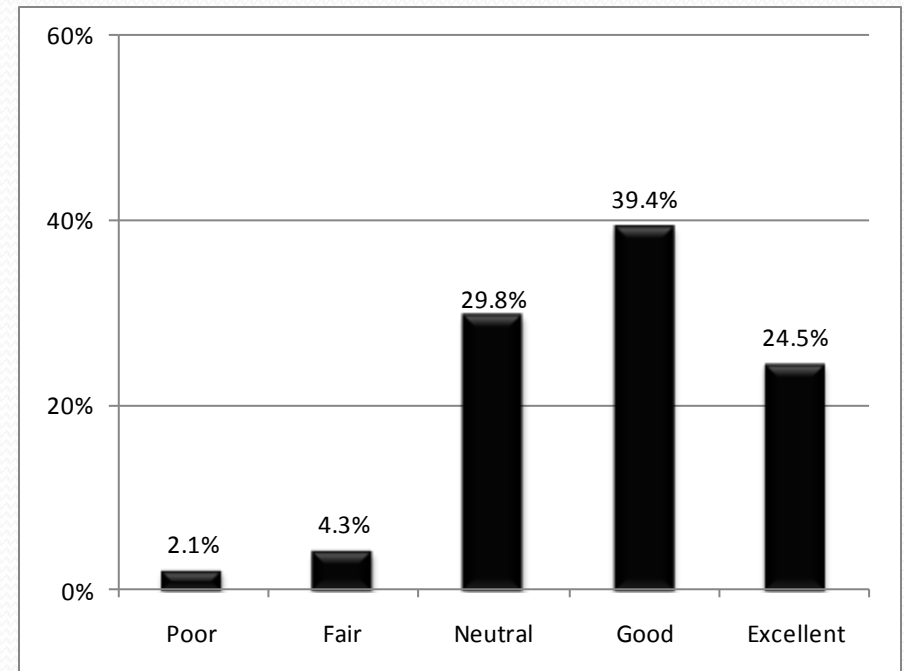


EXHIBIT 16: SOCIAL EXPERIENCES AT VSU



# Overall Perception

- Exhibit 17 shows that 90.4% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with VSU as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 18 shows that 86.1% of participants would recommend VSU to others.

EXHIBIT 17: OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH VSU

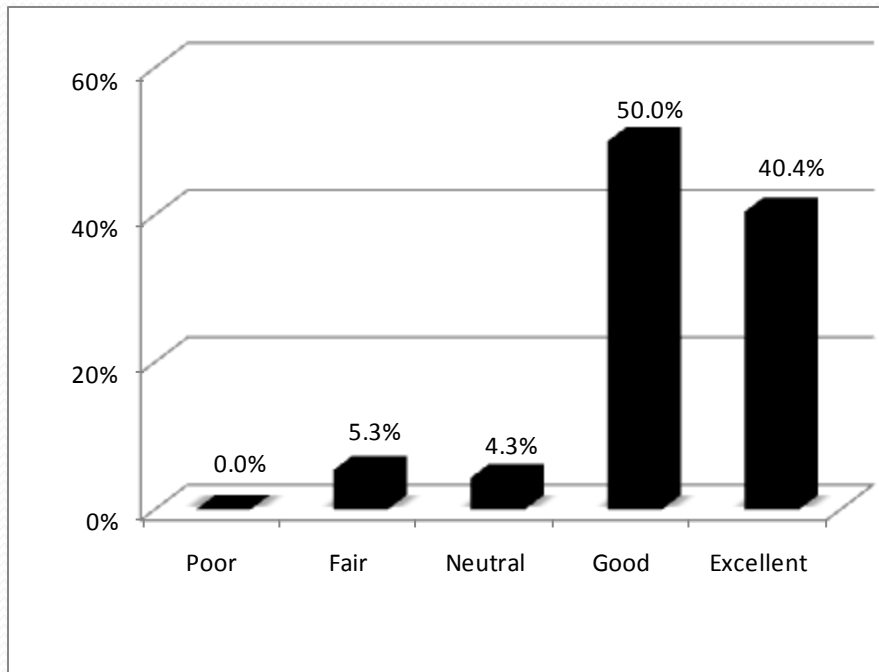
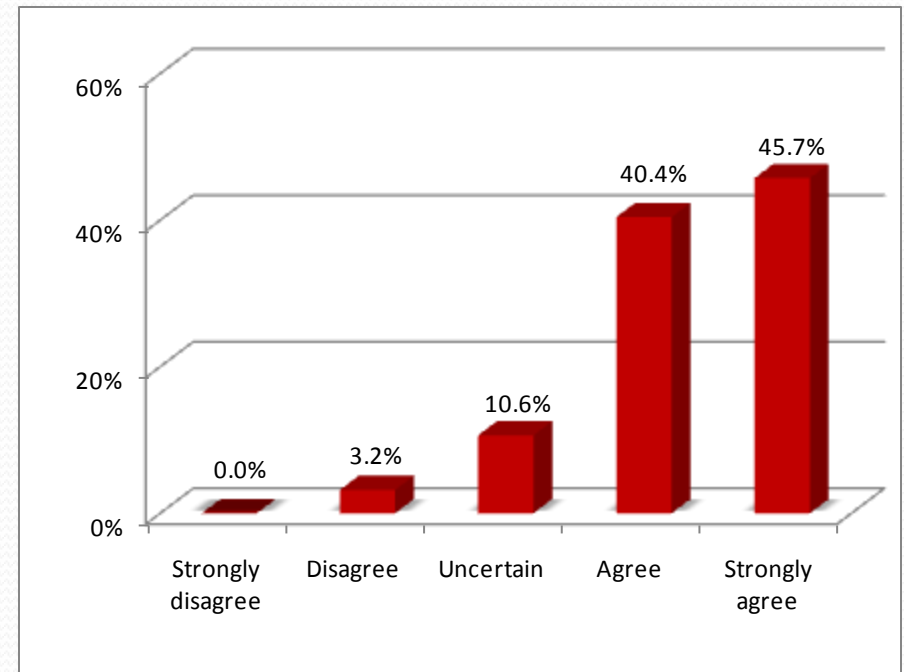


EXHIBIT 18: WOULD RECOMMEND VSU TO OTHERS





# Future Plans

# Future Plans

- Exhibit 19 shows that while attending VSU, 81.9% of participants were employed either full-time or part-time.
- Exhibit 20 shows that 89.3% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their graduate education prepared them for full-time employment.

EXHIBIT 19: WHILE AT VSU, I WAS EMPLOYED:

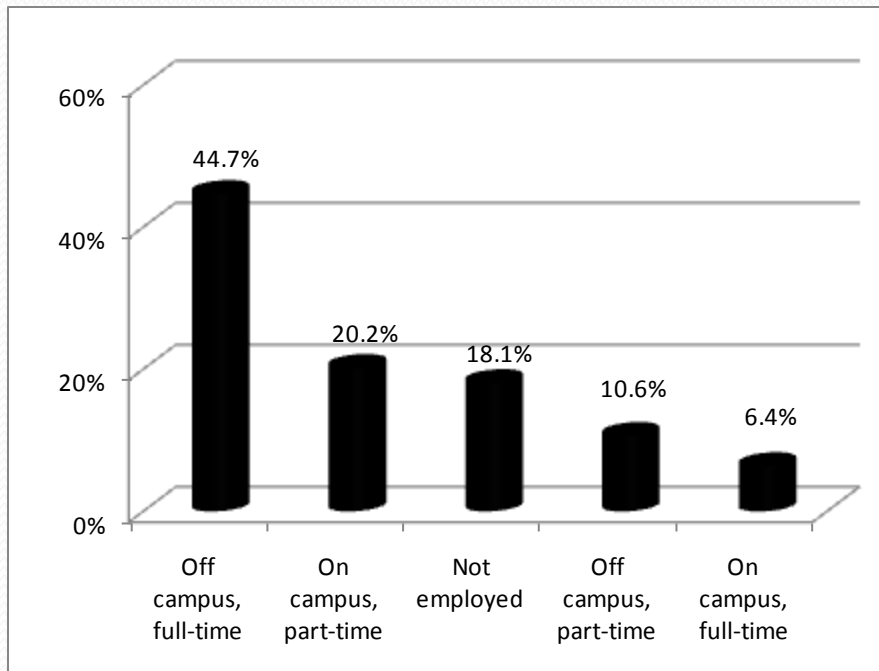
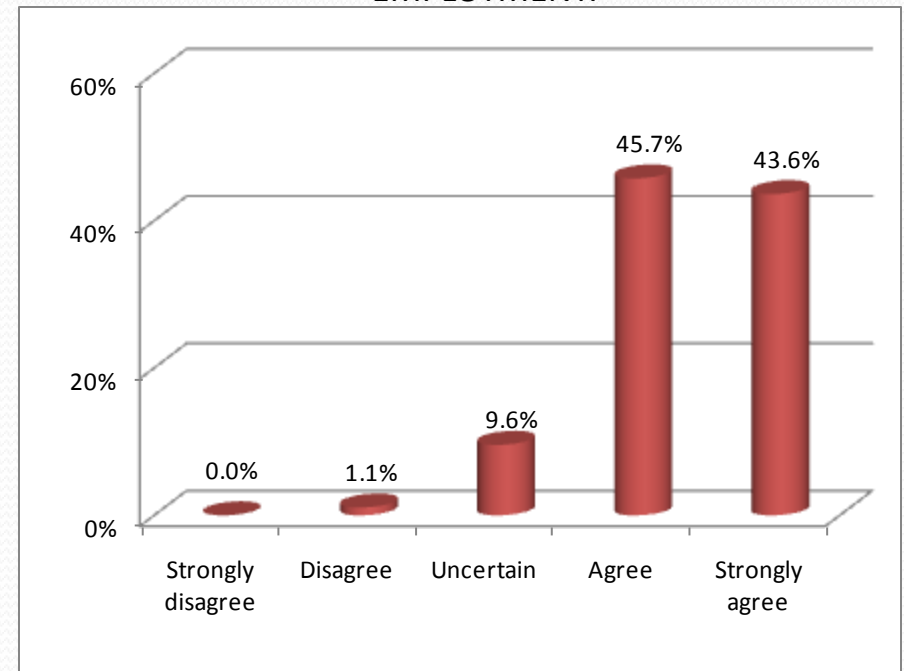


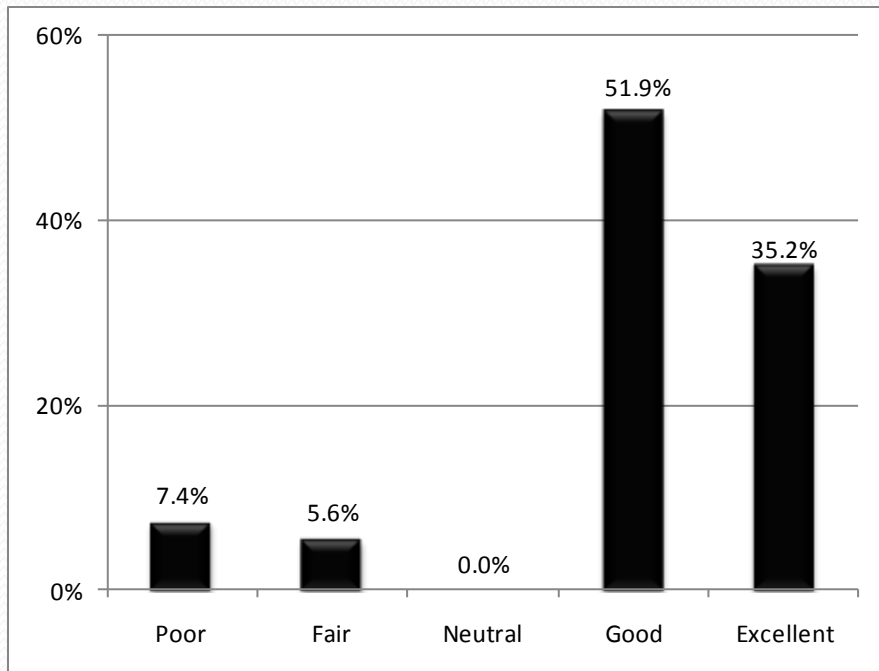
EXHIBIT 20: GRADUATE EDUCATION AT VSU ADEQUATELY PREPARED ME FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT:



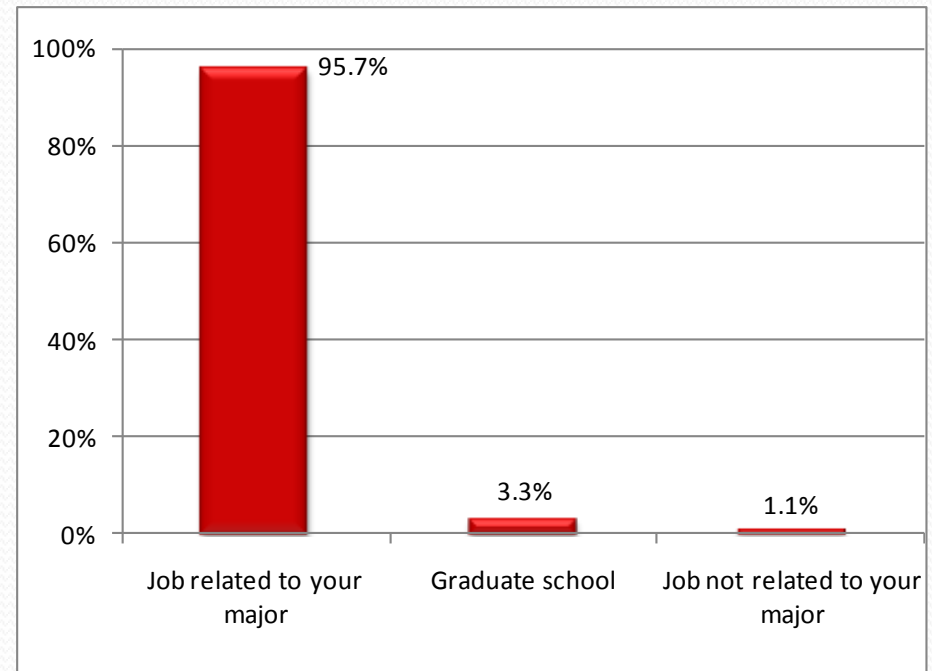
# Future Plans

- Exhibit 21 shows that 87.1% of participants thought that their graduate assistantship supplemented their classroom education in order to prepare them for full-time employment.
- Exhibit 22 shows that after graduation, 95.7% of participants intend to seek employment related to their major.

**EXHIBIT 21: HOW WELL DID YOUR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP SUPPLEMENT YOUR CLASSROOM EDUCATION?**



**EXHIBIT 22: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLANS?**



# Future Plans

- Exhibit 23 shows that 69.9% of participants plan to stay in the South Georgia area after graduation.
- Exhibit 24 shows that 88.2% of participants plan to stay in the state of Georgia after graduation.

EXHIBIT 23: DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE SOUTH GEORGIA AREA AFTER GRADUATION?

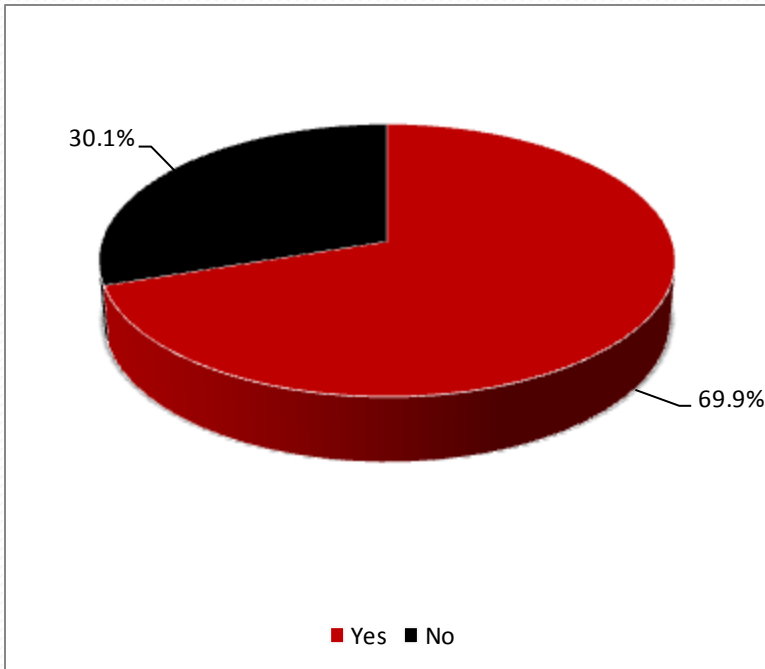
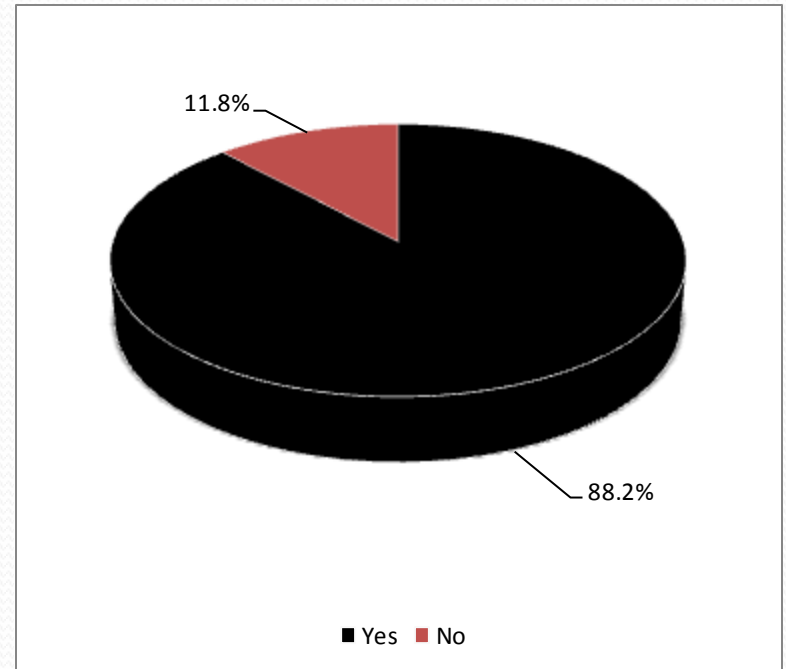


EXHIBIT 24: DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA AFTER GRADUATION?





# Appendices

# Appendices

- Prior to implementation of the revised BANNER survey 72 paper surveys were completed during FY09 by graduating graduate students.
- As the paper survey differs substantially from the revised version of the survey in BANNER, responses from the two groups of respondents could not be combined.
- Exhibit 25 contains a summary of the responses received from the online BANNER surveys.
- Exhibits 26 to 28 contain summaries of the responses received from the paper surveys.





# Appendix A: FY09 BANNER Survey Response Summary

# Quality of Experiences

EXHIBIT 25: QUALITY RATINGS OF EXPERIENCES – BANNER SURVEY RESPONSES

Program of Study	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Quality of Experience				
				Excellent	Good	Neutral	Fair	Poor
The availability of required courses was	96	4.39	.731	50.0	41.7	5.2	3.1	0.0
The overall quality of instruction in required courses was	94	4.36	.670	44.7	48.9	4.3	2.1	0.0
The curriculum of required courses was	95	4.31	.685	41.1	50.5	6.3	2.1	0.0
The availability of courses in my field of study was	95	4.31	.745	43.2	47.4	7.4	1.1	1.1
The overall quality of instruction in my field of study was	95	4.32	.829	48.4	41.1	4.2	6.3	0.0
The curriculum in my field of study was	95	4.36	.634	43.2	50.5	5.3	1.1	0.0
The faculty in my academic department were	94	4.32	.858	50.0	39.4	3.2	7.4	0.0
The opportunities for interaction with faculty were	94	4.27	.845	45.7	40.4	9.6	3.2	1.1
Odum Library's collections and resources, including online databases, were	94	3.99	.874	30.9	43.6	19.1	6.4	0.0
My social experiences at VSU were	94	3.80	.934	24.5	39.4	29.8	4.3	2.1
My overall satisfaction level with VSU as a Graduate Student was	94	4.26	.775	40.4	50.0	4.3	5.3	0.0
Services	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Rate your experiences with Student Financial Services/Bursary and the fee payment process:	88	2.98	.802	25.0	53.4	.0	15.9	5.7
Rate your experiences with the Student Success Center:	23	3.00	.674	21.7	56.5	.0	21.7	0.0
Preparation	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would recommend VSU to others:	94	4.29	.785	45.7	40.4	10.6	3.2	0.0
My graduate education at VSU adequately prepared me for full-time employment:	94	4.32	.691	43.6	45.7	9.6	1.1	0.0
How well did your graduate assistantship supplement your classroom education in order to prepare you for full-time employment?	54	3.15	.833	35.2	51.9	.0	5.6	7.4

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



# Appendix B: FY09 Paper Survey Response Summaries

# Quality of University Services

EXHIBIT 26: QUALITY RATINGS OF UNIVERSITY SERVICES – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

University Services and Facilities	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Quality of Service			
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Quality of professional student organizations	9	3.67	.500	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0
Quality of honor societies	13	3.54	.519	53.8	46.2	0.0	0.0
Quality of athletic and recreation facilities	20	3.50	.761	60.0	35.0	0.0	5.0
Quality of VSU food services	21	3.05	.590	19.0	66.7	14.3	0.0
Quality of shuttle bus services	12	2.83	.937	25.0	41.7	25.0	8.3
Quality of parking	43	2.19	.958	11.6	20.9	41.9	25.6
Quality of support services for international students	6	3.83	.408	83.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
Quality of VSU undergraduate bulletin/catalog	17	3.41	.507	41.2	58.8	0.0	0.0
Quality of VSU graduate bulletin/catalog	36	3.36	.593	41.7	52.8	5.6	0.0
Quality of cooperative education program	3	3.67	.577	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0
Quality of university work-study program	4	3.75	.500	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Quality of career planning services	7	3.71	.488	71.4	28.6	0.0	0.0
Quality of job placement services	4	3.25	1.500	75.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Quality of counseling center services	3	4.00	.000	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Quality of testing services	19	3.37	.597	42.1	52.6	5.3	0.0
Quality of campus student employment	6	3.33	.516	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0
Quality of minority programs/counseling	1	1.00	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Quality of veterans services	2	4.00	.000	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Quality of public safety services	6	3.83	.408	83.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
Quality of bookstore	47	3.09	.747	31.9	44.7	23.4	0.0
Quality of post office	10	3.10	.876	30.0	60.0	0.0	10.0
Quality of handicapped accessibility for VSU facilities	11	3.18	.603	27.3	63.6	0.0	9.1
Quality of services for special needs	2	3.50	.707	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Quality of VSU home page	62	3.48	.593	53.2	41.9	4.8	0.0
Quality of graduate school home page	45	3.31	.701	42.2	48.9	6.7	2.2
Quality of departmental home page	54	3.28	.763	44.4	40.7	13.0	1.9

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

# Ratings of Academic Experiences

EXHIBIT 27: QUALITY RATINGS OF ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

Ratings of their Academic Experiences	n	Mean	Std. Dev.	Quality of Experience			
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>VSU Personnel Support</b>							
1. Availability of academic advisor	70	3.43	.693	52.9	38.6	7.1	1.4
2. Helpfulness of academic advisor	70	3.57	.579	61.4	34.3	4.3	0.0
3. Helpfulness of departmental office staff	62	3.55	.563	58.1	38.7	3.2	0.0
4. Availability of committee chair	27	3.48	.580	51.9	44.4	3.7	0.0
5. Helpfulness of committee chair	27	3.52	.580	55.6	40.7	3.7	0.0
6. Helpfulness of thesis committee	18	3.56	.511	55.6	44.4	0.0	0.0
7. Overall quality of faculty	68	3.41	.604	47.1	47.1	5.9	0.0
8. Attitude of faculty toward students	69	3.38	.666	46.4	46.4	5.8	1.4
9. Opportunities for interaction with faculty	65	3.25	.730	41.5	41.5	16.9	0.0
<b>VSU Instructional Support</b>							
10. Courses as preparation for liberal education	47	3.36	.605	42.6	51.1	6.4	0.0
11. Courses as preparation for initial employment	47	3.26	.607	31.9	63.8	2.1	2.1
12. Courses as preparation for career advancement	57	3.28	.620	36.8	54.4	8.8	0.0
13. Ease of getting into required courses	67	3.39	.758	52.2	37.3	7.5	3.0
14. Ease of getting into elective courses	54	3.41	.687	50.0	42.6	5.6	1.9
15. Organization of the curriculum for your major	63	3.30	.733	46.0	38.1	15.9	0.0
16. Quality of instruction	67	3.43	.557	46.3	50.7	3.0	0.0
17. Fairness of grading	68	3.47	.559	50.0	47.1	2.9	0.0
18. Practicum or internship experiences	37	3.46	.650	54.1	37.8	8.1	0.0
19. Study abroad experiences	14	3.29	.914	50.0	35.7	7.1	7.1
20. Appearance of printed information about program	57	3.33	.664	43.9	45.6	10.5	0.0
21. Usefulness of printed information about program	59	3.31	.676	42.4	45.8	11.9	0.0
22. Availability of research support	46	3.39	.682	47.8	45.7	4.3	2.2
23. Usefulness of research support	46	3.30	.726	43.5	45.7	8.7	2.2
<b>VSU Facilities</b>							
24. Library collection/resources	48	3.17	.724	33.3	52.1	12.5	2.1
25. Library facilities	44	3.41	.583	45.5	50.0	4.5	0.0
26. Computer lab facilities	42	3.31	.563	35.7	59.5	4.8	0.0
27. Computer lab availability	42	3.17	.660	31.0	54.8	14.3	0.0
28. Classroom facilities	45	3.22	.670	35.6	51.1	13.3	0.0
29. Laboratory facilities (not computer)	19	3.47	.513	47.4	52.6	0.0	0.0

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

# Atmosphere for Learning

EXHIBIT 28: ATMOSPHERE FOR LEARNING – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

Atmosphere for Learning	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Agreement with Statement			
				Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably No	Definitely No
VSU helped me develop and demonstrate my ability to think critically and independently	66	3.61	.579	65.2	30.3	4.5	0.0
VSU helped me to engage in free and open exchange of ideas	64	3.66	.597	70.3	26.6	1.6	1.6
VSU helped me to function in a professional setting and to act with ethical awareness	66	3.67	.564	71.2	24.2	4.5	0.0
VSU encouraged me to expand my range of human experience personally, culturally, socially, artistically, and politically	60	3.43	.698	53.3	38.3	6.7	1.7
If I started graduate school over, I would choose to attend VSU	67	3.40	.760	53.7	35.8	7.5	3.0
I would recommend VSU graduate programs to others	68	3.53	.680	61.8	30.9	5.9	1.5
Quality of Ratings	n	Mean	SD	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
I would rate my academic experiences at VSU as	69	3.43	.630	50.7	42.0	7.2	0.0
I would rate my social experiences at VSU as	68	3.26	.785	45.6	36.8	16.2	1.5
I would rate my overall experiences at VSU as	69	3.41	.693	50.7	40.6	7.2	1.4

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.