

# **Survey of Graduate Degree Alumni Spring 2016**

**MS Biological Sciences Alumni**



**Southeastern Louisiana University**

**Institutional Research**

# MAT Elementary Education

## Satisfaction with Degree Program

Number of Respondents: 8					
	Very Dissatisfied - 1	2	3	4	Very Satisfied - 5
<b>Overall quality of your department</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	0.0%	12.5% (1)	75.0% (6)
<b>Overall quality of your degree program</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)	62.5% (5)
<b>Clarity of the degree requirements as outlined in the catalogue and/or curriculum sheets</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)	37.5% (3)
<b>Usefulness of the academic advice you received from your advisor</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	25.0% (2)	25.0% (2)	50.0% (4)
<b>Opportunities to interact with faculty outside of class</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	75.0% (6)
<b>Effectiveness of the faculty as teachers</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	25.0% (2)	37.5% (3)	37.5% (3)
<b>Friendliness and helpfulness of the office staff</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	62.5% (5)	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)
<b>Interest shown by faculty in your academic development</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	0.0%	75.0% (6)
<b>Effectiveness of beginning courses in preparing you for advanced courses</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	37.5% (3)	50.0% (4)	12.5% (1)
<b>Quality of instruction in advanced courses</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	62.5% (5)
<b>Faculty treatment of students both inside and outside of the classroom</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	37.5% (3)	50.0% (4)
<b>Professional activities, associations, or clubs associated with your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)
<b>Opportunity for meaningful interaction with faculty in research or other scholarly activity</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	37.5% (3)	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)
<b>Availability of the required courses in your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)	37.5% (3)
<b>Availability of elective courses you wanted to take in your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	25.0% (2)	37.5% (3)	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)
<b>Quality of instruction regarding standards and ethics in your major field</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)	62.5% (5)
<b>Satisfaction with Degree Program</b>					
Number of Respondents: 8					

	Very Dissatisfied - 1	2	3	4	Very Satisfied - 5
<b>Opportunities for you to collaborate with other students on class projects</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)	37.5% (3)
<b>Library resources related to your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)	37.5% (3)	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)
<b>Use of appropriate technology in the classroom</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	37.5% (3)	37.5% (3)	12.5% (1)
<b>Facilities and equipment (including computer resources) for courses in your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	25.0% (2)	37.5% (3)	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)
<b>Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to further educational opportunities</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	12.5% (1)	0.0%	37.5% (3)	25.0% (2)	25.0% (2)
<b>The size of classes in your major</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0% (2)	75.0% (6)
<b>Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to finding employment in your field</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	12.5% (1)	0.0%	37.5% (3)	50.0% (4)	0.0%
<b>The global perspectives of courses</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)	37.5% (3)	25.0% (2)
<b>The relevancy of courses</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	0.0%	62.5% (5)	25.0% (2)
<b>"Real-world" experiences, exposure, examples, etc. in or out of the classroom</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	50.0% (4)	25.0% (2)
<b>Your advisor's knowledge of requirements</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0% (4)	50.0% (4)
<b>The accessibility of your advisor</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	75.0% (6)
<b>Your advisor's concern with your academic goals</b>					
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)	62.5% (5)

<b>Satisfaction with Degree Program</b>		
	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>2. Would you recommend Southeastern to someone interested in what you majored in?</b>		
MS Biological Sciences	25.0% (2)	75.0% (6)
<b>3. If you had it to do over again, would you choose the same major?</b>		
MS Biological Sciences	25.0% (2)	50.0% (4); 25.0% (2) Not at Southeastern
<b>4. Did you participate in an internship, a practicum, a clinical experience, or student teaching as part of your degree requirements?</b>		
MS Biological Sciences	12.5% (1)	87.5% (7)
<b>6. Should a hands-on course be required in your program?</b>		
MS Biological Sciences	0.0%	87.5% (7)

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

- Being out in the field helped me find my true calling.
- My thesis required original research. It gave me many skills including project management, lab skills, planning, research and writing skills.
- Wonderful teaching experience as a TA and research/lab experience completing my thesis.
- It better prepared me for employment.

### **Graduate Professional Education**

One (12.5%) of the respondents is currently enrolled in another Masters degree program, one (12.5%) have taken classes but not enrolled in a degree program, and five our (62.5%) have no plans for further education. Of those with plans for further education, one (50.0%) plans on obtaining a doctorate and one (50.0%) a second Masters degree. Both the respondents with graduate experience felt that Southeastern “Very Effectively” prepared them for further graduate/professional study and they were prepared “Better than Most” other students.

### **Employment**

Two (25.0%) of the respondents have not been employed full-time since graduating from Southeastern, while five (62.5%) have been employed full-time. Of those who have been employed full-time, one (20.0%) had a job before graduating, three (60.0%) took 1-6 months to find a job, and one (20.0%) took 7-12 months.

The four 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.

<b>Table 2</b>
<b>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.</b>

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem
Limited to only one geographic area	25.0% (1)	25.0% (1)	50.0% (2)
Not knowing what I wanted to do	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Tight job market	50.0% (2)	25.0% (1)	25.0% (1)
Lack of marketable skills	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Lack of educational qualifications	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Reputation of Southeastern	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Lack of experience	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Lack of job search skills	0.0%	25.0% (1)	75.0% (3)
Poor GPA	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Racial discrimination	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)
Gender discrimination	0.0%	25.0% (1)	75.0% (3)
Age discrimination	0.0%	0.0%	100.0% (4)

Three (60.0%) of those who have been employed full-time indicated their education was “Very Effective” in preparing them for employment or improving their job performance, one (20.0%) indicated it was “Effective”, and one (20.0%) indicated it was “Ineffective”. In regards to sources for learning about their first full-time job, one (20.0%) indicated a parent or relative, one (25.0%) from another student/friend, and two (40.0%) from an employment agency.

Five (62.5%) are currently employed full-time, one (12.5%) is unemployed but looking for employment, and one (12.5%) is unemployed and not looking for employment. Of those who are currently employed full-time, two (40.0%) are employed in the state of Louisiana. One (20.0%) is employed in industry, one (20.0%) in a professional firm, one (20.0%) in industry, one (20.0%) in government, and one (20.0%) is self-employed. 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”, one (20.0%) of the respondents indicated they are underemployed. Three (60.0%) of the respondents are well satisfied with their employment and would not consider leaving, and two (40.0%) are satisfied with their employment but would consider other employment. Four (80.0%) of the respondents are employed in an the area of their Southeastern major or a related area. One (20.0%) respondent indicated a salary range of \$20,001-\$25,000, two (40.0%) \$30,001-\$40,000, and two (40.0%) indicated a salary over \$50,000.

### **Professional Activities**

One (12.5%) of the respondents indicated they currently hold a license, and five (62.5%) indicated it is not available in their field. Currently held licenses include:

- Basic Catechist Certification

The one without licensure, does not plan on obtaining it within the next twelve months. Three (37.5%) of the respondents are members of a professional organization, and three (37.5%) have attended a professional meeting in the past year.

## Comments

This section contains the opinions of all alumni who volunteered narrative comments in response to an open-ended question. Positive and negative comments which have specifically named faculty or staff have not been deleted. These comments should not be considered representative, but should be evaluated within the context of the other results. The only editing of the comments is the deletion of expletives. For some programs, there were no alumni comments.

Not all comments are distributed with every report. The Provost's report contains all comments for all programs in all colleges. The reports distributed to Deans contain only the comments for the departments which report to each Dean. Finally, each department is provided with the comments made only by their students in each program within the department. Any other distribution will not contain the comments.

**This report is intended for use in curriculum/program review and revision only. Under no circumstances should this report be used for tenure and/or promotion review, merit review, or other personnel decisions.**

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