

Using Feedback from Miami Alumni to Improve Educational Effectiveness

Surveying Alumni

Miami students are frequently surveyed throughout their college experiences. However, assessing the long-term impact of students' Miami education can also require reaching out to students after they graduate. Feedback from alumni, who are now using the skills they developed at Miami, can greatly improve educational effectiveness.

The Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) survey gathers information about fine arts alumni to better understand the relationship between arts education and arts-related occupations. The SNAAP participants from Miami University consisted of 220 undergraduate fine arts alumni who graduated in the following years: 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005-2009.

The survey included questions about institutional experiences and career choices. To capture institutional experiences, the survey prompted alumni to report their overall satisfaction with their education as well as their satisfaction with specific areas (e.g., academic advising, freedom to take risks). In the career section, alumni reported their current and previous occupations, their satisfaction with these jobs, and their current level of fine arts engagement.

To explore the intersection between institutional experience and careers, the survey asked alumni about the skills and competencies they developed at Miami University as well as which skills were most important in their current job.

By reviewing these results, faculty and staff can better understand how students' experiences at Miami prepare them for their career.

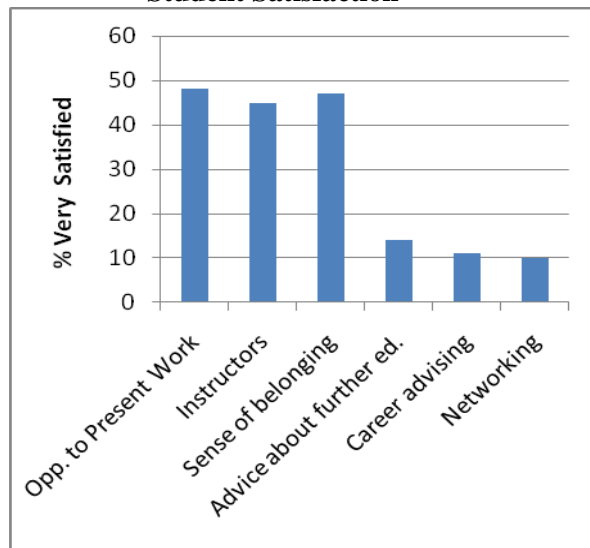
Key Findings

- Fine arts alumni were satisfied with their experiences at Miami University; 94% of undergraduate arts alumni rated

their overall experience as good or excellent.

- Arts alumni were especially satisfied with their sense of belonging at Miami and with their instructors.
- Respondents were least satisfied with opportunities to network with alumni and others, advice about further education, career advising, and work experience.
- The vast majority of respondents reported developing critical and creative thinking skills while at Miami and found these skills important in their future careers.
- Fine arts alumni were less likely to report that Miami helped them to develop business and technological skills related to their field.

Student Satisfaction



Recommendations

The SNAAP survey highlights the importance of gathering alumni feedback. Such feedback is a valuable resource for assessing educational impact and improving educational effectiveness across the university. The SNAAP survey helps faculty and staff in fine arts by identifying the following: