

Survey of Undergraduate Alumni Spring 2016

Psychology Alumni



Southeastern Louisiana University

Institutional Research

B.A. Psychology

Satisfaction with Degree Program

| Number of Respondents: 45 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| | Very Dissatisfied - 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Satisfied - 5 |
| Overall quality of your department | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 6.7% (3) | 11.1% (5) | 40.0% (18) | 37.8% (17) |
| Overall quality of your degree program | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 4.4% (2) | 24.4% (11) | 33.3% (15) | 31.1% (14) |
| Clarity of the degree requirements as outlined in the catalogue and/or curriculum sheets | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 2.2% (1) | 6.7% (3) | 15.6% (7) | 35.6% (16) | 37.8% (17) |
| Usefulness of the academic advice you received from your advisor | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 13.3% (6) | 17.8% (8) | 15.6% (7) | 24.4% (11) | 28.9% (13) |
| Opportunities to interact with faculty outside of class | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 17.8% (8) | 26.7% (12) | 20.0% (9) | 31.1% (14) |
| Effectiveness of the faculty as teachers | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 2.2% (1) | 6.7% (3) | 35.6% (16) | 51.1% (23) |
| Friendliness and helpfulness of the office staff | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 15.6% (7) | 22.2% (10) | 20.0% (9) | 35.6% (16) |
| Interest shown by faculty in your academic development | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 17.8% (8) | 22.2% (10) | 28.9% (13) | 26.7% (12) |
| Effectiveness of beginning courses in preparing you for advanced courses | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 8.9% (4) | 17.8% (8) | 31.1% (14) | 35.6% (16) |
| Quality of instruction in advanced courses | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 2.2% (1) | 6.7% (3) | 31.1% (14) | 55.6% (25) |
| Faculty treatment of students both inside and outside of the classroom | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 2.2% (1) | 11.1% (5) | 33.3% (15) | 48.9% (22) |
| Professional activities, associations, or clubs associated with your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 8.9% (4) | 33.3% (15) | 28.9% (13) | 22.2% (10) |
| Opportunity for meaningful interaction with faculty in research or other scholarly activity | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 20.0% (9) | 24.4% (11) | 22.2% (10) | 26.7% (12) |
| Availability of the required courses in your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 4.4% (2) | 15.6% (7) | 37.8% (17) | 37.8% (17) |
| Availability of elective courses you wanted to take in your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 13.3% (6) | 11.1% (5) | 31.1% (14) | 37.8% (17) |
| Quality of instruction regarding standards and ethics in your major field | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 6.7% (3) | 11.1% (5) | 13.3% (6) | 15.6% (7) | 53.3% (24) |
| Opportunities for you to collaborate with other students on class projects | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 8.9% (4) | 22.2% (10) | 28.9% (13) | 35.6% (16) |
| Satisfaction with Degree Program | | | | | |

| Number of Respondents: 45 | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Very Dissatisfied - 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Satisfied - 5 |
| Library resources related to your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 2.2% (1) | 0.0% | 17.8% (8) | 46.7% (21) | 33.3% (15) |
| Use of appropriate technology in the classroom | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 2.2% (1) | 26.7% (12) | 24.4% (11) | 42.2% (19) |
| Facilities and equipment (including computer resources) for courses in your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 6.7% (3) | 24.4% (11) | 33.3% (15) | 31.1% (14) |
| Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to further educational opportunities | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 11.1% (5) | 17.8% (8) | 22.2% (10) | 13.3% (6) | 35.6% (16) |
| The size of classes in your major | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 2.2% (1) | 2.2% (1) | 11.1% (5) | 20.0% (9) | 64.4% (29) |
| Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to finding employment in your field | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 26.7% (12) | 22.2% (10) | 26.7% (12) | 17.8% (8) | 6.7% (3) |
| The global perspectives of courses | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 11.1% (5) | 6.7% (3) | 24.4% (11) | 31.1% (14) | 26.7% (12) |
| The relevancy of courses | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 4.4% (2) | 4.4% (2) | 11.1% (5) | 28.9% (13) | 51.1% (23) |
| "Real-world" experiences, exposure, examples, etc. in or out of the classroom | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 15.6% (7) | 11.1% (5) | 35.6% (16) | 17.8% (8) | 20.0% (9) |
| Your advisor's knowledge of requirements | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 13.3% (6) | 8.9% (4) | 22.2% (10) | 13.3% (6) | 42.2% (19) |
| The accessibility of your advisor | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 11.1% (5) | 17.8% (8) | 15.6% (7) | 28.9% (13) | 26.7% (12) |
| Your advisor's concern with your academic goals | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 17.8% (8) | 13.3% (6) | 22.2% (10) | 22.2% (10) | 22.2% (10) |
| Opportunity to acquire marketable skills | | | | | |
| BA Psychology | 13.3% (6) | 11.1% (5) | 28.9% (13) | 28.9% (13) | 17.8% (8) |

| Table 31 continued | | |
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| Satisfaction with Degree Program | | |
| | No | Yes |
| 2. Would you recommend Southeastern to someone interested in what you majored in? | | |
| BA Psychology | 17.8% (8) | 82.2% (37) |
| 3. If you had it to do over again, would you choose the same major? | | |
| BA Psychology | 40.0% (18) | 57.8% (26); 2.2% (1) Not at Southeastern |
| 4. Did you participate in an internship, a practicum, a clinical experience, or student teaching as part of your degree requirements? | | |
| BA Psychology | 66.7% (30) | 33.3% (15) |
| 6. Should a hands-on course be required in your program? | | |
| BA Psychology | 77.8% (35) | 13.3% (6) |

When asked what benefits they received from hands-on experience, Psychology graduates had the following to say:

- I had the opportunity to determine if a reading strategy was effective with English Language Learners in my classroom.
- My intern supervisor provided me several opportunities to experience working with children. She also helped me with research and allowed me help with her research.
- Since my degree specialized in interaction and helping others, our hands on treatment helped us focus on how the knowledge we read in books, can effectively be applied with our clients. We were able To learn what was effective and ineffective and how each individual needs were different and needed to be catered to differently. Hands on experience is what gives you that.
- My case study gave me greater understanding of statistical data, causal relationships and how to prepare, conduct and analyze a case study on my own.
- The benefit of witnessing and experiencing the reality of what it means to be employed in the career position I was trying to obtain. This was for my Master's in counseling. There was nothing like this in my undergrad in psychology.
- That psychology wasn't the field that I wanted to go into anymore
- Learned how to conduct and write professional academic papers. Developed a love of research and academic writing.
- I got a more hands on approach and tangible experience with the subject as well as the work not being quite as cumbersome. Although I have some criticisms to the program they are not harsh. I do feel as though SLU has a superb faculty in the psychology department. As a student if you approach the professors they welcome you and truly want you to succeed. However, I do feel that the program should do a better job directing those on what their resources are if they're not pursuing a doctorate or more clinical experience. What are the other areas/certifications/jobs you can get with the BA and classes you could take for more certification without as much commitment or if you're not able to get accepted into a higher education program. Which I don't think fully reflects on the instructors as they're trying to focus on teaching the materials.
- I learn how to really interact with clients on a one on one basics.
- I was able to land a job because of my internship at the same organization.
- Experience with data analytics
- Learning experience and help from professors for graduate school

- It gave me knowledge that my classmates didn't necessarily have in graduate school and confidence.
- I learned how to conduct research, which has helped me in my current graduate degree program.

Perceptions of Southeastern

Four (82.2%) of the Psychology graduates had participated in the study-abroad/student exchange and were Very Satisfied with the experience. Ten (22.2%) of the respondents had participated in the honors program. Two (20.0%) were Very Satisfied with the experience, six (60.0%) were Somewhat Satisfied, and two (20.0%) were Somewhat Dissatisfied. Sixteen (35.6%) of the respondents conducted research under faculty supervision. Eight (50.0%) were Very Satisfied with the experience, four (25.0%) were Somewhat Satisfied, and four (25.0%) were Somewhat Dissatisfied.

Graduate/Professional Education

Fourteen (31.1%) of the respondents are currently enrolled in a graduate/professional degree program and nine (20.0%) have completed a degree. One (2.2%) has taken courses, but not enrolled in a degree program. Twelve (26.7%) of the respondents are likely to enroll in the future, and five (11.1%) have no plans for further education. Seven (77.8%) of the respondents have obtained a Master's degree, one (11.1%) have a Doctorate, and one (11.1%) a second baccalaureate. Of those respondents with plans for further education, Fourteen (38.9%) plan on eventually obtaining a doctorate and twenty-one (58.3%) plan on obtaining a master's.

Of the twenty-three individuals with graduate school experience, fifteen (65.2%) indicated that Southeastern prepared them "Effectively" for further graduate/professional study, five (21.7%) indicated they were "Very Effectively" prepared, two (8.7%) were "Ineffectively" prepared, and one (4.3%) was "Very Ineffectively" prepared. Eight (34.8%) indicated that Southeastern prepared them "Better than Most" other students, fourteen (60.9%) indicated that Southeastern prepared them "About the Same as Most, and one (4.3%) indicated they were prepared "Worse than Most". Furthermore, seventeen (73.9%) indicated their graduate degree program is "Very Closely Related" to their bachelor's degree from Southeastern, five (21.7%) indicated it was "Somewhat Related" and one (4.3%) indicated it was "Not at all Related".

Employment

Twenty-five (55.6%) of the respondents have not been employed full-time since graduating from Southeastern, while sixteen (35.6%) have been employed full-time. Of those who have been employed full-time, three (18.8%) had a job before graduating, two (12.5%) accepted a position upon graduation, eight (50.0%) took 1-6 months to find a job, and three (18.8%) took 7-12 months.

The eleven respondents who did not have a job upon graduation faced a variety of problems in obtaining employment. Table 2 presents what were considered major problems, minor problems, or no problem.

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| <p>Table 2</p> <p>Please indicate whether each of the following was a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem in obtaining employment after graduating from Southeastern with your Bachelors.</p> |
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| | Major Problem | Minor Problem | Not A Problem |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Limited to only one geographic area | 9.1% (1) | 27.3% (3) | 45.5% (5) |
| Not knowing what I wanted to do | 27.3% (3) | 18.2% (2) | 36.4% (4) |
| Tight job market | 45.5% (5) | 36.4% (4) | 0.0% |
| Lack of marketable skills | 0.0% | 27.3% (3) | 54.5% (6) |
| Lack of educational qualifications | 9.1% (1) | 36.4% (4) | 36.4% (4) |
| Reputation of Southeastern | 0.0% | 9.1% (1) | 72.7% (8) |
| Lack of experience | 45.5% (5) | 36.4% (4) | 0.0% |
| Lack of job search skills | 9.1% (1) | 18.2% (2) | 54.5% (6) |
| Poor GPA | 0.0% | 0.0% | 81.8% (9) |
| Racial discrimination | 0.0% | 0.0% | 72.7% (8) |
| Gender discrimination | 0.0% | 0.0% | 72.7% (8) |
| Age discrimination | 9.1% (1) | 18.2% (2) | 54.5% (6) |

Four (25.0%) of those who have been employed full-time indicated their education was “Very Effective” in preparing them for employment or improving their job performance, nine (56.3%) indicated it was “Effective”, and one (6.3%) indicated it was “Very Ineffective”. In regards to sources for learning about their first full-time job, three (18.9%) indicated a parent or relative, two (12.5%) from a newspaper/trade publication, two (12.5%) from another student/friend, three (18.8%) already had the job, one (6.3%) from an internship or practicum, two (12.5%) from an employment agency and one (6.3%) from the Southeastern Job Fair.

Seventeen (37.8%) are currently employed full-time, nine (20.0%) are employed part-time and looking for full-time employment, six (13.3%) have a graduate assistantship, and eight (17.8%) are unemployed but seeking employment. Of those who are currently employed full-time, fourteen (82.4%) are employed in the state of Louisiana. One (5.9%) is employed in industry, one (5.9%) in higher education, six (36.3%) in a nonprofit organization, two (11.8%) in government, three (17.6%) in K-12, one (5.9%) in business, one (5.9%) is self-employed/private practice, and one (5.9%) in a health agency. When asked “If underemployment is defined as a condition in which your job requires lower levels of skill and training than those you acquired in college would you say that you are currently underemployed”, two (11.8%) of the respondents indicated they are underemployed. Six (35.3%) of the respondents are well satisfied with their employment and would not consider leaving, eight (47.1%) are satisfied with their employment but would consider other employment, and two (11.8%) dislike their employment and are seeking other employment. Six (35.3%) of the respondents are employed in the area of their Southeastern major, four (23.5%) in a related area, and six (35.3%) in an unrelated area. Of the six, one (16.7%) developed a new career interest, two (33.3%) for better pay, two (33.3%) could not find a job they wanted, and one (16.7%) for better advancement opportunities. One (5.9%) respondent indicated a salary range of \$15,001-\$20,000, two (11.8%) indicated \$20,001-\$25,000, five (29.4%) respondents indicated a salary range of \$30,001-\$40,000, three (17.6%) \$40,001-\$50,000 and four (23.5%) indicated a salary over \$50,000.

Professional Activities

Five (11.1%) of the respondents indicated they currently hold a license, and four (8.9%) indicated it is not available in their field. Currently held licenses include:

- Elementary Education PK-5
- Asha - national certification and Lbespa- state certification Cpr and aed certified
- Auxiliary Certificate for school counseling
- Lpc
- Rsw

Of the thirty-one without licensure, seven (22.6%) plan obtaining it within the next twelve months, including LPC and BCBA, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Real Estate. Twenty (44.4%) of the respondents are members of a professional organization, and seventeen (37.8%) have attended a professional meeting in the past year.