

Results from the Senior Survey 1994-2008

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For the seventh time since 1994, Oberlin administered the Senior Survey to all undergraduates expected to graduate in May. This survey is done in conjunction with other highly selective colleges and universities allowing us to compare Oberlin's responses to those from peer institutions. This report will provide those comparisons from the 2008 administration and also responses from Oberlin students from all seven administrations¹.

In 2008 the survey was administered via the web with support from MIT Web Services. Students were sent personalized e-mails containing personalized links to the survey as the authentication method. This ensured that only the target population had access to the survey and allowed follow-up to non-respondents. Oberlin achieved a 64% response rate which was slightly above the average for the other institutions. The following five areas will be summarized below: satisfaction, post-baccalaureate plans, activities while a student, achievement of learning goals and college financing.

Satisfaction

Since the first administration in 1994 we have seen improvements in student satisfaction generally and with specific aspects of Oberlin. The 2006 administration was the first time that overall satisfaction (generally satisfied plus very satisfied) exceeded that of the colleges in our peer group. This year is the first time that *both* generally and very satisfied exceed that of the other co-ed colleges. Our total satisfaction ratings are higher than all three groups of institutions and the highest of all seven administrations.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Overall satisfaction with undergraduate education	Very dissatisfied	1.6%	1.8%	1.3%	1.1%
	Generally dissatisfied	2.2%	3.5%	3.1%	3.4%
	Ambivalent	5.0%	6.3%	6.7%	7.3%
	Generally satisfied	46.4%	45.5%	47.0%	48.7%
	Very satisfied	44.8%	43.0%	41.9%	39.4%

¹ Response rates for the 1998 and 2002 administrations were unusually low. Data from those years should be viewed with caution. 1996 included only a sample of seniors to avoid overlap with another survey. Not all survey items are available all years.

This longitudinal view shows the extent to which student satisfaction has improved since 1994.

		1994	1996	1998	2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
overall satisfaction with undergraduate education	very dissatisfied	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%
	generally dissatisfied	7%	8%	2%	1%	5%	4%	2%	5%
	ambivalent	15%	9%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	8%
	generally satisfied	48%	50%	47%	46%	50%	50%	46%	48%
	very satisfied	28%	30%	43%	42%	38%	39%	45%	37%
	N	395	196	178	139	331	307	319	1,865

Another measure of satisfaction is the so-called endorsement question. This asks the respondent to determine the extent to which she would recommend Oberlin to a student like her. Again this year, Oberlin scores higher than all three institution groups.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Would you encourage a high school senior to attend your college?	Definitely would not	2.7%	2.6%	3.5%	2.6%
	Probably would not	4.0%	6.9%	7.0%	5.3%
	Maybe	8.8%	11.8%	14.2%	10.8%
	Probably would	26.5%	22.6%	26.7%	22.2%
	Definitely would	57.9%	56.3%	48.6%	59.1%

Since 1994 the percentage stating that they definitely would recommend Oberlin has grown significantly reflecting the increase in satisfaction.

		1994	1996	1998	2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
encourage high school senior to attend same college?	definitely not	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
	probably not	10%	9%	5%	6%	5%	5%	4%	6%
	maybe	21%	12%	11%	14%	9%	9%	9%	12%
	probably would	29%	28%	29%	25%	30%	25%	27%	28%
	definitely would	36%	48%	52%	53%	55%	58%	58%	51%
	N	397	196	178	139	331	311	328	1,880

Appended to the report are comparisons of satisfaction with specific aspects of Oberlin college including courses, advising and other services,

Post Baccalaureate Plans

Though more Oberlin graduates earn a PhD than graduates of any other liberal arts institution and roughly two-thirds of our graduates attend graduate school, we have seen a decline over the years in the percentage of our graduates who immediately attend graduate school full-time (21% in 1994 vs. almost 16% in 2008). Other colleges are experiencing declines as well but more of their graduates are heading to full-time graduate study than at Oberlin. The universities in this group have held fairly steady.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Principal fall activity	Employment, full-time paid	54.1%	62.0%	63.7%	58.2%
	Employment, part-time paid	8.5%	5.0%	4.0%	3.2%
	Graduate or professional school full-time	15.6%	16.9%	17.2%	24.8%
	Graduate or professional school part-time	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%
	Additional undergraduate coursework	1.5%	0.7%	1.6%	2.4%
	Military Service	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%
	Volunteer activity	6.3%	3.1%	2.5%	2.5%
	Starting or raising a family	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
	Traveling	1.9%	3.1%	2.0%	1.4%
	Completely undecided	5.2%	4.7%	4.9%	3.4%
Other activity	5.6%	3.4%	3.0%	2.7%	

When asked to describe their long-term degree aspirations, Oberlin responses are similar to those at the time of entry; our students are more likely to aspire to the Doctorate and academic Masters and less likely to professional degrees. This has remained consistent over many years.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Grad School Plans, Summary	Doctorate	32.2%	27.9%	29.3%	22.9%
	Med	3.2%	9.8%	8.7%	13.4%
	Law	6.7%	13.2%	11.1%	15.9%
	MBA	4.9%	9.1%	7.2%	14.1%
	Other Masters	26.1%	16.2%	22.7%	14.3%
	Other	12.0%	9.6%	8.3%	7.5%
	None	14.8%	14.3%	12.8%	11.9%

One goal of the Strategic Plan is to improve the admission rate of Oberlin graduates to top graduate and professional schools. While the Senior Survey does not address this directly, we do at least have an indication that our 2008 graduates are being admitted to their *preferred* institution to a greater extent than those from peer institutions.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Attending first choice institution	Yes	72.5%	55.0%	63.6%	61.4%
	No	27.5%	45.0%	36.4%	38.6%

Over time however, the responses to this question are fairly inconsistent.

		1998	2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
Attending first choice institution	Yes	65%	78%	55%	44%	72%	60%
	No	35%	22%	45%	56%	28%	40%

Responses to the following question suggest that in addition to being more likely to attend their first choice graduate/professional school, those who do not are more likely to base that decision on better financial aid packages.

		Type			
		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Reasons for not Attending First Choice Grad School	Not admitted to first choice	40.0%	55.8%	55.3%	57.5%
	School attending will cost less	6.7%	10.8%	11.3%	7.8%
	More attractive aid/assistance offered	20.0%	6.7%	10.6%	10.3%
	Geographical constraints	6.7%	8.3%	5.7%	7.4%
	Other	40.0%	32.5%	31.2%	34.8%

Beginning in 2002 respondents who were planning to work in the following fall were asked what the status of their job search was. Oberlin graduates are less likely to have a job in-hand or even to have begun searching for employment.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Employment plans	Have accepted a position	18.3%	30.5%	26.4%	38.6%
	Declined a position, still searching	0.8%	2.3%	2.5%	2.6%
	Considering one or more offers	7.2%	6.0%	6.1%	5.2%
	Currently searching, no offers yet	39.8%	31.5%	35.7%	28.0%
	Will begin searching after graduation	22.3%	17.1%	19.5%	8.1%
	Not planning on employment this fall	11.6%	12.7%	9.7%	17.6%

		2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
Job Plans	Have accepted a position	23%	11%	18%	18%	17%
	Declined a position, still searching	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%
	Considering one or more offers	2%	7%	9%	7%	7%
	Currently searching, no offers yet	43%	47%	45%	40%	44%
	Will begin searching after graduation	21%	23%	16%	22%	21%
	Not planning on employment this fall	7%	11%	10%	12%	10%

Comparing the extent to which our students utilize career services might partially explain the lack in firm employment plans and demonstrates the need to further engage students with that office. Note especially the rather large differences in 'Not applicable'.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
How important was career services in helping you to explore career options?	not important	49.0%	45.9%	40.3%	47.1%
	somewhat important	28.3%	35.1%	35.3%	30.2%
	very important	6.9%	8.3%	9.9%	8.6%
	essential	1.4%	3.5%	4.1%	3.6%
	Not applicable	14.5%	7.2%	10.4%	10.5%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
How important was career services in helping you to locate employment?	not important	50.7%	49.0%	43.1%	47.3%
	somewhat important	22.6%	25.4%	25.1%	20.6%
	very important	5.2%	7.2%	9.0%	8.7%
	essential	0.7%	4.5%	4.5%	6.1%
	Not applicable	20.8%	14.0%	18.4%	17.4%

Consistent with longer term alumni studies, 2008 graduates are more likely to enter employment in fields related to education and less likely to be in business-related fields than graduates from peer institutions. Though we do have a licensure program in Music Education, that alone cannot explain the higher percentages for Oberlin graduates in education². One difference with the alumni studies is that the percentage of 2008 Oberlin graduates in health and medicine eventually grows to the third greatest behind higher education and business. The relatively high percentage selecting ‘Other’ is interesting and calls for further research. It is the opinion of some in Career Services that this could represent internships.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Employment sector	Financial services	6.1%	13.5%	9.6%	21.9%
	Consulting	6.1%	13.7%	6.4%	15.1%
	Sales or marketing	2.4%	2.2%	3.2%	3.0%
	Business - other	1.2%	2.8%	3.0%	3.3%
	Comunications, media, arts	9.8%	4.6%	7.0%	4.2%
	Education	25.6%	20.9%	18.7%	10.5%
	Engineering	1.2%	1.2%	0.5%	8.0%
	Government	2.4%	3.0%	3.2%	2.9%
	Health or medicine	2.4%	10.9%	12.3%	8.4%
	Information technology	1.2%	1.4%	0.6%	2.5%
	Law	2.4%	2.4%	4.8%	2.3%
	Military	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	1.4%
	Non-profit agency or NGO	7.3%	8.9%	10.9%	6.1%
	Sports, hospitality, recreation	3.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%
Other	28.0%	12.7%	18.2%	9.0%	

Activities While in College

This is the most interesting and potentially worrisome set of results. While comparatively low participation rates in many of these items are not inherently bad, several represent areas in which we aspire to be higher. These include faculty research (note especially the differences in non-credit faculty research), studying abroad, volunteer activity and, to a lesser extent, intercollegiate athletics. The latter has been consistent for years while studying abroad and student research activities have been trending downward.

	Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Independent Research for credit	41.1%	35.6%	42.7%	35.6%
Faculty research for credit	19.2%	18.1%	21.0%	24.3%
Faculty research no credit	8.9%	21.8%	18.5%	23.9%
Publish or present a paper	10.8%	11.8%	11.0%	12.0%
Study Abroad	33.7%	43.8%	42.2%	32.0%

² This survey does not distinguish higher education from K-12 but the alumni surveys do and show high levels of employment in both.

	Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Internship Abroad	5.3%	11.0%	15.0%	11.4%
Off-campus study in US	7.6%	7.1%	13.4%	6.5%
Internship in US	41.6%	42.7%	50.9%	46.1%
Racial/cultural awareness workshop	18.9%	36.9%	26.2%	19.8%
Sexual harassment seminar or workshop	15.8%	31.6%	12.6%	18.0%
Alcohol awareness session	12.1%	36.7%	19.7%	27.5%
Religious or spiritual group	15.3%	23.6%	23.7%	24.2%
Music/theater group	28.7%	27.7%	25.6%	19.8%
Student government	4.2%	7.7%	15.7%	9.0%
Political club	16.1%	15.8%	16.0%	12.2%
Cultural/ethnic club	8.4%	21.9%	25.5%	19.3%
Volunteer service	35.3%	41.3%	40.8%	43.2%
Fraternity or sorority	0.0%	4.4%	2.9%	22.1%
Intercollegiate athletics	16.1%	29.9%	16.1%	16.3%
Intramural athletics	22.1%	34.4%	9.1%	30.5%
Club sports	16.8%	21.4%	15.4%	17.5%

	2002	2004	2006	2008
Independent study, research for credit	66%	47%	53%	41%
Work on a faculty member's research for credit	22%	25%	26%	19%
Research with faculty not for credit	19%	15%	13%	9%
Publishing or presenting a paper off campus	6%	11%	17%	11%
Study-abroad program	45%	38%	36%	34%
Internship abroad	7%	9%	7%	5%
Off-campus study in the US	16%	12%	12%	8%
Internship in the US	47%	44%	42%	42%

Learning

After previous survey administrations we have traditionally summarized self-reported learning compared to the other institutions. Since this is the fourth administration with the same set of questions and response scale, it is more helpful to look at the Oberlin responses over time and determine where changes have occurred. We must then match those responses and trends to our learning goals to determine areas we should target in our assessment process. For the most part, we do not see significant changes and where we do, there is improvement – specifically in teamwork, understanding own abilities and interests, foreign language, developing self-confidence, resolving interpersonal conflicts and synthesizing ideas. In several of those areas Oberlin graduates had lagged behind peer colleges.

		2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
Write effectively	Weaker now	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	No change	10%	11%	12%	10%	11%
	Stronger now	54%	58%	57%	58%	57%
	Much stronger now	34%	30%	29%	30%	30%
Communicate well orally	Weaker now	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%
	No change	19%	16%	18%	16%	17%
	Stronger now	60%	58%	59%	59%	59%
	Much stronger now	19%	23%	21%	22%	22%
Acquire new skills and knowledge on own	Weaker now	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
	No change	11%	8%	12%	12%	11%
	Stronger now	50%	59%	55%	56%	56%
	Much stronger now	38%	33%	32%	31%	33%
Think analytically and logically	Weaker now	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
	No change	15%	13%	12%	9%	12%
	Stronger now	44%	55%	56%	54%	54%
	Much stronger now	41%	31%	32%	36%	34%
Formulate, create original ideas and solutions	Weaker now	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	No change	24%	22%	22%	19%	21%
	Stronger now	54%	53%	55%	54%	54%
	Much stronger now	21%	23%	22%	26%	23%
Evaluate and choose between alternative courses of action	Weaker now	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
	No change	41%	35%	32%	28%	33%
	Stronger now	49%	51%	53%	56%	53%
	Much stronger now	10%	13%	14%	15%	13%
Lead and supervise tasks and groups of people	Weaker now	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%
	No change	36%	32%	29%	25%	29%
	Stronger now	42%	45%	50%	48%	47%
	Much stronger now	19%	20%	20%	26%	22%
Relate well to people of different races, nations, and religions	Weaker now	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%
	No change	36%	29%	33%	32%	32%
	Stronger now	38%	46%	45%	44%	44%
	Much stronger now	21%	22%	20%	22%	21%
Function effectively as a member of a team	Weaker now	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	No change	46%	44%	41%	37%	41%
	Stronger now	45%	43%	44%	46%	44%
	Much stronger now	8%	12%	13%	15%	13%
Use quantitative tools	Weaker now	4%	8%	9%	10%	9%
	No change	48%	38%	40%	37%	39%
	Stronger now	31%	40%	33%	34%	35%
	Much stronger now	17%	14%	18%	19%	17%
Place current problems in historical/cultural/philosophical perspective	Weaker now	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
	No change	15%	16%	17%	18%	17%
	Stronger now	49%	49%	49%	48%	49%
	Much stronger now	35%	34%	34%	33%	34%

		2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
Identify moral and ethical issues	Weaker now	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
	No change	30%	28%	31%	29%	30%
	Stronger now	48%	56%	52%	51%	52%
	Much stronger now	21%	16%	17%	20%	18%
Understand own abilities, interests, limitations, and personality	Weaker now	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%
	No change	9%	11%	9%	8%	9%
	Stronger now	45%	51%	52%	50%	50%
	Much stronger now	43%	36%	36%	41%	38%
Function independently, without supervision	Weaker now	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%
	No change	18%	22%	19%	14%	19%
	Stronger now	47%	51%	50%	55%	51%
	Much stronger now	34%	25%	28%	29%	28%
Gain in-depth knowledge of a field	Weaker now	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
	No change	7%	8%	9%	7%	8%
	Stronger now	53%	58%	62%	55%	58%
	Much stronger now	38%	33%	29%	36%	33%
Plan and execute complex projects	Weaker now	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
	No change	22%	20%	20%	16%	19%
	Stronger now	50%	59%	53%	64%	57%
	Much stronger now	27%	20%	27%	20%	23%
Read or speak a foreign language	Weaker now	21%	18%	22%	17%	20%
	No change	28%	34%	28%	28%	30%
	Stronger now	29%	30%	26%	30%	29%
	Much stronger now	21%	18%	24%	25%	22%
Appreciate art, literature, music, drama	Weaker now	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%
	No change	25%	22%	23%	19%	22%
	Stronger now	44%	48%	46%	48%	47%
	Much stronger now	30%	28%	29%	30%	29%
Acquire broad knowledge in the arts and sciences	Weaker now	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
	No change	9%	11%	11%	10%	11%
	Stronger now	59%	64%	64%	65%	64%
	Much stronger now	32%	24%	23%	24%	25%
Develop an awareness of social problems	Weaker now	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
	No change	17%	13%	14%	16%	15%
	Stronger now	42%	56%	52%	50%	52%
	Much stronger now	39%	30%	33%	32%	32%
Develop self-esteem, confidence	Weaker now	10%	6%	9%	8%	8%
	No change	22%	26%	23%	20%	23%
	Stronger now	43%	47%	46%	46%	46%
	Much stronger now	26%	21%	22%	26%	23%
Resolve interpersonal conflicts positively	Weaker now	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%
	No change	27%	30%	30%	30%	30%
	Stronger now	53%	55%	54%	50%	53%
	Much stronger now	19%	13%	15%	18%	16%

		2002	2004	2006	2008	Total
Synthesize and integrate ideas and information	Weaker now	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	No change	18%	17%	15%	13%	15%
	Stronger now	64%	64%	64%	63%	64%
	Much stronger now	17%	19%	20%	24%	21%
Understand the process of science and experimentation	Weaker now	2%	3%	5%	4%	4%
	No change	40%	46%	42%	40%	42%
	Stronger now	40%	33%	35%	37%	36%
	Much stronger now	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%
Evaluate the role of science and technology in society	Weaker now	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	No change	38%	41%	40%	33%	38%
	Stronger now	40%	46%	46%	53%	47%
	Much stronger now	21%	12%	12%	12%	13%

Oberlin students have a well-deserved reputation for questioning their beliefs and those of others. The following set of questions generally supports this reputation.

	Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Question own political beliefs/values	67.4%	65.6%	59.9%	61.4%
Question own religious beliefs	50.8%	46.2%	46.1%	46.6%
Question own moral/ethical beliefs	69.8%	66.7%	59.8%	61.0%
Question beliefs about the nature of humans or society	78.2%	77.5%	78.6%	74.2%
Question beliefs about religion(s) other than your own	61.0%	62.7%	66.6%	64.1%
Question beliefs about a race/ethnicity group other than your own	60.7%	63.4%	67.2%	59.3%
Question beliefs about people with sexual orientations other than your own	66.5%	60.2%	68.4%	52.8%

Finances

Many of the responses to these questions support what we have learned about our financial aid program over the years. Oberlin students are more likely to be aided, to have institutional grant aid, borrow more, come from middle income families and less likely to come from the highest income levels than students from other co-ed colleges and universities. Our students tend to be more comparable to students from the women's colleges in these areas. The table below is especially interesting as it shows that Oberlin students, whether aided or not, are less likely to have parent and student contributions.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Financial aid from your institution	Not a source	22.9%	40.4%	30.6%	40.7%
	Minor source	14.1%	12.3%	15.5%	14.9%
	Major source	62.0%	46.0%	52.7%	43.0%
	Don't know	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.5%
Financial aid Parental resources	Not a source	11.5%	6.9%	11.7%	7.0%
	Minor source	17.4%	15.9%	18.7%	15.5%
	Major source	70.1%	76.3%	68.4%	76.4%
	Don't know	1.0%	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%
Financial aid Other personal resources	Not a source	35.6%	44.8%	38.4%	42.5%
	Minor source	38.5%	35.9%	36.6%	36.8%
	Major source	21.6%	15.3%	20.4%	16.1%
	Don't know	4.3%	3.9%	4.5%	4.5%
Financial aid Other resources	Not a source	66.7%	73.6%	63.0%	72.4%
	Minor source	6.7%	3.6%	5.5%	4.3%
	Major source	10.0%	8.2%	10.6%	6.8%
	Don't know	16.7%	14.5%	20.9%	16.5%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Grant aid senior year	none	23.9%	42.9%	34.5%	39.9%
	1 - \$4,999	8.0%	7.6%	7.6%	11.3%
	\$5,000 - \$9,999	9.0%	4.1%	4.6%	5.2%
	\$10,000 - \$14,999	12.1%	4.8%	6.5%	6.0%
	\$15,000 - \$19,999	10.7%	5.4%	8.9%	6.1%
	\$20,000 or more	30.4%	27.4%	27.4%	24.8%
	Do not know	5.9%	7.7%	10.5%	6.7%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Total amount borrowed by student	\$0	39.4%	52.4%	37.1%	56.0%
	\$1 - \$4,999	5.5%	6.8%	4.4%	4.5%
	\$5,000 - \$9,999	5.9%	7.2%	7.0%	5.8%
	\$10,000 - \$14,999	10.0%	7.8%	9.6%	6.2%
	\$15,000 - \$19,999	11.1%	7.0%	13.0%	5.3%
	\$20,000 - \$24,999	8.3%	4.6%	7.2%	5.4%
	\$25,000 - \$29,999	2.1%	1.8%	3.4%	2.8%
	\$30,000 or more	8.3%	4.5%	11.4%	8.1%
	More than \$0 but unable to estimate amount	9.3%	7.9%	7.0%	5.9%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Parent Income	Under \$25,000	8.3%	8.0%	12.2%	5.6%
	\$25,000 to \$49,999	10.7%	7.4%	13.8%	7.4%
	\$50,000 to \$74,999	13.8%	10.2%	14.3%	9.6%
	\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.0%	10.9%	12.0%	10.4%
	\$100,000 to \$124,999	15.0%	14.4%	12.8%	13.2%
	\$125,000 to \$149,999	5.5%	7.4%	6.3%	8.0%
	\$150,000 to \$174,999	5.9%	7.9%	5.0%	7.5%
	\$175,000 to \$199,999	6.3%	5.3%	4.6%	5.8%
	\$200,000 to \$249,999	7.5%	7.3%	5.3%	8.7%
	\$250,000 to \$299,999	4.7%	5.0%	3.7%	5.5%
	\$300,000 or above	7.1%	16.2%	10.1%	18.2%

Despite the differences in income and aid profiles, the impact of paying for college is not all that different across institution groups. The women's colleges show the greatest impact.

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
What has been the impact of paying for college on your family?	None, slight	17.7%	19.4%	13.8%	19.0%
	Moderate	29.9%	30.4%	26.1%	31.9%
	Considerable	36.1%	35.3%	36.4%	32.5%
	Severe	11.1%	11.4%	17.7%	13.1%
	Not applicable	5.2%	3.4%	6.0%	3.6%

Appended to the report is additional information on the specific effects of aid programs and paying for college on various experiences while at college.

The Senior Survey continues to be a very valuable tool in our continuous self study and assessment processes. Though indirect, the results provide us with a comprehensive review of the Oberlin experience through the eyes of our graduates. While it is important to note where we are doing well, the real value of this and other assessment related instruments is to identify areas in which we can improve (such as greater student engagement with Career Services) to ensure progress towards our strategic planning objectives and our overall mission.

Satisfaction Detail

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Academic advising before declaring major	Very dissatisfied	6.7%	9.3%	8.0%	11.2%
	Generally dissatisfied	20.9%	32.6%	21.7%	30.3%
	Generally satisfied	46.5%	43.6%	47.3%	38.0%
	Very satisfied	17.2%	12.1%	18.0%	12.7%
	Not applicable	8.7%	2.4%	5.0%	7.8%
Academic advising in your major	Very dissatisfied	2.3%	3.6%	3.1%	6.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	13.3%	15.5%	13.4%	22.4%
	Generally satisfied	41.2%	45.7%	41.1%	43.3%
	Very satisfied	42.3%	33.6%	41.7%	26.3%
	Not applicable	0.9%	1.6%	0.7%	1.3%
Out of class faculty availability	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	0.9%	1.4%	1.4%	4.5%
	Generally satisfied	39.1%	32.7%	37.9%	50.6%
	Very satisfied	58.3%	64.9%	59.8%	43.4%
	Not applicable	1.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%
Opportunity to participate in research with faculty member	Very dissatisfied	3.5%	3.2%	4.8%	2.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	13.4%	12.8%	16.0%	12.4%
	Generally satisfied	23.8%	21.4%	21.5%	28.7%
	Very satisfied	23.3%	28.7%	25.0%	30.5%
	Not applicable	36.0%	33.9%	32.8%	25.8%
Tutorial help/ academic assistance	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.7%	4.6%	6.2%	9.3%
	Generally satisfied	42.7%	42.9%	46.3%	45.3%
	Very satisfied	27.0%	29.3%	24.9%	19.8%
	Not applicable	23.3%	22.0%	21.6%	24.0%
Internships	Very dissatisfied	3.8%	5.1%	4.6%	4.5%
	Generally dissatisfied	14.5%	15.0%	14.5%	15.1%
	Generally satisfied	25.9%	22.3%	30.3%	30.4%
	Very satisfied	13.4%	14.1%	23.7%	20.4%
	Not applicable	42.4%	43.5%	26.9%	29.6%
Study off-campus or abroad	Very dissatisfied	2.3%	3.1%	2.7%	2.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	7.5%	5.5%	6.3%	6.7%
	Generally satisfied	21.4%	22.1%	20.9%	18.7%
	Very satisfied	24.3%	29.8%	34.6%	28.6%
	Not applicable	44.3%	39.5%	35.5%	43.3%
Course availability	Very dissatisfied	2.6%	4.1%	2.0%	2.4%
	Generally dissatisfied	14.0%	18.2%	13.4%	12.6%
	Generally satisfied	56.9%	59.0%	58.8%	54.2%
	Very satisfied	25.9%	18.3%	25.7%	30.4%
	Not applicable	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%
Quality of instruction	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.9%
	Generally dissatisfied	1.7%	3.2%	1.9%	5.4%
	Generally satisfied	43.2%	46.3%	46.8%	55.6%
	Very satisfied	54.5%	49.6%	50.9%	37.9%
	Not applicable	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Class size	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	1.0%
	Generally dissatisfied	1.4%	3.0%	3.1%	5.7%
	Generally satisfied	41.4%	40.8%	40.5%	53.8%
	Very satisfied	56.5%	55.4%	55.8%	39.2%
	Not applicable	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
Interdisciplinary courses	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%
	Generally dissatisfied	5.2%	7.1%	5.8%	7.0%
	Generally satisfied	43.9%	46.1%	45.1%	50.3%
	Very satisfied	36.6%	31.0%	34.8%	28.4%
	Not applicable	14.0%	14.9%	13.8%	13.4%
Independent study/ self-designed courses	Very dissatisfied	0.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%
	Generally dissatisfied	3.8%	3.3%	5.2%	4.7%
	Generally satisfied	25.4%	18.9%	18.9%	20.8%
	Very satisfied	28.9%	19.4%	28.0%	20.5%
	Not applicable	41.2%	56.9%	46.7%	52.8%
Classrooms	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	2.7%	2.1%	4.3%	7.7%
	Generally satisfied	66.8%	55.0%	59.1%	60.7%
	Very satisfied	29.9%	42.0%	36.0%	30.5%
	Not applicable	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
Laboratory facilities and equipment	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	0.6%	0.9%	1.1%
	Generally dissatisfied	2.1%	1.2%	2.8%	5.7%
	Generally satisfied	28.5%	33.3%	42.6%	38.4%
	Very satisfied	33.3%	35.3%	30.0%	26.2%
	Not applicable	36.1%	29.6%	23.8%	28.5%
Foreign language facilities	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%
	Generally dissatisfied	0.6%	6.3%	6.2%	6.4%
	Generally satisfied	30.3%	34.7%	46.9%	38.6%
	Very satisfied	33.6%	20.1%	23.9%	22.4%
	Not applicable	35.2%	37.7%	22.0%	31.8%
Computer facilities and resources	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%
	Generally dissatisfied	3.3%	6.0%	5.3%	7.3%
	Generally satisfied	47.4%	51.4%	47.7%	49.9%
	Very satisfied	48.0%	40.0%	44.5%	39.4%
	Not applicable	0.9%	1.4%	1.7%	2.1%
Library facilities	Very dissatisfied	0.9%	0.9%	0.6%	1.3%
	Generally dissatisfied	0.3%	3.3%	3.7%	4.9%
	Generally satisfied	33.1%	48.7%	39.7%	45.2%
	Very satisfied	64.7%	46.0%	55.7%	47.5%
	Not applicable	0.9%	1.1%	0.3%	1.2%
Athletic facilities	Very dissatisfied	4.5%	5.6%	8.2%	5.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	17.9%	12.1%	19.1%	14.4%
	Generally satisfied	48.5%	46.4%	37.3%	42.4%
	Very satisfied	13.0%	27.6%	25.6%	29.9%
	Not applicable	16.1%	8.4%	9.7%	7.5%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Administrations responsiveness to students	Very dissatisfied	7.6%	12.1%	8.7%	10.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	24.2%	26.5%	23.5%	25.1%
	Generally satisfied	48.5%	41.6%	45.9%	44.0%
	Very satisfied	8.8%	13.5%	15.4%	11.8%
	Not applicable	10.9%	6.3%	6.5%	8.3%
Campus security office/campus police	Very dissatisfied	3.0%	6.1%	4.0%	7.1%
	Generally dissatisfied	14.5%	16.0%	9.9%	15.2%
	Generally satisfied	57.9%	55.6%	48.4%	50.2%
	Very satisfied	17.9%	17.7%	33.7%	21.8%
	Not applicable	6.7%	4.6%	4.1%	5.7%
Career counseling	Very dissatisfied	8.2%	9.8%	7.5%	9.5%
	Generally dissatisfied	20.0%	26.1%	18.6%	22.1%
	Generally satisfied	40.3%	40.7%	45.6%	41.2%
	Very satisfied	11.2%	13.6%	20.8%	14.8%
	Not applicable	20.3%	9.7%	7.6%	12.5%
Financial aid office	Very dissatisfied	1.8%	4.2%	5.9%	4.1%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.7%	6.9%	11.0%	8.7%
	Generally satisfied	43.5%	28.9%	34.5%	29.2%
	Very satisfied	16.1%	17.6%	19.1%	16.8%
	Not applicable	31.9%	42.4%	29.5%	41.2%
Your financial aid award(s)	Very dissatisfied	3.6%	6.1%	8.7%	7.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	11.5%	9.2%	12.5%	10.8%
	Generally satisfied	37.6%	22.2%	25.1%	21.9%
	Very satisfied	20.6%	21.0%	22.7%	19.5%
	Not applicable	26.7%	41.4%	31.0%	40.1%
Financial services	Very dissatisfied	1.2%	2.1%	5.0%	3.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.4%	5.2%	11.6%	9.8%
	Generally satisfied	51.2%	50.2%	48.6%	48.8%
	Very satisfied	12.6%	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%
	Not applicable	28.5%	25.7%	17.9%	21.3%
Food services	Very dissatisfied	10.7%	6.5%	6.3%	11.1%
	Generally dissatisfied	23.2%	16.1%	18.9%	24.1%
	Generally satisfied	54.3%	55.0%	52.6%	49.5%
	Very satisfied	9.8%	21.9%	19.4%	14.2%
	Not applicable	2.1%	0.5%	2.9%	1.0%
Psychological counseling services	Very dissatisfied	5.8%	5.6%	4.8%	4.0%
	Generally dissatisfied	11.9%	8.0%	9.2%	6.3%
	Generally satisfied	18.6%	18.9%	22.9%	17.6%
	Very satisfied	7.9%	10.9%	14.7%	10.0%
	Not applicable	55.8%	56.7%	48.4%	62.1%
Registrar's office	Very dissatisfied	1.8%	1.6%	3.5%	2.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	5.2%	7.6%	9.9%	8.7%
	Generally satisfied	62.8%	59.5%	61.2%	60.7%
	Very satisfied	27.7%	29.4%	24.3%	20.2%
	Not applicable	2.4%	2.0%	1.1%	7.8%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Financial services	Very dissatisfied	1.2%	2.1%	5.0%	3.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.4%	5.2%	11.6%	9.8%
	Generally satisfied	51.2%	50.2%	48.6%	48.8%
	Very satisfied	12.6%	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%
	Not applicable	28.5%	25.7%	17.9%	21.3%
Student employment programs	Very dissatisfied	0.9%	1.3%	2.8%	1.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	4.6%	5.1%	7.6%	5.8%
	Generally satisfied	53.8%	45.7%	40.9%	36.8%
	Very satisfied	23.7%	27.3%	25.3%	18.9%
	Not applicable	17.0%	20.7%	23.4%	36.8%
Student health services	Very dissatisfied	19.1%	6.5%	7.3%	8.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	25.8%	15.6%	17.6%	19.7%
	Generally satisfied	40.1%	49.6%	46.5%	44.9%
	Very satisfied	5.5%	22.0%	21.7%	18.2%
	Not applicable	9.4%	6.3%	6.9%	8.4%
Student housing facilities	Very dissatisfied	14.6%	2.7%	3.8%	5.2%
	Generally dissatisfied	32.5%	9.0%	11.1%	16.2%
	Generally satisfied	47.7%	58.6%	51.7%	57.7%
	Very satisfied	4.3%	29.1%	30.1%	18.8%
	Not applicable	0.9%	0.6%	3.3%	2.1%
Student housing office/services	Very dissatisfied	22.9%	5.9%	7.0%	7.2%
	Generally dissatisfied	28.4%	15.0%	14.2%	16.0%
	Generally satisfied	37.2%	51.4%	51.2%	52.9%
	Very satisfied	3.4%	18.7%	18.6%	13.9%
	Not applicable	8.2%	9.0%	9.1%	10.0%
Humanities and arts courses	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%
	Generally dissatisfied	3.5%	3.8%	2.9%	5.2%
	Generally satisfied	46.1%	48.2%	43.4%	49.7%
	Very satisfied	47.5%	45.2%	51.4%	41.2%
	Not applicable	2.9%	1.8%	1.9%	3.0%
Natural sciences and math courses	Very dissatisfied	1.2%	2.4%	2.0%	4.5%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.7%	11.5%	10.1%	19.6%
	Generally satisfied	48.7%	49.1%	47.3%	48.3%
	Very satisfied	32.8%	31.0%	31.5%	18.8%
	Not applicable	10.7%	5.9%	9.1%	8.8%
Social science courses	Very dissatisfied	0.9%	0.9%	0.6%	0.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.4%	5.6%	3.9%	6.5%
	Generally satisfied	50.3%	50.4%	45.7%	52.8%
	Very satisfied	32.8%	38.6%	43.5%	32.4%
	Not applicable	9.6%	4.6%	6.4%	7.5%
Engineering courses	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	1.3%	0.6%	1.4%
	Generally dissatisfied	0.3%	1.4%	1.0%	4.6%
	Generally satisfied	3.2%	4.7%	4.5%	18.4%
	Very satisfied	1.5%	2.7%	2.4%	11.5%
	Not applicable	95.0%	89.9%	91.6%	64.1%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Courses in major field	Very dissatisfied	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	1.5%
	Generally dissatisfied	4.9%	5.3%	4.9%	7.1%
	Generally satisfied	34.2%	40.0%	37.0%	42.9%
	Very satisfied	60.0%	53.3%	56.9%	48.1%
	Not applicable	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Opportunities for extracurricular activities	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	4.4%	3.5%	7.4%	3.9%
	Generally satisfied	37.5%	44.7%	48.0%	39.4%
	Very satisfied	57.7%	51.1%	43.5%	56.0%
Social life on campus	Very dissatisfied	2.8%	5.9%	11.8%	3.6%
	Generally dissatisfied	8.1%	16.0%	22.8%	13.1%
	Generally satisfied	46.3%	48.1%	47.4%	46.6%
	Very satisfied	42.9%	30.0%	18.0%	36.7%
Student government	Very dissatisfied	4.0%	7.2%	5.5%	9.0%
	Generally dissatisfied	22.6%	25.2%	23.2%	27.0%
	Generally satisfied	61.3%	57.6%	59.6%	52.8%
	Very satisfied	12.1%	10.0%	11.7%	11.3%
Extra-curricular speakers, cultural offerings, and events	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	2.0%	0.9%	1.0%
	Generally dissatisfied	2.9%	7.8%	5.7%	6.1%
	Generally satisfied	37.6%	53.3%	51.4%	48.7%
	Very satisfied	59.2%	37.0%	42.1%	44.3%
Climate for minority students on campus	Very dissatisfied	4.2%	5.7%	5.4%	4.3%
	Generally dissatisfied	20.9%	19.8%	17.3%	15.5%
	Generally satisfied	54.5%	58.1%	57.2%	55.6%
	Very satisfied	20.4%	16.3%	20.1%	24.6%
Sense of a community on campus	Very dissatisfied	2.2%	4.5%	6.6%	4.4%
	Generally dissatisfied	14.8%	18.6%	20.2%	16.8%
	Generally satisfied	56.6%	52.6%	49.8%	48.8%
	Very satisfied	26.4%	24.3%	23.4%	30.1%
Sense of community where you live	Very dissatisfied	2.6%	4.3%	6.7%	3.8%
	Generally dissatisfied	16.9%	16.1%	19.0%	15.1%
	Generally satisfied	49.2%	49.4%	46.4%	45.4%
	Very satisfied	31.3%	30.1%	27.9%	35.8%
Ethnic/racial diversity of campus	Very dissatisfied	10.7%	4.7%	4.1%	4.0%
	Generally dissatisfied	34.4%	19.3%	15.3%	15.3%
	Generally satisfied	45.1%	59.1%	54.6%	55.5%
	Very satisfied	9.7%	16.9%	26.0%	25.2%
Intercollegiate athletic opportunities	Very dissatisfied	1.4%	2.4%	4.0%	1.9%
	Generally dissatisfied	9.0%	5.7%	13.6%	6.8%
	Generally satisfied	62.8%	52.3%	54.1%	54.0%
	Very satisfied	26.9%	39.6%	28.3%	37.3%
Club sport opportunities	Very dissatisfied	1.9%	2.6%	7.6%	1.7%
	Generally dissatisfied	13.9%	8.7%	19.9%	8.3%
	Generally satisfied	61.4%	57.3%	49.9%	56.5%
	Very satisfied	22.8%	31.4%	22.5%	33.5%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Recreational and intramural athletic opportunities	Very dissatisfied	2.7%	2.3%	9.6%	1.4%
	Generally dissatisfied	6.5%	8.9%	22.1%	6.2%
	Generally satisfied	58.7%	57.1%	47.8%	55.0%
	Very satisfied	32.1%	31.7%	20.5%	37.5%
Feeling of security on campus	Very dissatisfied	0.3%	1.3%	1.0%	3.5%
	Generally dissatisfied	2.8%	4.8%	3.3%	8.9%
	Generally satisfied	46.4%	43.5%	40.6%	47.1%
	Very satisfied	50.5%	50.4%	55.0%	40.5%

Effects of Aid and Paying for College

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Effect - Work-study or academic job helped me gain valuable skills and experience	Strongly disagree	4.5%	4.5%	3.7%	3.3%
	Disagree	9.1%	13.6%	10.2%	9.5%
	Agree	31.7%	33.7%	31.0%	27.2%
	Strongly agree	28.6%	19.0%	27.6%	16.3%
	Not applicable	26.1%	29.2%	27.5%	43.7%
Effect - Work schedule did not leave sufficient study time	Strongly disagree	11.6%	16.3%	12.3%	9.6%
	Disagree	44.0%	40.7%	39.3%	31.3%
	Agree	18.7%	11.2%	17.3%	14.8%
	Strongly agree	3.5%	3.1%	6.1%	4.2%
	Not applicable	22.2%	28.8%	25.1%	40.0%
Effect - Work schedule does not allow enough times for socializing with friends and peers	Strongly disagree	14.6%	16.7%	13.6%	10.7%
	Disagree	39.7%	40.1%	37.4%	30.3%
	Agree	20.2%	11.3%	17.5%	14.9%
	Strongly agree	3.8%	3.0%	6.7%	4.4%
	Not applicable	21.6%	28.9%	24.8%	39.7%
Effect - Will be burdened by loan payments	Strongly disagree	15.2%	18.2%	8.8%	14.6%
	Disagree	23.0%	22.5%	21.2%	19.4%
	Agree	21.2%	14.5%	22.2%	13.8%
	Strongly agree	14.8%	7.6%	18.3%	9.0%
	Not applicable	25.8%	37.2%	29.4%	43.2%
Effect - Longer to complete degree than had anticipated	Strongly disagree	45.1%	40.0%	38.1%	35.9%
	Disagree	20.6%	18.4%	18.6%	14.7%
	Agree	4.2%	1.6%	3.3%	3.2%
	Strongly agree	1.7%	1.6%	2.4%	2.4%
	Not applicable	28.3%	38.4%	37.5%	43.8%
Had to forgo: Study abroad	Strongly disagree	28.7%	34.9%	28.1%	26.2%
	Disagree	24.0%	18.4%	17.8%	15.3%
	Agree	11.1%	4.8%	10.0%	8.7%
	Strongly agree	9.7%	3.1%	9.4%	6.3%
	Not applicable	26.5%	38.7%	34.8%	43.6%

		Oberlin	Other Co-ed	Womens	Univs
Had to forgo: Extracurricular activities	Strongly disagree	30.5%	35.2%	28.8%	29.2%
	Disagree	30.1%	22.4%	24.7%	20.7%
	Agree	7.5%	6.3%	8.9%	7.0%
	Strongly agree	2.2%	1.3%	5.1%	2.9%
	Not applicable	29.7%	34.8%	32.5%	40.2%
Had to forgo: Internship	Strongly disagree	20.9%	29.9%	25.0%	27.0%
	Disagree	24.1%	17.8%	21.8%	19.3%
	Agree	15.5%	9.7%	11.8%	6.9%
	Strongly agree	9.0%	4.9%	9.2%	4.6%
	Not applicable	30.6%	37.8%	32.2%	42.1%
Had to forgo: Fraternity/sorority	Strongly disagree	15.0%	23.2%	17.0%	23.7%
	Disagree	11.4%	12.7%	12.4%	14.7%
	Agree	0.7%	1.6%	2.1%	5.1%
	Strongly agree	0.7%	1.0%	2.0%	3.1%
	Not applicable	72.1%	61.5%	66.6%	53.4%
Had to forgo: Community service	Strongly disagree	24.0%	30.4%	23.1%	27.4%
	Disagree	27.2%	20.1%	20.7%	19.0%
	Agree	13.6%	7.7%	12.3%	7.7%
	Strongly agree	4.7%	3.1%	6.3%	3.5%
	Not applicable	30.5%	38.7%	37.6%	42.4%
Had to forgo: Travel during vacation/breaks	Strongly disagree	15.4%	19.7%	13.8%	16.1%
	Disagree	15.4%	9.5%	11.6%	10.8%
	Agree	31.2%	24.4%	25.2%	22.2%
	Strongly agree	17.9%	17.0%	26.2%	18.1%
	Not applicable	20.1%	29.4%	23.1%	32.9%
Had to forgo: Time with friends	Strongly disagree	21.6%	28.2%	21.4%	23.4%
	Disagree	29.5%	22.8%	23.9%	19.5%
	Agree	19.8%	13.9%	20.5%	15.3%
	Strongly agree	5.0%	4.0%	8.7%	6.0%
	Not applicable	24.1%	31.1%	25.6%	35.8%
Had to forgo: Non-paying research/internships	Strongly disagree	15.8%	18.3%	14.5%	16.8%
	Disagree	14.0%	10.3%	12.8%	11.6%
	Agree	20.9%	20.5%	21.4%	17.7%
	Strongly agree	20.9%	17.4%	23.6%	15.6%
	Not applicable	28.4%	33.5%	27.7%	38.2%