

BAYLOR

UNIVERSITY

Senior Survey, Spring 2015

Background

Student-centered, data-driven decision-making has become embedded in the ethos at Baylor University. One of the means of supporting this ethos is a commitment to soliciting input from students in a manner that enables the institution's decision-makers to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of curricular and co-curricular programs. As part of this process, the *Senior Survey* is administered to all senior students in their Spring semester every three years. A total of 2,195 students who applied for graduation in Spring 2015 were invited to complete the survey. Of this total, 785 responded for a response rate of 35.8%.

Results

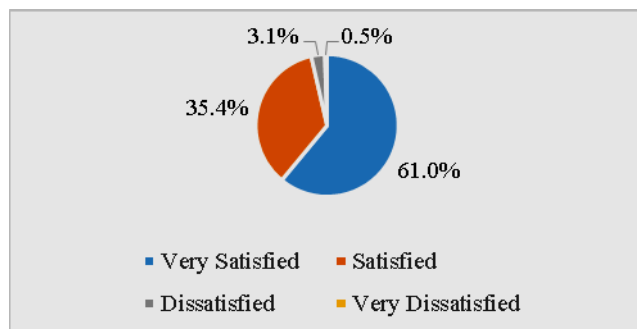
General Findings

- **Respondents expressed a great deal of satisfaction with** overall quality of instruction, level of intellectual excitement on campus, opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, opportunities for personal growth and development, out of class availability of faculty, and availability of academic support and assistance.
- **Areas where respondents expressed there was room for improvement (more than 25% of respondents said *dissatisfied or very dissatisfied*) included** opportunities to interact with people from different racial or socioeconomic backgrounds, degree of ethnic racial/diversity of the campus, climate for ethnic/racial minority students on campus, opportunities to participate in research with a faculty member, and course availability.

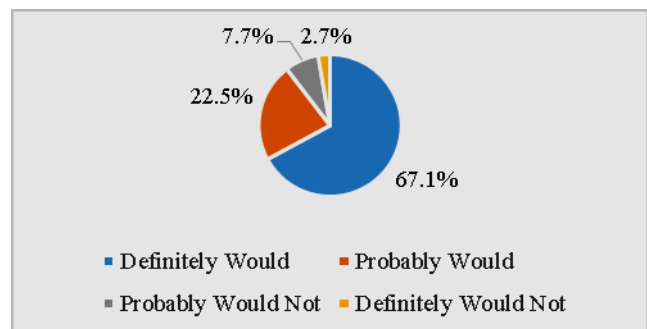
Overall Satisfaction

- The majority of respondents (**96.4%, $n = 757$**) indicated that they were satisfied with their undergraduate experience.

Overall, how satisfied are you with your undergraduate education?

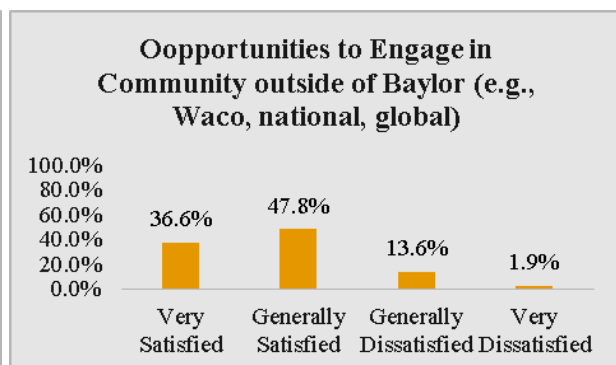
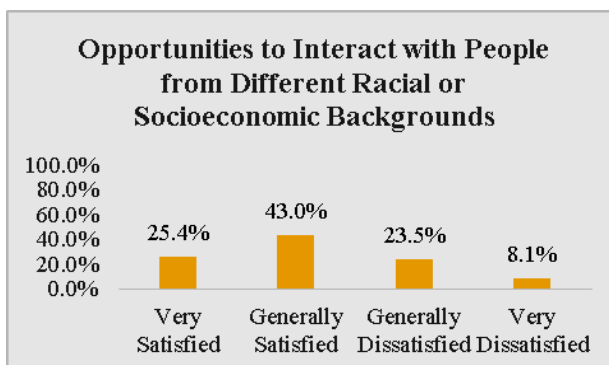
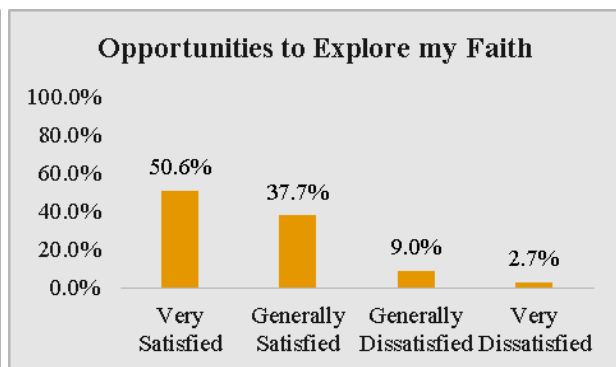
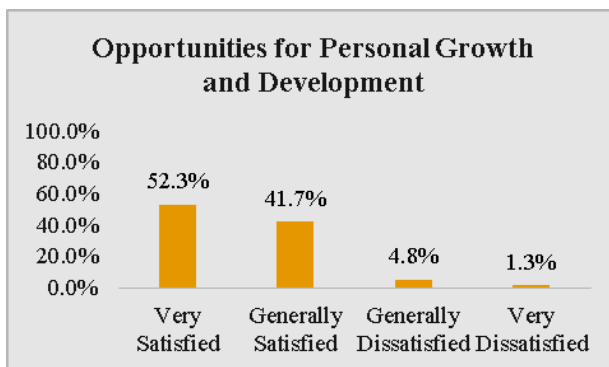
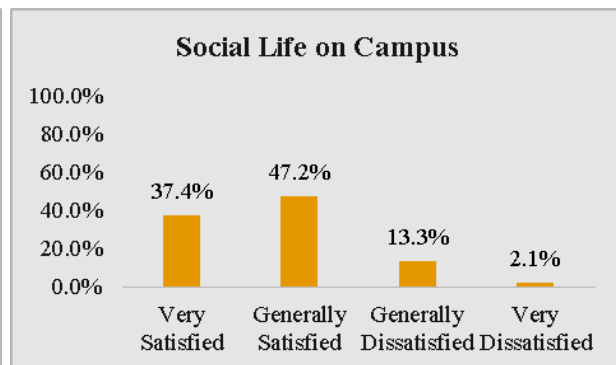
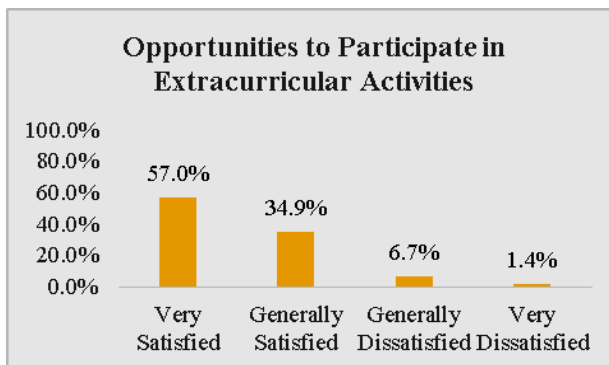
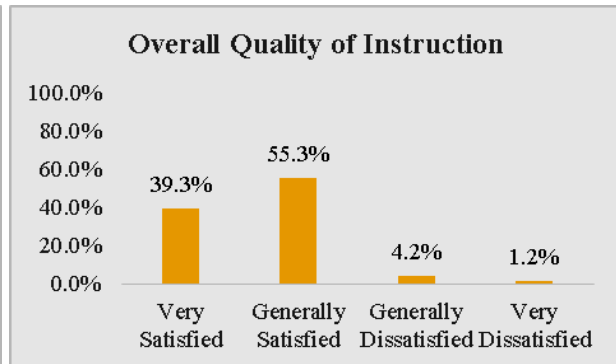
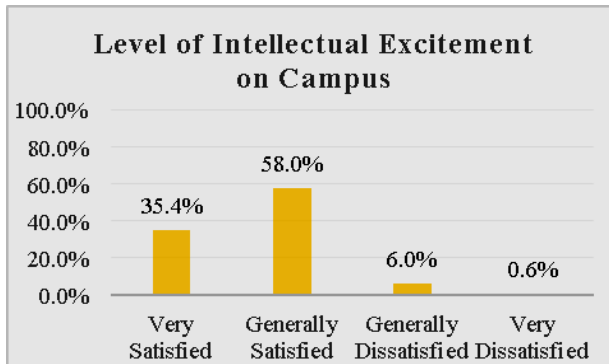


Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles you when you were a high school senior (same background, ability, interests, and temperament) to attend Baylor?



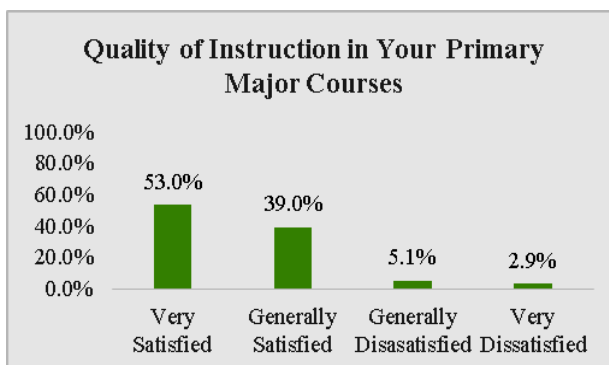
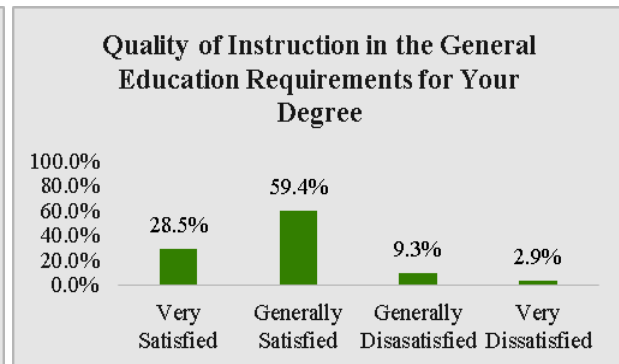
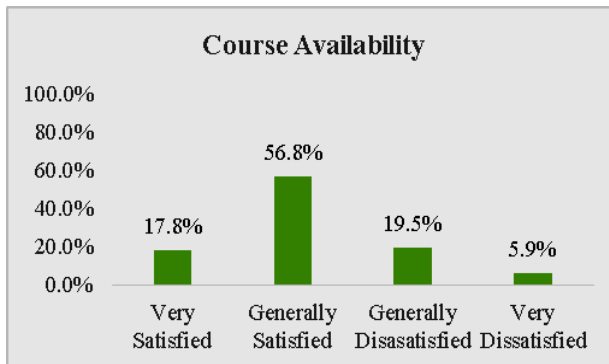
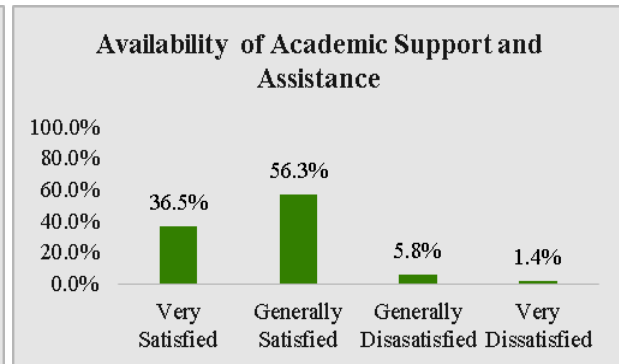
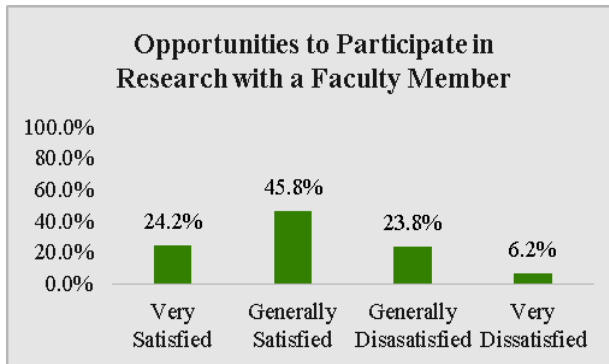
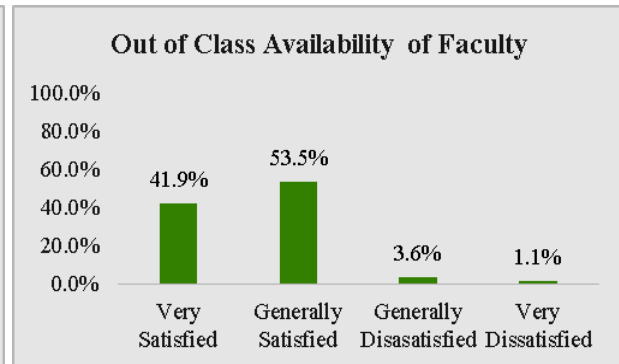
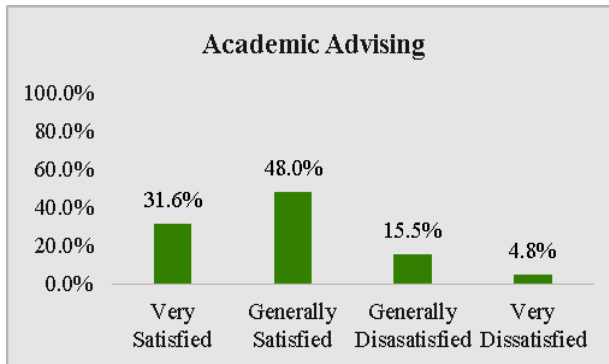
Satisfaction with Undergraduate Experience

- When asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with specific areas of their undergraduate experience, the following results were obtained:



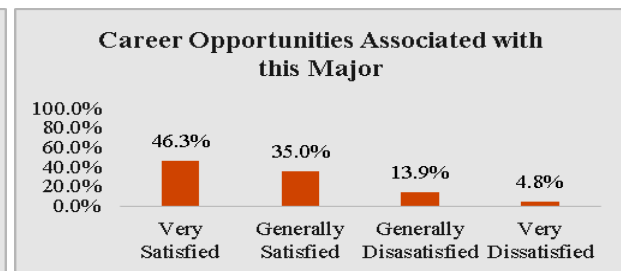
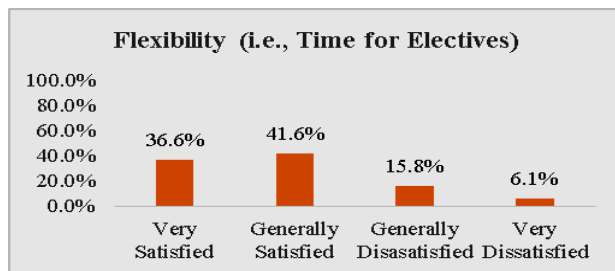
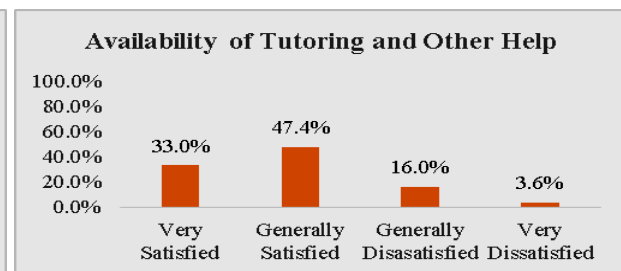
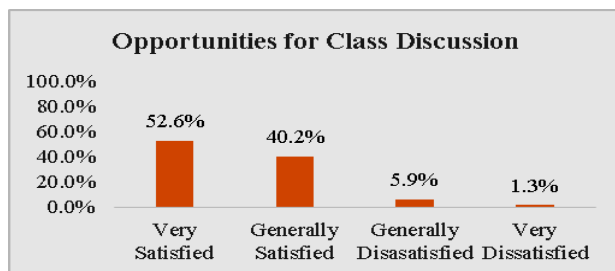
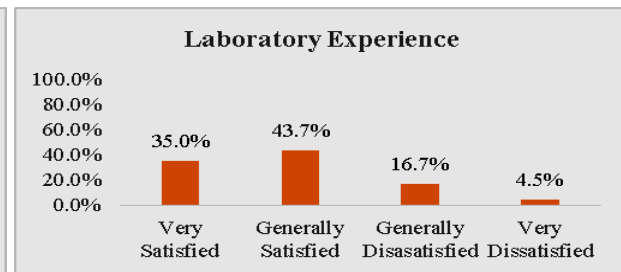
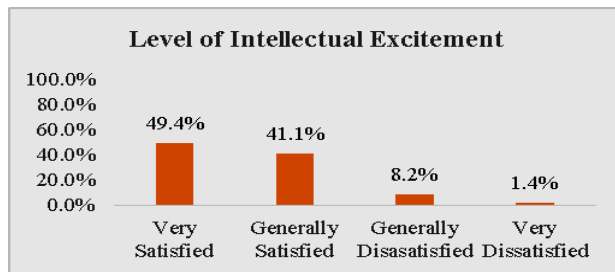
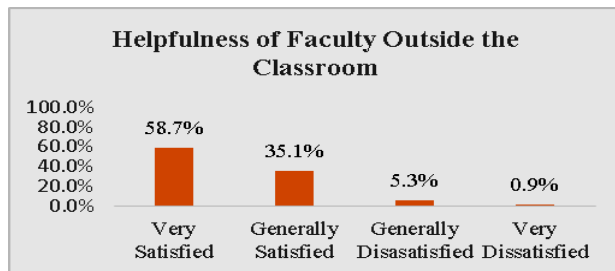
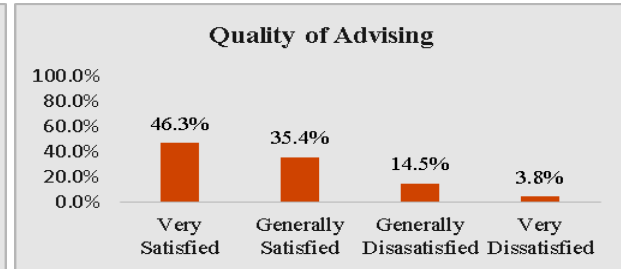
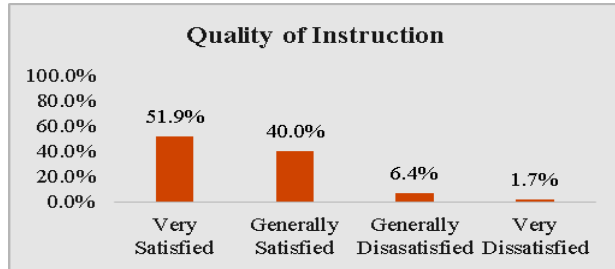
Satisfaction with Academic Experience

- When asked to indicate their levels of satisfaction with specific areas of their academic experience, the following results were obtained:



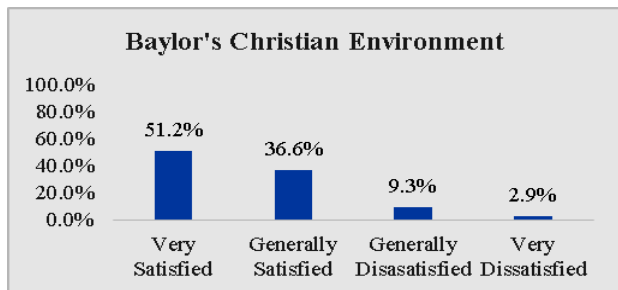
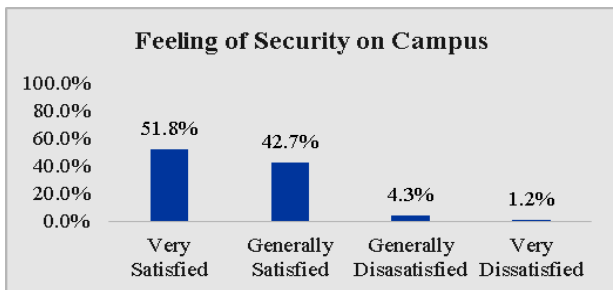
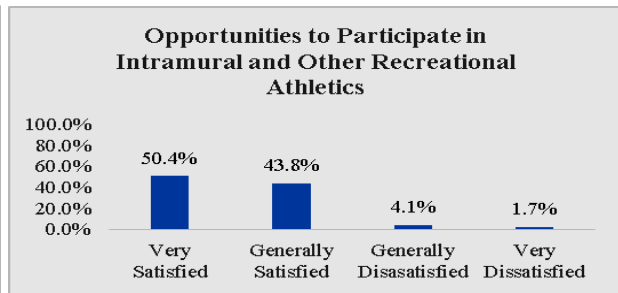
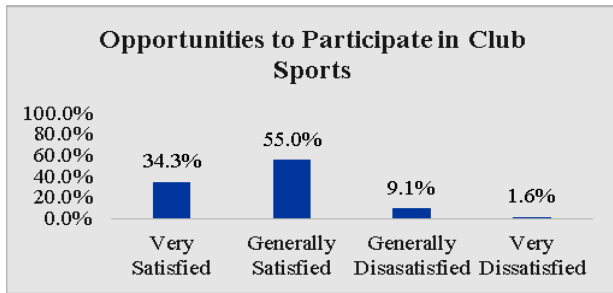
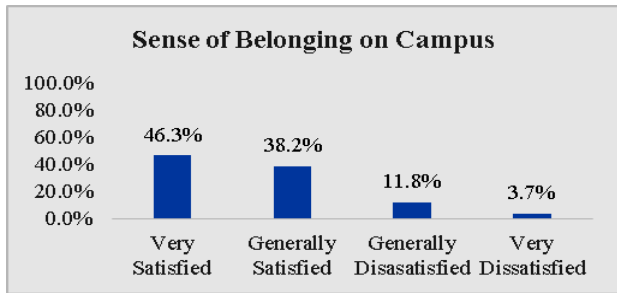
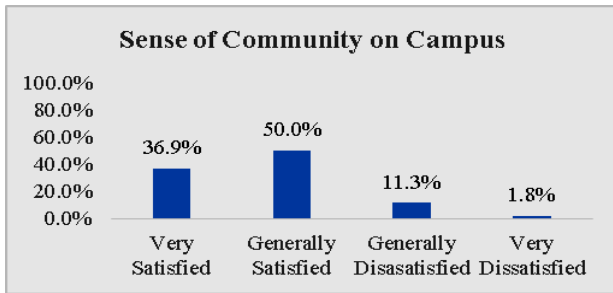
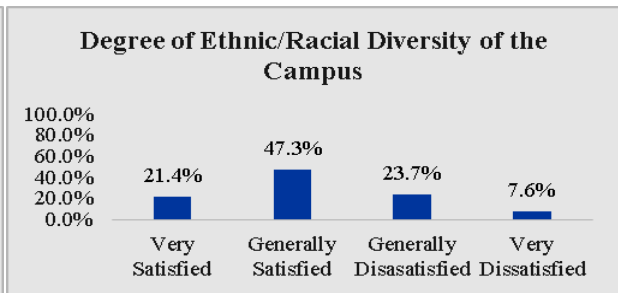
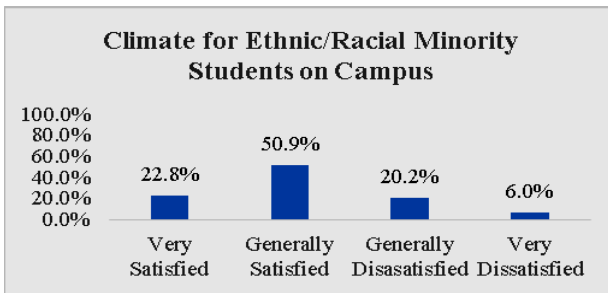
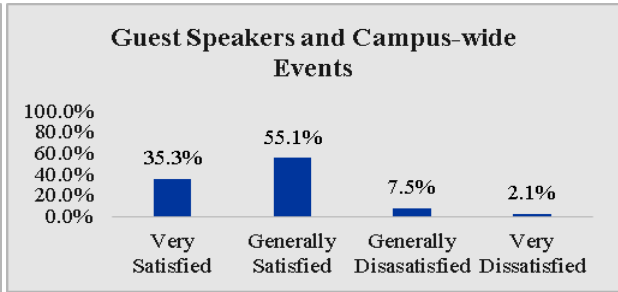
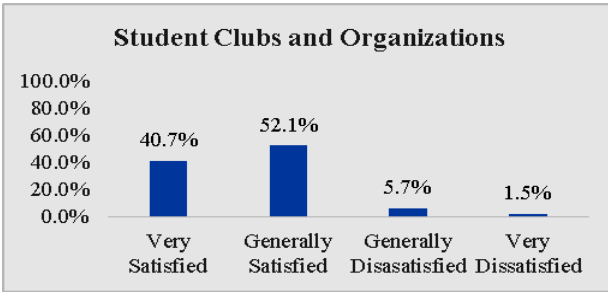
Satisfaction with Major

- The majority of the sample (92.7%) was satisfied with their major. Majors were only included in this analysis if n was equal to or greater than 5. When asked to indicate their levels of satisfaction with certain aspects of their major the following results were obtained:



Satisfaction with Quality of Campus Life

- When asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with specific areas of campus life, the following results were obtained:

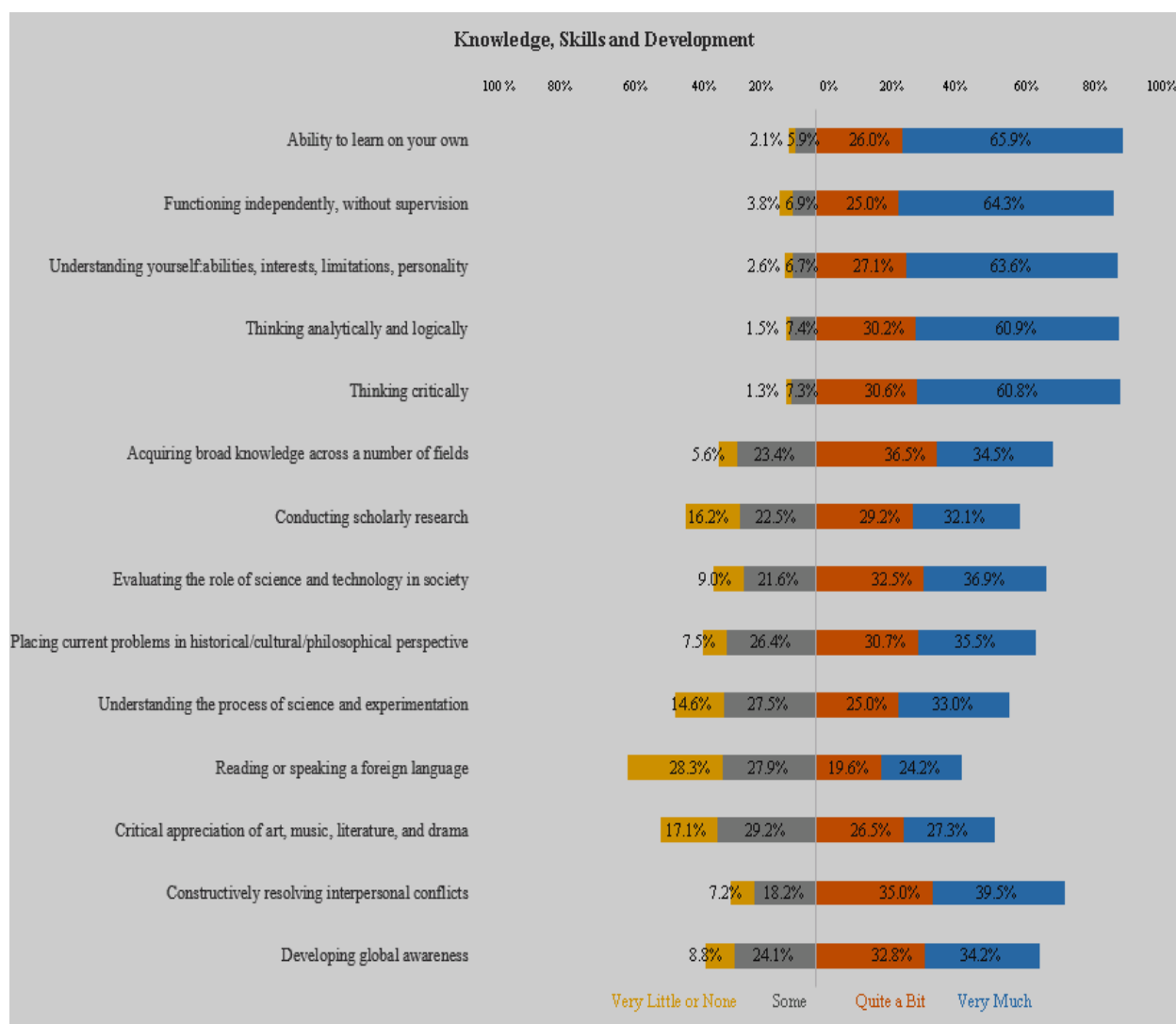


Satisfaction with Quality of Campus Services and Facilities

- The majority of the respondents were satisfied with the different areas of campus services and facilities. Areas with **90% and above** satisfaction included:
 - Library facilities and resources (96.6%, n = 627)**
 - Athletic and recreational facilities (94.8%, n = 580)**
 - Computer resources and support (92.2%, n = 585)**
 - Laboratory facilities and equipment (92.1%, n = 486)**
 - Chaplain program services (90.2%, n = 340)**

What They Have Learned

- Respondents were asked to evaluate how much they have learned in 32 areas relating to their knowledge, skills and development. They responded on a four-point likert scale ranging from 1- *very little or none* to 4 – *very much*. Items to which 90% and above said *very much/quite a bit* are included as well as items to which more than 25% said *some/very little or none*.



Paying for College

- Respondents were asked a number of questions to ascertain how they financed their education at Baylor University. Results revealed that:
 - **80.3%** ($n = 497$) **received financial aid from Baylor**
 - **22.5%** ($n = 139$) **received a Pell grant.**
 - **45.3%** ($n = 279$) **indicated that they had no loans**
 - **9.1%** ($n = 56$) **borrowed more than \$60,000.00.**
 - Of the respondents who indicated that they had borrowed above \$60,000.00, **the highest estimated indebtedness was \$200,000.00.**
 - **When asked what has been the impact of paying for college on their family, 34.8%** ($n = 215$) **said the impact was considerable.**

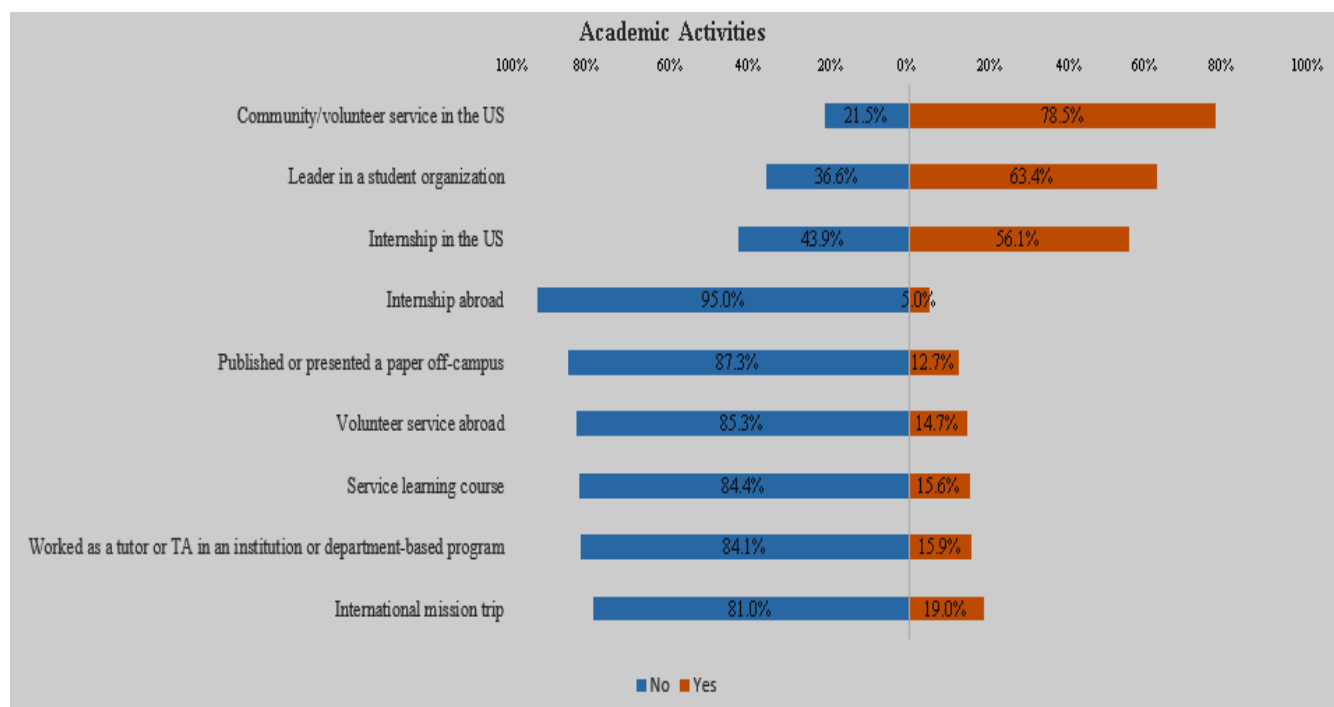
Extracurricular Activities

Respondents were asked to indicate the academic and non-academic activities that they participated in while an undergraduate.

Non-Academic Activities

The top five non-academic activities that respondents indicated that they actively participated in were volunteer service, academic clubs, honor societies, or professional associations, intramural athletics, other student organizations or clubs and fraternity or sorority.

Academic Activities



When asked if they were able to find a balance between their academic work and extracurricular activities, the majority of respondents (**91.0%**, $n = 617$) agreed that they did.

Long Term Goals

Respondents were asked to indicate the importance of certain issues as it relates to their future. They responded on a four-point likert scale ranging from 1- *not important at all* to 4 – *essential*. Items to which most of the respondents said *essential* included **raising a family (59.5%, n = 368)** and **participating in religious activities (51.0%, n = 314)**. Interestingly, **46.5% (n = 288)** of the respondents said that **owning a business was not important at all**.

Comments

Students were also asked to respond to three open-ended questions as well as to provide comments on a general statement. Sample comments are included for each open ended question below without corrections for grammar or spelling.

- **What, if anything, could Baylor University have done to improve your undergraduate experience?**

“My experience was outstanding, though I believe strongly that there needs to be more opportunities for students to have leadership development and critical thinking instruction.”

“It is absolutely unacceptable to pay \$40k a year and have \$15/hr TA's and grad assistants teaching. The level of qualification for teaching in my first 3 years was shocking. / Also, It should not be mandatory to take 2 semesters of Christian heritage and scriptures, and 2 semesters of Chapel. This adds up to 12hrs of college credit amounting to roughly \$20k in expenses that do not benefit many students who are here as anything other than a Religion or History major. // One semester of chapel and allowing the christian heritage and scriptures classes to be an elective for non religion majors would be more acceptable.”

- **If you could start again, is there anything you would do differently to have a better undergraduate experience?**

“Nothing at all! I firmly believe I had the best experience I could have had!”

“....., I would NOT attend Baylor if I had to start over again. I might have been better off going to a state school with a better program and if would have been less of a financial burden on me and my family. This program, although it is great, was very challenging for me (especially since Baylor has changed the grading system) and I ended with a 3.3 GPA. Because of that, I have not been able to get into a graduate program. I thought at the beginning of my college career a 3.3 from Baylor might shine brighter when I submitted graduate school applications, but that is just not the case. Now I will be graduating from college unable to get into grad school and doing a job that I am not so thrilled about.”

- **What experience at Baylor University had the most significant impact on you?**

“A woman in the cashiers office at Robinson Tower found a way for me to receive more financial aid. Without knowing anything about me, she helped me and that was the first time (of many) that I met someone from Baylor who truly showed Christian values. She impacted me significantly without asking me any questions.”

“Meeting fake Christians for the first time. Where I grew up there was a culture of honesty, where if you were not a Christian, you did not pretend to be. There was no stumbling down to the dining hall for lunch on Sunday in button down shirts and khakis to make people think you'd been to church that morning. But that sort of culture is very prevalent at Baylor.”

- **Please use the space below to elaborate on any of the questions on the survey and to comment on any other aspect of your undergraduate experience not covered in this questionnaire.**

“One aspect I just want to mention is the quality of professors I had the pleasure of having while at Baylor. I am not entirely sure how you decide on hiring professors at Baylor but you guys are doing something right!! I have thoroughly enjoyed just about all of my professors during my undergraduate studies at Baylor. And this is not just limited to my field of study. This includes the general requirements for all Baylor students. My professors were a pleasure to have. They brought life to the class room, enthusiasm to subjects I thought I would never enjoy, and a majority share a faith in our Lord and Savior with me. Because of these truly, genuinely amazing professors at Baylor, I could not be more happy with my choice to come to Baylor. I would love to name some of my favorites but the list might just include all of the professors I ever had so that could take awhile. But I would just like to show my gratitude towards Baylor for choosing faculty that truly care for their students and want them to succeed in the classroom and ultimately life. The people that form the foundation of the university are the reason why a school thrives or dies... And Baylor is thriving because of your emphasis on well-rounded faculty members. Thank you for that :).”

“I would never recommend Baylor to anyone. I would actually actively try and encourage someone not to come to Baylor. My overall experience is filled with very immature and disrespectful students, disrespectful faculty members, and isolation. Baylor is the worst place you could be if you are not white, baptist, and disrespectfully vocal about your own beliefs. I have experienced students undermining other students because of their nonprodistant beliefs and culture and have felt unsafe around other students because of the general trend of students Baylor praises.”
