

2005 Alumni Survey Report

Executive Summary

The Troy University Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) Office conducted an alumni survey in Summer 2005. This was the first survey conducted for the three merged campuses of Dothan, Montgomery, and Troy as one Troy University. The purpose of the survey was to determine the outcomes of a Troy University education by examining the employment information of TROY graduates and their satisfaction with the educational preparation at Troy University for employment. Additionally, the survey attempted to establish contact between Troy University and students who graduated from the University.

In the middle of June, 2005, the alumni surveys were sent to 8,331 (7,389 by mail and 942 via email) alumni who graduated between 1999 and 2004 from the former Troy State University, Troy State University Dothan, Troy State University Montgomery, and University College. By August 3, 2005, after a second mailing of postcards in early July and 2 email follow-ups in early and mid July, the Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness Office had received 1,075 responses - 772 in mail and 303 online. Excluding the undeliverable surveys due to incorrect mailing and email addresses, the responses represented a 14% return rate in total, while the return rate was 10.4% for the paper version (mailing) and 32.2% for the web-based format (email). Although the overall response rate was only 14%, the responses were sufficient to be considered a reasonable sample.

Respondents: Of the 1,075 respondents, approximately one-third completed their degree programs 5 years ago either in 1999 or 2000, and around 60% graduated between 2003 and 2004. While the majority of the responses were from female (64%) and white (62%) alumni, male and Black alumni each made up approximately one-third of the response sample. In addition, more than half of the respondents (58.4%) graduated with a Master's degree, 34.4% with a Bachelor's degree, and a small percentage graduated with an Education Specialist degree (5%) or an Associate degree (2%). Most of the respondents graduated from the College of Business (37%), the College of Education (31%), and the College of Arts and Sciences (21%); and 40% of the respondents were University College graduates, 40% graduated from the Troy and Phenix City campuses, 14% from the Dothan campus, and 6% from the Montgomery campus. (Appendix 21)

Highlights of the findings: Overall, the TROY alumni who participated in the survey held their Troy University education in high regard and were satisfied with their experiences at the University. The finding that the majority of the respondents would recommend Troy University to a potential student and would enroll in the same academic program again if they could start over was a strong indication of the alumni satisfaction as well as the University's effectiveness in providing quality education and services to its students. The highlights of the survey findings are as follows:

1. 96% of the respondents indicated that they would recommend Troy University to a potential student.
2. 84% of the respondents thought that Troy University had prepared them "Well" or "Very Well" for employment upon graduation.
3. 23% of the respondents continued to attend college for further or advanced education after they graduated from TROY. Of these students, over 90% rated Troy University's preparation for their further education as "Excellent" or "Good".
4. Over 80% of the respondents indicated that they would choose the same major programs if they could start over again.
5. Over 90% of the respondents were currently employed, 88% full-time and 4% part-time.
6. 54% of the respondents were working in occupations directly related to their major fields of study at Troy University, while 30% were doing jobs partially related to their majors.

7. Around half of the respondents earned \$40,000 or less each year and more than 20% made over \$60,000 in their annual salaries.
8. Over 85% of the respondents rated the following at Troy University as “Excellent” or “Good”, and these may be considered areas of strength for Troy University:
 - Class size (94.9%)
 - Academic/educational experiences (92.4%)
 - Quality of instruction (89.8%)
 - Professors (89.8%)
 - Courses (89.6%)
 - Grading procedures (88.1%)
 - Availability of classes (85.5%)
9. Approximately 75% of the respondents indicated that their education at Troy University had added “Very Much” or “Quite A Lot” to their knowledge, skills, or abilities in the following areas, and these may be considered adequate areas for Troy University:
 - Writing competency (78.3%)
 - Critical and creative thinking skills (75.2%)
 - Oral communication (73.5%)
 - Problem solving skills (73.3%)
10. Less than two-thirds of the respondents thought that education at Troy University had added “Very Much” or “Quite a Lot” to their knowledge, skills, or abilities in the areas listed below, and these are areas that may need improving:
 - Multi-media presentation skills (63.9%)
 - Understanding global cultural difference and diversity (63.5%)
 - Information technology (61.1%)
 - Ability to obtain employment in the major field (58.0%)
 - Scientific principles and methods (55.8%)
 - Mathematical skills and concepts (47.1%)
 - Understanding and appreciating the arts (46.1%)