In 1999-2000, almost 800 graduating seniors completed a survey inquiring into their post-graduation plans, their satisfaction with FAU, and their self-assessment of abilities and attributes developed as a result of their FAU experience. Respondents commented on the challenges they faced in earning a degree, made suggestions for changes to help future students, and named faculty and staff members who especially helped them succeed.

Would they do it all over again?
When asked if they would choose the same major, 62% said definitely and 27% said probably. Most likely to choose the same major: Art, theatre, history and exceptional education graduates. 60% would definitely recommend FAU to a friend or relative considering college, and another 31% would probably recommend FAU. 60% plan to be involved with FAU as alumni.

Satisfaction with FAU:
In rating their satisfaction with FAU, graduating seniors tended to be most satisfied with academic aspects of their education. They were least satisfied with course availability, sense of “belonging” and job preparation services. Almost all respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of their FAU degree; one-third were very satisfied.

Graduating seniors are MOST satisfied with:
Instruction in the major ......................... (94%)
Professional competence of the faculty ..... (93%)
Opportunities to interact with faculty .......... (90%)
Instruction in elective courses ................. (86%)
Library services ................................ (86%)
(Percents Very Satisfied or Satisfied)

Graduating seniors are LEAST satisfied with:
Availability of required courses ............... (26%)
Sense of “belonging” at FAU ................. (21%)
Preparation for the job market ............... (19%)
Career advising services ....................... (15%)
Job placement services ......................... (14%)
(Percents Very Unsatisfied or Unsatisfied)

What will be your primary activity after graduation?

Employment:
- Job directly related to major: 49%
- Somewhat related: 38%
- Looking for a job: 14%
- Plans uncertain: 10%
- Own business: 10%
- Obtained new job: 9%
- Will attend other school: 8%
- Will attend FAU: 10%
- Continue current job: 6%

Graduate/Professional School:
- Job directly related to major: 49%
- Somewhat related: 38%
- Looking for a job: 14%
- Plans uncertain: 10%
- Own business: 10%
- Obtained new job: 9%
- Will attend other school: 8%
- Will attend FAU: 10%
- Continue current job: 6%

Florida Atlantic University
1999-2000 Graduating Senior Survey
Highlights of Results
Graduating seniors were asked to rate themselves on 24 abilities and attributes, then estimate the impact of their FAU education on developing these abilities and attributes.

**Self-rating of abilities and attributes:**

(1 = Poor  4 = Excellent)
- Possessing your own values and ethical standards (3.7)
- Enthusiasm for lifelong learning (3.6)
- Intellectual curiosity (3.6)
- Openness to new ideas and practices (3.6)
- Following through on projects to completion (3.6)
- Appreciation of cultures or groups other than your own (3.6)
- Use computer technology (3.1)
- Awareness of global issues and events (3.0)
- Understand and apply math, statistical reasoning (3.0)
- Apply scientific knowledge and skills (2.9)

**Where did FAU have the most impact?**

(1 = None  4 = A great deal)
- Working with a team or group (3.3)
- Enthusiasm for lifelong learning (3.1)
- Give effective oral presentations (3.1)
- Intellectual curiosity (3.1)
- Appreciation of cultures or groups other than your own (3.1)
- Appreciate the value of history in past and present (2.7)
- Possessing your own values and ethical standards (2.6)
- Understand and enjoy literature (2.5)
- Appreciate great works of music, art and drama (2.4)

**Difference Between Selected Self-Ratings and FAU Impact**

![Graph showing the difference between self-ratings and FAU impact for various abilities and attributes.]

1 = Poor ability, low impact  4 = High ability, high impact
Working for Tuition

Over 80% of graduates said that they worked while going to school, about one-quarter full-time. The majority of students who were not working were supported by parents and personal savings. Those employed full-time were less likely to rely on other funding sources. Regardless of employment, all students relied to some extent on loans or scholarships/grants to fund their FAU education.
Comments

Four open-ended questions were posed for graduates’ comments. Over three-quarters of the respondents gave feedback on one or more of the questions.

“Is there a particular faculty or staff member at FAU who especially helped you succeed? Who and how?”

Responses to this question can be accessed at:
http://iea.fau.edu/surveys/gss/comments.htm

“What was the biggest challenge you faced in your efforts to earn a degree?”

- Balancing work and school .......... 18%
  Making time to study amid competing demands; avoiding burnout from working full-time.
- Academic and faculty-related .......... 16%
  Getting through certain classes; learning how to write effective papers; staying focused in classes they did not like; getting accurate and consistent advising.
- Family stress/responsibilities .......... 11%
  Juggling studies, work and caring for children; “doing it all” as a single parent; fitting school into a life already crammed with responsibilities.
- Scheduling and commuting .......... 11%
  Finding available classes at the right times; arranging classes with work schedules; lack of appropriate electives; commuting long distances between campuses.
- Financial concerns ..................... 9%
  Completing degree before savings ran out; forced to choose between more classes and more hours at work; having to take leave from work to complete field experiences.

“What would you like to see changed at FAU to help future students?”

- Improve scheduling of classes .......... 16%
  Provide wider variety of courses, greater availability for working students, more classes at the partner campuses.
- Faculty and staff issues .................. 14%
  Retain effective instructors and replace ineffective ones; more personal attention, support and understanding from faculty and staff; more professors who love to teach.
- Better academic advising .............. 12%
  Better access to advising for evening students; more consistent advising; opportunity to change advisors; active involvement of advisors throughout the program.
- Academic issues ......................... 11%
  Set higher standards, a more challenging curriculum, and courses with more practical content and less busywork; smaller math classes; more flexibility in choosing electives.

Over half of the “Other comments” were general complimentary remarks or observations on specific faculty. One student wrote:

“It was a very valuable, enriching experience for me to have attended FAU. I am proud of my accomplishments, and I thank the teachers, my advisors and fellow students for the lessons learned at FAU. I plan to come back to continue in (my field) and I am sure, although the work will be harder, that I will continue to enjoy being an FAU student.”

Another summed it up with:

“Thank you, FAU! Go Owls!”

Access the complete results at: http://iea.fau.edu/inst/gss.pdf

For more information contact:
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Institutional Effectiveness and Analysis
Social Science Building, Room 303, Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Phone: (561)297-2665 - Fax: (561)297-2590 - E-mail: iea@fau.edu
Florida Atlantic University
Graduating Senior Survey

Congratulations on completing your degree! Before you leave us, please share some information about your undergraduate experience at FAU and future plans. This survey is voluntary and will not identify you personally. Please answer it as honestly and thoughtfully as you can and return it to your college or the Registrar’s office with your completed graduation materials. Your feedback will help make FAU more responsive to future students’ needs.

Thank You!

*Students who did not answer the question were not included in the analysis.

1. **What is your major?** (Specify only one) ____________________________________________

2. If you could start over again, would you choose the same major? .................. 62%
   Have you been challenged to do your best at FAU? ................... 53%
   Would you recommend FAU to a friend or relative considering college? ........... 60%
   Are you likely to be involved with FAU as an Alum? .............. 16%

3. **What will be your primary activity after graduation?**
   - Employment: 68%
   - Pursuing graduate/professional education: 27%
   - Pursuing a second undergraduate degree: 1%
   - Other: 5%

4. **What are your plans for employment?**
   - I am looking for a job: 56%
   - I plan to continue in my current job: 20%
   - I have accepted employment after graduation: 15%
   - I plan to start my own business: 4%
   - I do not plan to be employed: 5%

5. **If you are currently employed or will soon be, is the job related to your degree field?**
   - Yes, definitely related: 49%
   - Yes, somewhat related: 28%
   - Not related: 23%

6. **After graduation, where do you plan to reside?**
   - In South Florida: 79%
   - Elsewhere in Florida: 7%
   - In another state: 12%
   - In another country: 2%

7. **What are your plans for graduate or professional school?** (either full- or part-time attendance)
   - I plan to attend (Specify school): ___________________________________________ and study
   - I may attend graduate or professional school sometime in the future: 37%
   - I do not intend to pursue graduate or professional education: 4%

8. **Satisfaction with FAU**
   Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of your FAU education:
   - Faculty advising in your major: 34%
   - Advising by college advising office: 25%
   - Clarity of degree requirements: 30%
   - Availability of courses required for your degree: 23%
   - Availability of elective courses: 22%

   Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | Did Not Use
   --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
   34% | 46% | 12% | 5% | 3%
   25% | 47% | 14% | 6% | 8%
   30% | 53% | 14% | 3% | 0%
   23% | 51% | 20% | 6% | 0%
   22% | 57% | 10% | 4% | 7%
### SATISFACTION WITH FAU - continued

Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of your FAU education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Did Not Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction in your major</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction in elective courses</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to interact with faculty, in or out of class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional competence of faculty in your major</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsiveness to your concerns by your major department</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library holdings in your major discipline</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library services</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career advising services</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job placement services</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for the job market</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for graduate or professional school</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of “belonging” at this university</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall quality of your FAU degree</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FAU IMPACT

**9 Rate yourself on each of the following abilities and attributes.** We want your most accurate estimate of how you see yourself.  
*Respond on left*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>A Great Deal</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand and apply math concepts and statistical reasoning</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use computer technology</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply scientific knowledge and skills</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate, screen and organize information</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read with comprehension and efficiency</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write clearly and logically</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the value of history in understanding past and present</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give effective oral presentations</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate great works of music, art and drama</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand and enjoy literature</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain a broad education about different fields of knowledge</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically evaluate information for decision making</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness of global issues and events</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with a team or group</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership skills</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being a responsible contributor to society</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness to new ideas and practices</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthusiasm for lifelong learning</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation of cultures or groups other than your own</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual curiosity</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-confidence</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessing your own values and ethical standards</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following through on projects to completion</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Options</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male: 27% Female: 73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>24 or under: 41% 25 - 29: 22% 30 - 39: 22% 40 or over: 15%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial/ethnic group (Mark all that apply)</td>
<td>Asian American: 5% Black/African American: 11% Hispanic/Latino: 10% American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1% White: 71% International (not US citizen or permanent resident): 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Unmarried: 67% Married: 33%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>None: 72% One: 11% Two: 9% Three or more: 7%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary campus</td>
<td>Boca Raton: 55% Davie: 28% John D. MacArthur (North Palm Beach): 8% Ft. Lauderdale Tower: 5% Port St. Lucie: 0% SeaTech: 0%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was the last type of school you attended prior to FAU?</td>
<td>High school: 14% Community college: 60% Vocational/technical college: 2% Four-year college or university: 24%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before you enrolled at FAU, where did you reside?</td>
<td>In South Florida: 78% Elsewhere in Florida: 8% In another state: 12% In another country: 3%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On average, how many hours per week were you employed while attending FAU?</td>
<td>None: 13% 1 to 10: 7% 11 to 20: 23% 21 to 39: 33% 40 or more: 24%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was your main source of financing for your college education?</td>
<td>Parents or family: 26% Employment: 25% Personal savings: 10% Scholarships, grants: 21% Loans: 19%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was your primary living arrangement while at FAU?</td>
<td>Parents or relatives: 32% On-campus residence: 4% Off-campus rental: 31% Own home: 33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On average, how many credit hours did you complete each semester?</td>
<td>12 or more: 70% Fewer than 12: 30%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How often did you work with a professor on a research project or publication at FAU?</td>
<td>Never: 66% Once: 17% Several times: 15% Often: 3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long has it taken you to complete your degree?</td>
<td>Four years or less: 46% Five years: 28% Six years: 11% More than six years: 15%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your overall grade point average?</td>
<td>3.5 - 4.0: 41% 3.0 - 3.4: 36% 2.5 - 2.9: 19% 2.0 - 2.4: 3% Don't know: 1%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In which of the following extracurricular activities did you participate? (Mark all that apply)</td>
<td>Student government: 6% Sorority or fraternity: 6% Honors and scholars: 12% Academic department club/organization: 14% Campus or community volunteer work: 15% Music, theatre, dance or literary group: 5% Intramural/sports clubs: 6% Political/social action groups: 3% Other clubs or organizations: 22%</td>
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Is there a particular faculty or staff member at FAU who especially helped you succeed? Who and how?

What was the biggest challenge you faced in your efforts to earn a degree?

What would you like to see changed at FAU to help future students?

Please add any other comments on your experiences at FAU.