

2001 Alumni Survey Results

Presented by Office of Institutional Effectiveness

A total of 1856 paper surveys were mailed to all students who received their degrees from the University of Houston – Clear Lake in the calendar year of 2001. For the first time, students were able to complete the survey online. Instructions about how to access the online survey were provided in the letter which accompanied the mailed survey.

The numbers of respondents was 396 and the response rate was 20.1%. This is an increase of 13% from the response rate in 2003 (17.03%) and 25% better than the response rate in 2002 (16.1%). The online version may have contributed to the higher response rate. However, the 20 online responses only account for 5% of total responses.

The survey contained seven sections: Demographics, Courses and Faculty, Learning Objectives, Distance Education, Student Activities, Employment, and Alumni Relations.

Demographics

Two statistical tests to determine whether there were significant differences between the survey respondents and graduates on gender and degree level were conducted using the information in the demographics section. No statistical test was conducted on ethnicity and school because a large portion of international students' forwarding addresses were not available and a majority of these were in the School of Science and Computer Engineering.

For the 2004 survey of 2001 alumni, 22.8% of female alumni and 18.2% of male alumni responded. The difference in response rates by gender is statistically significant.¹ Alternatively stated, female alumni were 4.6% more likely to respond to the Alumni Survey (95% margin of error is 0.038). Using relative risk ratio, female alumni are 1.25 times as likely as male alumni to respond to the survey.

Alumni from the graduate level were 9.3% more likely to respond than undergraduate alumni². Among survey respondents, 26.9% were graduate alumni and 17.6% undergraduate alumni. Applying relative risk ratio, graduate alumni were 1.528 times as likely as undergraduate alumni to respond to the survey.

¹ The statistical test showed that the difference by gender in response rate is between 0.008 and 0.084 (95% confidence interval).

² The statistical test showed that the difference by level of degree received is between 0.054 and 0.132 (95% confidence interval).

Course and Faculty Satisfaction

For items dealing with course and faculty satisfaction, overall feedback from the alumni was positive. (Figure 1)

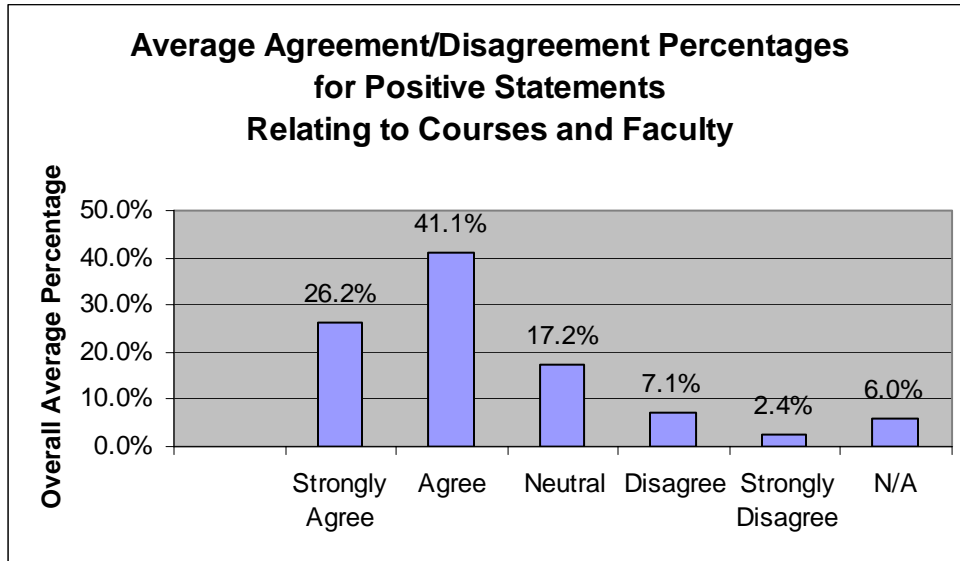


Figure 1

Learning Objectives

For the section on learning objectives, two sets of parallel questions were asked. The first set asked for extent of agreement or disagreement with positive statements about the contribution of the degree program at UHCL to specific learning objectives and the second set related to agreement-disagreement with the same statements about the effect of participation in UHCL student activities to these same objectives. The overall results from the first set showed a positive trend (Figure 2). However, the results from the second set showed that the majority of respondents did not participate the any student activities while at UHCL (Figure 3). This result is not surprising since the average student age is in the early thirties and over 50% of student is enrolled part time. These students are less likely to have free time outside of class time.

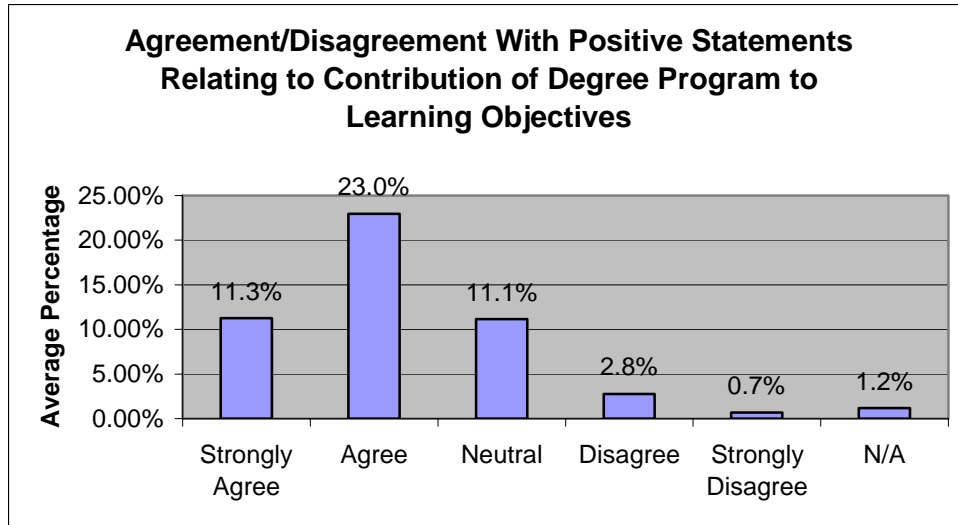


Figure 2

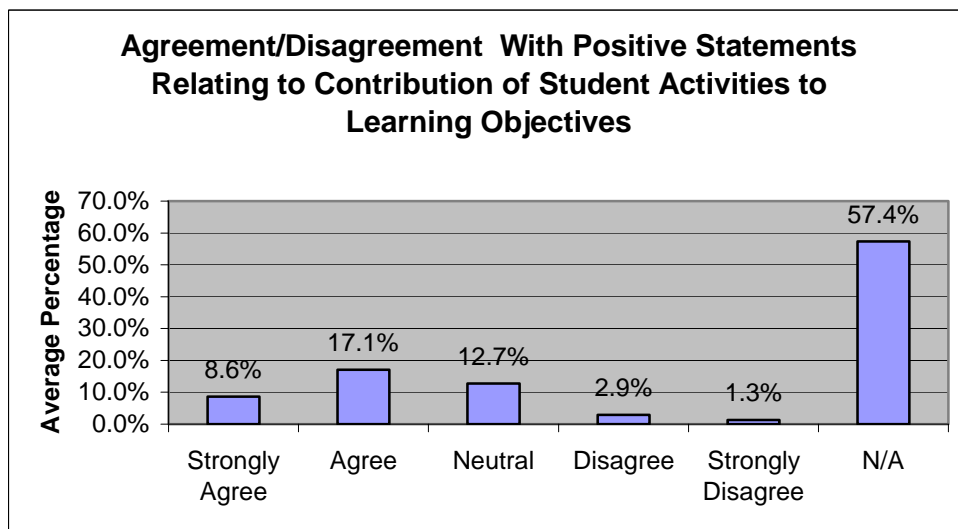


Figure 3

Distance Education

For the section on distance education, the result showed that over 60% of student took distance learning through web based courses and that over 30% took traditional face to face classes at an off campus location (Figure 4).

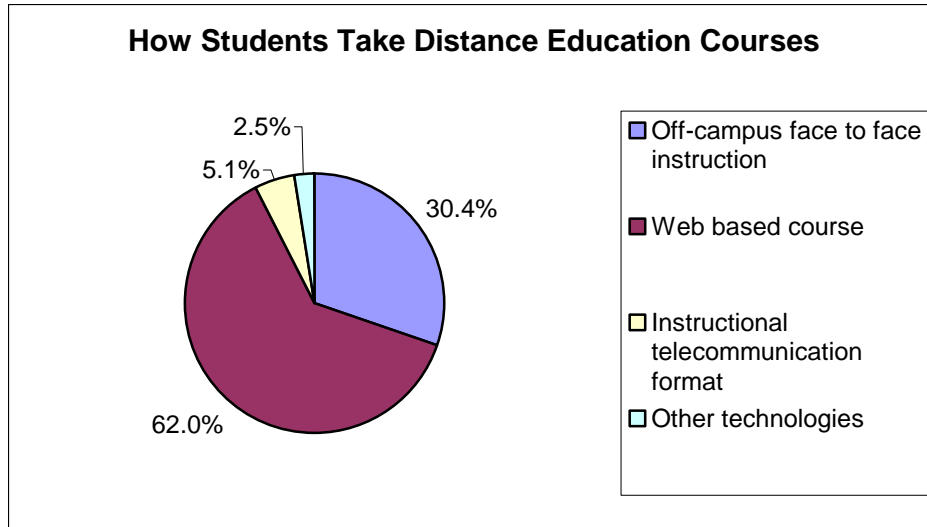


Figure 4

Student Activities

For the section on student activities, two questions were asked: the first related to extent of participation in student activities while at UHCL and the second to the extent to which alumni agreed with a statement that student activities helped them achieve their personal or professional goals. Results showed that few alumni participated in student activities while at UHCL (Figure 5). The greater than 50% non-participation rate is consistent with the responses to the series of questions in the learning objectives section discussed earlier. However, among those who did participate, slightly less than half (26% of total alumni responding, 49% of those participating) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that student activities helped them achieve personal or professional goals while slightly more than half (27% of total respondents and 51% of those participating) disagreed or strongly disagreed (Figure 6).

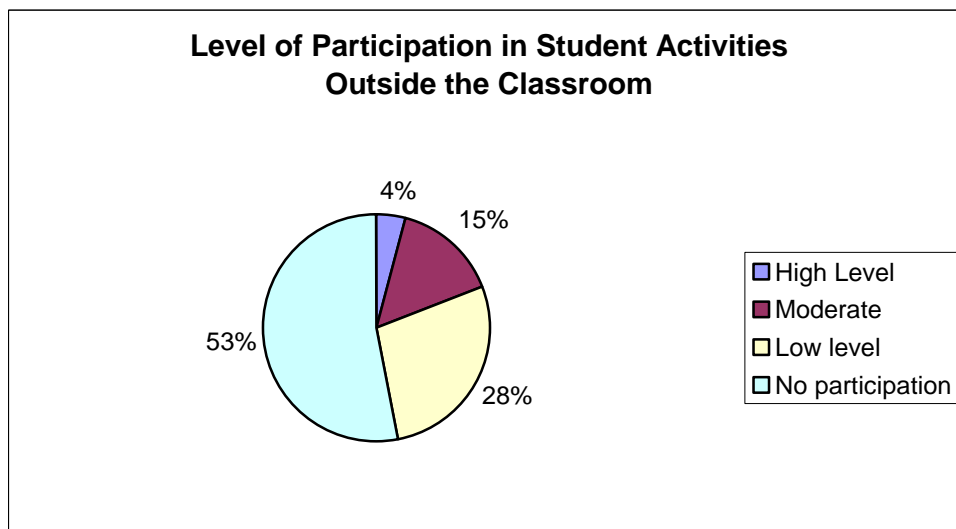


Figure 5

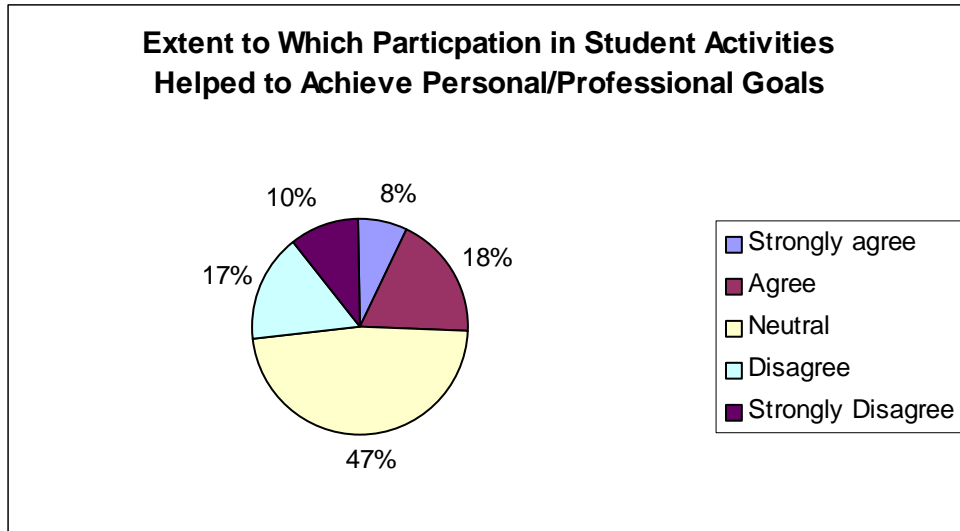


Figure 6

Employment

For the section on employment, alumni's responses were positive overall. For 70% of respondents, their goal was to obtain full time employment after graduation (Figure 7). A total of 76% of respondents were able to obtain a job within three months of graduation (Figure 8) and 76% of respondents obtained a job in a field highly or moderately related to their major (Figure 9).

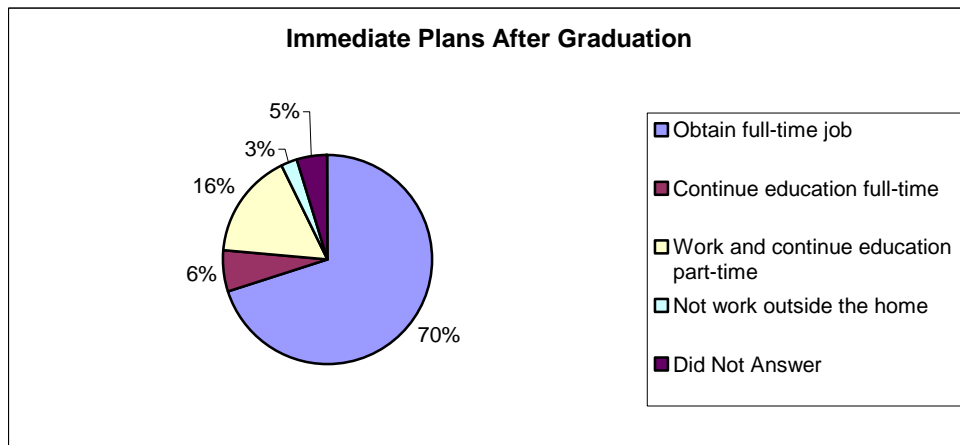


Figure 7

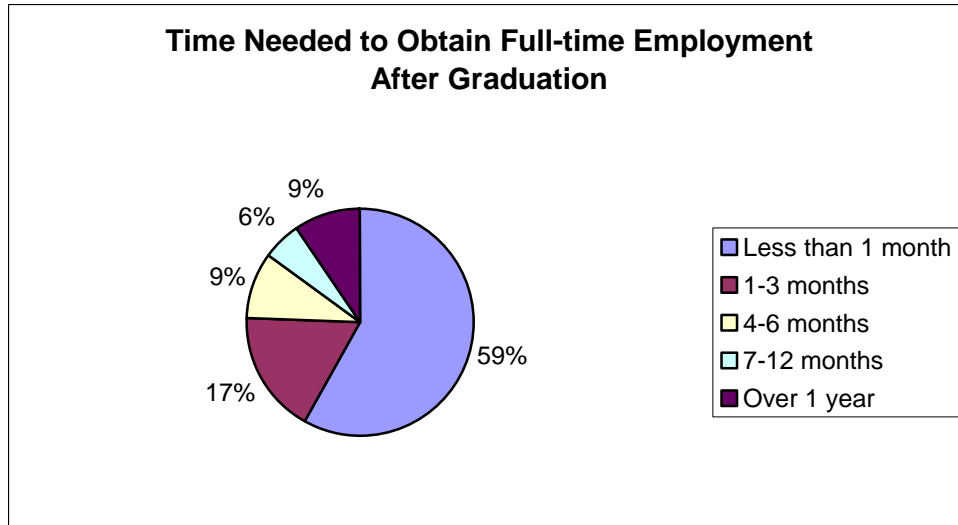


Figure 8

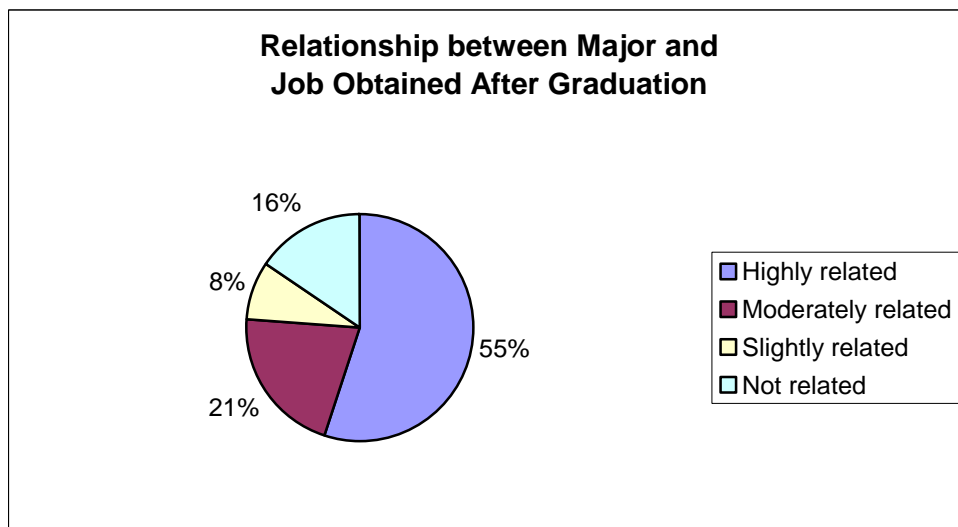


Figure 9

Alumni Relations

For the section on alumni relations, the top three programs in which alumni showed an interest were: educational programs, networking opportunities, and discounts. Most of the respondents are interested in attending alumni programs on weekend evenings. Seventy-one (71) percent wanted to drive less than 40 miles with 40% wishing to drive less than 20 miles (Figures 10,11, and 12).

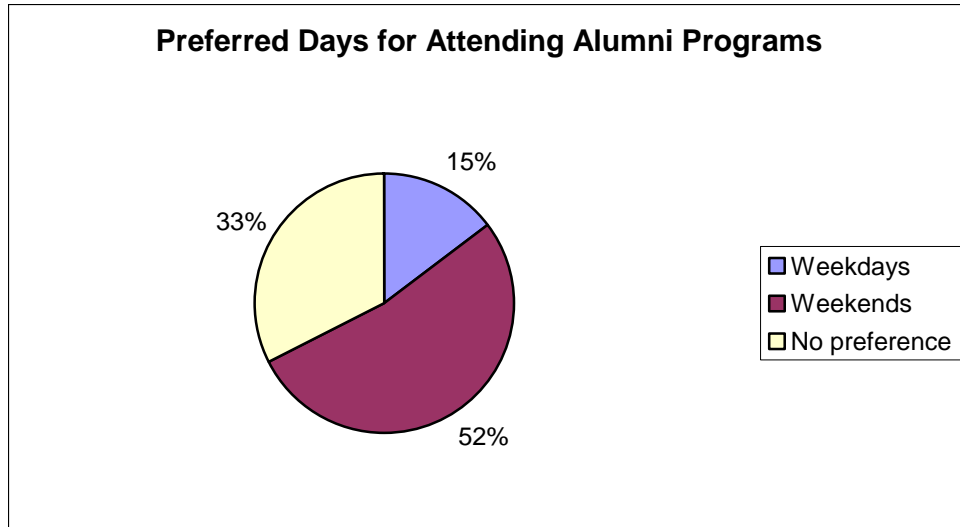


Figure 10

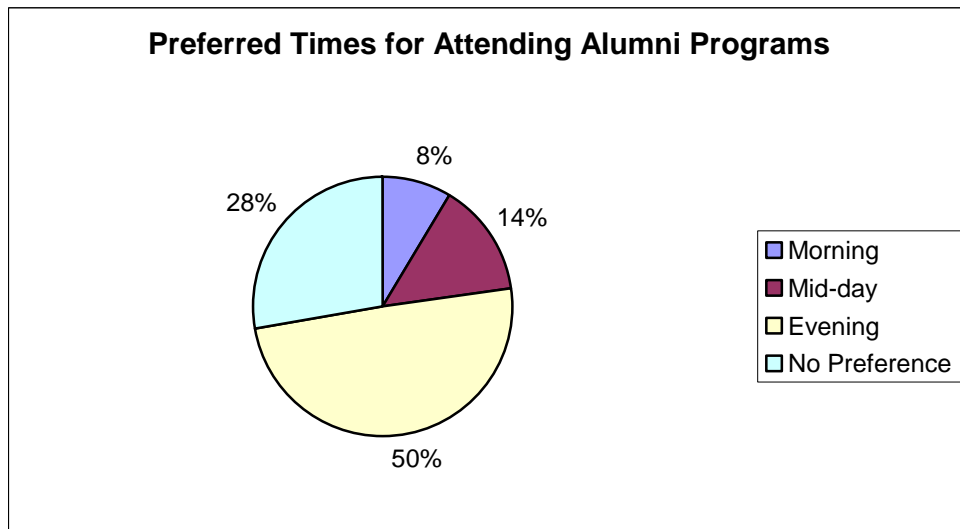


Figure 11

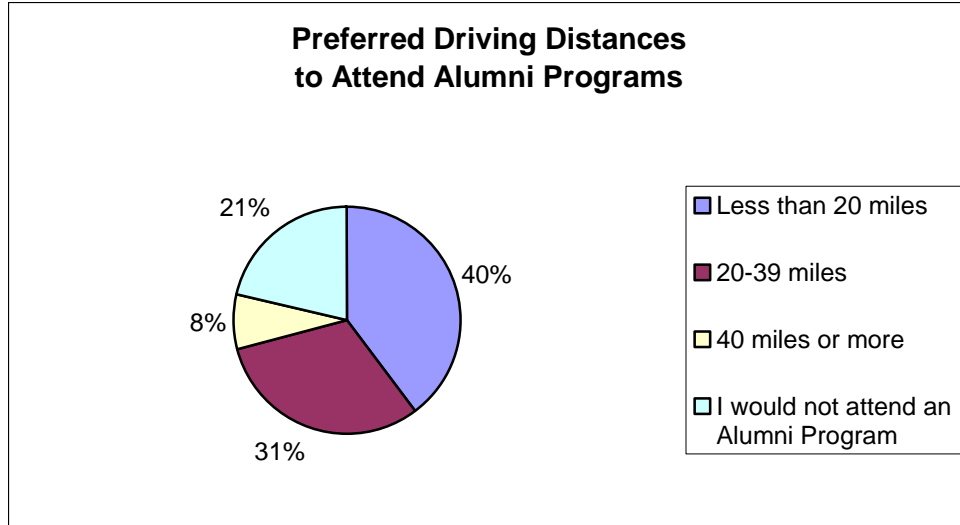


Figure 12

Alumni from 2002 will be surveyed in summer 2005. An effort will be made to obtain all international students' forwarding addresses before the mailing. Alumni will be encouraged to respond online. A sampling procedure will be explored to save mailing costs and incentives for responding will be created so as to ensure that the sample responses compose a considerably larger percent of the sample than has been the case in the past.

Detailed Survey Results Tables:

Demographics:

Gender	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
Male	115	29.2%	633	34.1%	18.2%
Female	279	70.8%	1223	65.9%	22.8%
Total	394	100.0%	1856	100.0%	21.2%

Ethnicity	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
White	265	67.8%	1196	64.4%	22.2%
Black	28	7.2%	104	5.6%	26.9%
Hispanic	57	14.6%	228	12.3%	25.0%
Asian	37	9.5%	139	7.5%	26.6%
American Indian	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	0.0%
International	4	1.0%	186	10.0%	2.2%
Total	391	100.0%	1856	100.0%	21.1%

Degree	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
BBA	17	4.3%	132	7.1%	12.9%
BA	49	12.4%	208	11.2%	23.6%
BS	134	34.0%	795	42.8%	16.9%
Undergraduate	200	50.8%	1135	61.2%	17.6%
MA	63	16.0%	172	9.3%	36.6%
MBA/MHA/MHBA	37	9.4%	154	8.3%	24.0%
MS	94	23.9%	395	21.3%	23.8%
Graduate	194	49.2%	721	38.8%	26.9%
Total	394	100.0%	1856	100.0%	21.2%

School	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
BPA	116	29.3%	607	32.7%	19.1%
HSH	135	34.1%	497	26.8%	27.2%
SCE*	51	12.9%	325	17.5%	15.7%
SOE	94	23.7%	427	23.0%	22.0%
Total	396	100.0%	1,856	100.0%	21.3%

* Low response rate due to international students without forwarding address.

Business and Public Administration					
Degree	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
Accounting	11	9.6%	98	16.1%	11.2%
Business Administration	31	27.2%	137	22.6%	22.6%
Environmental Management	3	2.6%	11	1.8%	27.3%
Finance	14	12.3%	64	10.5%	21.9%
General Business	5	4.4%	33	5.4%	15.2%
Healthcare Administration	9	7.9%	29	4.8%	31.0%
Healthcare Admin/Business Admin	5	4.4%	24	4.0%	20.8%
Human Resource Management	3	2.6%	3	0.5%	100.0%
Legal Studies	7	6.1%	24	4.0%	29.2%
Management	4	3.5%	58	9.6%	6.9%
Management Information Systems	13	11.4%	81	13.3%	16.0%
Marketing	7	6.1%	37	6.1%	18.9%
Political Science	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0.0%
Professional Accounting	1	0.9%	3	0.5%	33.3%
Public and Private Management	1	0.9%	4	0.7%	25.0%
Total	114	100.0%	607	100.0%	18.8%

Human Sciences and Humanities					
Degree	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
Anthropology	1	0.7%	3	0.6%	33.3%
Applied Design and Visual Arts	5	3.7%	21	4.2%	23.8%
Behavioral Sciences General	19	14.1%	75	15.1%	25.3%
General Clinical Psychology	8	5.9%	21	4.2%	38.1%
Communication	9	6.7%	24	4.8%	37.5%
Cross-Cultural Studies	3	2.2%	8	1.6%	37.5%
History	14	10.4%	48	9.7%	29.2%
Humanities	8	5.9%	39	7.8%	20.5%
Literature	13	9.6%	52	10.5%	25.0%
Family Therapy	3	2.2%	11	2.2%	27.3%
Fitness and Human Performance	5	3.7%	33	6.6%	15.2%
Psychology	26	19.3%	87	17.5%	29.9%
School Psychology	7	5.2%	15	3.0%	46.7%
Sociology	13	9.6%	57	11.5%	22.8%
Studies of the Future	1	0.7%	3	0.6%	33.3%
Total	135	100.0%	497	100.0%	27.2%

Science and Computer Engineering (formerly NAS)					
Degree	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
Biology	12	23.5%	52	16.0%	23.1%
Chemistry	0	0.0%	10	3.1%	0.0%
Computer Engineering	0	0.0%	8	2.5%	0.0%
Computer Information Systems	5	9.8%	71	21.8%	7.0%
Computer Science	15	29.4%	100	30.8%	15.0%
Computer Systems Design	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	n/a
Computer Systems Engineering	1	2.0%	5	1.5%	20.0%
Environmental Science	12	23.5%	39	12.0%	30.8%
Mathematics	1	2.0%	20	6.2%	5.0%
Physical Sciences	2	3.9%	13	4.0%	15.4%
Software Engineering	3	5.9%	7	2.2%	42.9%
Statistics	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	n/a
Total	51	100.0%	325	100.0%	15.7%

School of Education					
Degree	Respondents		Total Surveyed		Response
	N	%	N	%	%
Interdisciplinary Studies	25	26.6%	211	49.4%	11.8%
Counseling	7	7.4%	19	4.4%	36.8%
Curriculum and Instruction	2	2.1%	8	1.9%	25.0%
Early Childhood Education	13	13.8%	14	3.3%	92.9%
Educational Management	18	19.1%	83	19.4%	21.7%
Instructional Technology	11	11.7%	46	10.8%	23.9%
Multicultural Studies in Education	2	2.1%	4	0.9%	50.0%
Reading	6	6.4%	13	3.0%	46.2%
School Library and Info. Science	7	7.4%	16	3.7%	43.8%
Non Degree - Certification	3	3.2%	13	3.0%	23.1%
Total	94	100.0%	427	100.0%	22.0%

Courses and Faculty Part 1:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I was satisfied with the quality of instruction at UHCL.	39.29%	51.39%	6.30%	3.02%	0.00%	0.00%
I was satisfied with the availability of faculty outside the classroom.	32.58%	51.52%	11.87%	3.03%	0.25%	0.76%
I found enough flexibility in class schedules to complete my degree in a reasonable amount of time.	35.77%	47.86%	9.07%	6.55%	0.25%	0.50%
I acquired sufficient skills and knowledge to prepare me for employment in my field.	29.90%	46.98%	15.83%	4.52%	0.75%	2.01%
I felt genuinely academically challenged.	28.97%	47.10%	17.38%	5.04%	1.51%	0.00%
I was satisfied with the skills I learned with regard to using computers at UHCL.	18.43%	44.44%	20.20%	7.07%	1.52%	8.33%
I was satisfied with my access to materials from the library needed for class work and research.	26.14%	50.25%	15.99%	5.08%	1.02%	1.52%
I had the opportunity to work with a faculty member on a research project (other than thesis).	16.84%	19.64%	16.07%	9.95%	4.08%	33.42%
I had opportunities for internships or other on-the-job experiences.	23.80%	25.06%	14.18%	11.39%	6.58%	18.99%
I would advise a friend to attend UHCL.	39.74%	47.95%	8.46%	3.59%	0.26%	0.00%

Courses and Faculty Part 2:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I would advise a friend with similar interests to pursue the same program at UHCL.	40.61%	38.58%	11.68%	7.36%	1.52%	0.25%
I learned things beyond technical competency that have since had a positive effect on my life.	26.08%	39.49%	25.32%	5.82%	1.01%	2.28%
I am proud to be numbered among other UHCL graduates of my program.	37.56%	41.71%	17.62%	2.33%	0.26%	0.52%
My employer seems impressed that my degree is from UHCL.	7.36%	17.51%	45.69%	14.21%	3.05%	12.18%
What I learned at UHCL gave me an edge over the competition.	8.38%	26.40%	39.09%	17.26%	3.30%	5.58%
The courses required for my degree were the appropriate ones.	24.11%	55.33%	13.96%	5.84%	0.76%	0.00%
The curriculum required for my degree program has proven to be very useful.	22.03%	48.35%	21.52%	5.57%	1.27%	1.27%
My degree program effectively prepared me for the work I have done since graduation.	20.76%	41.52%	18.99%	7.85%	2.78%	8.10%
I was pleased with the instruction provided in my major.	34.35%	50.13%	12.72%	2.54%	0.00%	0.25%
Most of my classes were about the right size.	45.84%	50.88%	2.52%	0.76%	0.00%	0.00%
The faculty seemed interested in my progress as a student.	33.16%	44.05%	16.71%	5.06%	1.01%	0.00%
I developed the ability to lead groups of people.	28.15%	34.90%	24.63%	7.92%	1.17%	3.23%
I developed the ability to function as a team member.	26.01%	53.54%	13.89%	4.29%	0.76%	1.52%
I developed the ability to think analytically.	30.15%	51.01%	14.57%	3.52%	0.00%	0.75%
I developed the ability to think critically.*	29.95%	52.67%	13.37%	3.21%	0.00%	0.80%
I developed the ability to write effectively.	30.56%	48.48%	14.90%	4.55%	1.01%	0.51%
Overall, I had an excellent academic experience at UHCL.	36.80%	48.22%	11.42%	3.05%	0.51%	0.00%
Faculty at UHCL helped me obtain employment in my field.	6.84%	10.38%	14.68%	23.80%	15.95%	28.35%
Staff at UHCL helped me obtain employment in my field	4.57%	5.33%	17.01%	24.11%	17.51%	31.47%
The advising I received from faculty was satisfactory.	18.62%	46.43%	20.41%	6.89%	2.81%	4.85%
The advising I received from non-faculty staff was satisfactory.	9.28%	35.82%	26.29%	5.67%	4.90%	18.04%

*Does not include online survey data

Learning Objective (1)

As a result of my degree program at UHCL, I...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Have mastered a higher order of thinking including quantitative analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information, argumentation, problem solving, and creativity.	19.64%	58.91%	17.57%	3.10%	0.00%	0.78%
Developed effective written and oral expression, including the use of appropriate media.	24.81%	55.24%	17.14%	2.56%	0.00%	0.26%
Learned to effectively apply information technology to search for, access, retrieve, organize, interpret, process, and transfer information.	20.62%	54.38%	17.27%	6.44%	0.26%	1.03%
Gained the capacity to understand many points of view and to work responsibly with others in a variety of settings.	25.58%	59.08%	13.81%	1.28%	0.26%	0.00%
Developed the capacity to demonstrate awareness of local and global diversity, international issues, and the interrelated worldwide environment.	20.67%	40.57%	30.23%	3.88%	0.78%	3.88%
Developed the ability to identify, assess, revise, and monitor learning to achieve personal and professional goals.	20.67%	54.26%	20.41%	3.36%	1.03%	0.26%
Have the ability to make ethical decisions in personal and professional societal contexts.	26.67%	46.92%	20.00%	2.82%	1.54%	2.05%
Developed public speaking skills.	21.79%	45.13%	23.59%	6.92%	0.51%	2.05%
Developed leadership skills.	18.93%	47.83%	24.55%	5.12%	1.53%	2.05%
Developed computer skills.	20.10%	40.46%	23.20%	8.76%	3.09%	4.38%
Developed composition and writing skills.	24.74%	50.00%	18.30%	4.12%	1.29%	1.55%
Developed an appreciation of other cultures.	27.13%	42.64%	23.26%	3.88%	0.78%	2.33%

Learning Objective (2):

As a result of my participation in student activities while at UHCL, I...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/ A
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Have mastered a higher order of thinking including quantitative analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information, argumentation, problem solving, and creativity.	5.96%	20.05%	16.53%	1.63%	0.54%	55.28%
Developed effective written and oral expression, including the use of appropriate media.	7.42%	17.31%	13.46%	3.02%	1.10%	57.69%
Learned to effectively apply information technology to search for, access, retrieve, organize, interpret, process, and transfer information.	6.96%	16.16%	13.37%	4.18%	1.95%	57.38%
Gained the capacity to understand many points of view and to work responsibly with others in a variety of settings.	11.14%	21.74%	9.51%	3.53%	0.27%	53.80%
Developed the capacity to demonstrate awareness of local and global diversity, international issues, and the interrelated worldwide environment.	9.59%	17.81%	11.51%	2.47%	1.37%	57.26%
Developed the ability to identify, assess, revise, and monitor learning to achieve personal and professional goals.	6.61%	17.63%	13.22%	3.03%	0.83%	58.68%
Have the ability to make ethical decisions in personal and professional societal contexts.	8.22%	19.73%	10.41%	1.92%	1.37%	58.36%
Developed public speaking skills.	8.77%	15.89%	13.42%	2.74%	1.37%	57.81%
Developed leadership skills.	9.94%	16.30%	12.71%	2.76%	1.10%	57.18%
Developed computer skills.	6.63%	11.33%	14.36%	4.70%	1.93%	61.05%
Developed composition and writing skills.	6.89%	13.77%	14.33%	3.58%	2.20%	59.23%
Developed an appreciation of other cultures.	15.34%	17.53%	9.86%	1.64%	1.10%	54.52%

Distance Education:

Did you complete one or more courses through Distance Education?	N	%
Yes	79	20.1%
No	315	79.9%
Total	394	100.0%

If yes, the mode of instruction was?	N	%
Off-campus face to face instruction	24	30.4%
Web based course	49	62.0%
Instructional telecommunication format	4	5.1%
Other technologies	2	2.5%
Total	79	100.0%

Student Activities:

Level of participation in student activities outside the classroom:	N	%
High level	16	4.0%
Moderate	60	15.2%
Low level	110	27.8%
No participation	210	53.0%
Total	396	100.0%

Participation in student activities helped achieve professional and/or personal goals.	N	%
Strongly agree	21	7.6%
Agree	51	18.3%
Neutral	130	46.8%
Disagree	47	16.9%
Strongly Disagree	29	10.4%
Total	278	100.0%

Employment:

What were your plans immediately following graduation?	N	%
Obtain full-time job	276	70.1%
Continue education full-time	25	6.3%
Work and continue education part-time	64	16.2%
Not work outside the home	10	2.5%
Did Not Answer	19	4.8%
Total	394	100.0%

If you pursued full-time employment, please indicate how long it took you to obtain your first job after graduation:	N	%
Less than 1 month	167	58.2%
1-3 months	50	17.4%
4-6 months	27	9.4%
7-12 months	16	5.6%
Over 1 year	27	9.4%
Total	287	100.0%

Please indicate the relationship between your UHCL major and the job you obtained:	N	%
Highly related	179	55.1%
Moderately related	68	20.9%
Slightly related	27	8.3%
Not related	51	15.7%
Total	325	100.0%

Alumni Relations:

Which of the following services would you be most interested in having your Alumni Relations Office provide? (select all that apply)	No		Yes	
	N	%	N	%
A series of lectures	310	80.7%	74	19.3%
Discounts	261	67.4%	126	32.6%
Entertainment programs	323	83.9%	62	16.1%
Travel Opportunities	299	77.9%	85	22.1%
Programs for children	331	87.3%	48	12.7%
Education programs	245	64.1%	137	35.9%
Career counseling	277	72.5%	105	27.5%
Special invitations to events and programs	279	73.0%	103	27.0%
Alumni Search Online	334	87.2%	49	12.8%
Web Page Space	355	92.4%	29	7.6%
Networking opportunities	253	64.7%	138	35.3%
Newsletters	313	81.5%	71	18.5%
E-Publications	333	86.9%	50	13.1%
E-mail Accounts	347	90.4%	37	9.6%
Other	370	97.4%	10	2.6%

* top three choices are bolded.

Alumni Relations Continued:

Would you attend an alumni program?	N	%
No	156	41.6%
Yes	219	58.4%
Total	375	100.0%

If yes, I would be most likely to attend an alumni program on:	N	%
Weekdays	35	14.8%
Weekends	124	52.5%
No preference	77	32.6%
Total	236	100.0%

I would be most likely to attend an alumni program in the (select all that apply):	N	%
Morning	23	8.5%
Mid-day	39	14.4%
Evening	134	49.4%
No Preference	75	27.7%
Total	271	100.0%

I would be willing to drive to attend an alumni program (select all that apply):	N	%
Less than 20 miles	107	39.6%
20-39 miles	84	31.1%
40 miles or more	21	7.8%
I would not attend an Alumni Program	58	21.5%
Total	270	100.0%

Are you interested in receiving E-Connections?	N	%
Yes	200	54.9%
No	164	45.1%
Total	364	100.0%