

STUDENT SUCCESS

GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY

SURVEY BACKGROUND

■ PURPOSES

- DETERMINE THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS ACROSS USF, TAMPA CAMPUS
- ANALYZE RESEARCH FINDINGS BY DEGREE LEVEL AND COLLEGES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND TRENDS AND DIRECTIONS
- UTILIZE FINDINGS TO ENHANCE GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE AT USF.

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

- SURVEY DEVELOPED WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES WITH FUNDING FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS
- SURVEY DESIGNED BASED ON THE LITERATURE AND REVIEW OF SURVEYS FROM TULANE UNIVERSITY AND CALTECH UNIVERSITY BY DOCTORAL STUDENT LAURIE-ANN SPENCER AND REVIEWED AND REVISED BY DRS. BANKS AND LILLER.

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

- SURVEY INCLUDED TARGETED QUESTIONS FOR USF STUDENTS.
- SURVEY CONSISTED OF 45 QUESTIONS IN FIVE SECTIONS:
 - CAMPUS SERVICES AND OFFICES
 - PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORT SERVICES
 - CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT
 - GRADUATE SCHOOL CHOICE
 - GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

SURVEY METHODS

- SURVEY MONKEY SOFTWARE WAS USED TO CREATE SURVEY.
- SURVEY INCLUDED LARGELY CLOSED-ENDED QUESTIONS WITH THREE OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS.
- SURVEYS SENT TO ALL TAMPA GRADUATE STUDENTS THROUGH EMAIL DURING JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2012
- TWO FORMAL REMINDERS SENT.
- INCENTIVE INCLUDED TOP OF THE PALMS VOUCHERS FOR LUNCH (N=7)
- DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES AND CHI-SQUARE ANALYSES OF FINDINGS WERE CONDUCTED.

SURVEY RESULTS

RESPONSE RATE: 1,065 RESPONSES OUT OF 8,353 STUDENTS SURVEYED

DEMOGRAPHICS

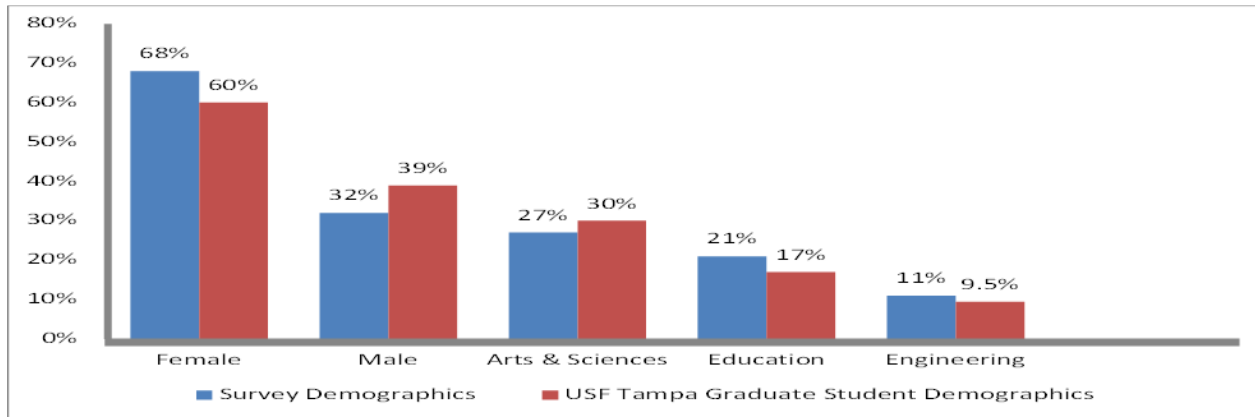
- 66% MASTERS STUDENTS
- 33% DOCTORAL STUDENTS
- ALL COLLEGES REPRESENTED: GREATEST REPRESENTATION FROM THE COLLEGES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, EDUCATION, AND ENGINEERING
- 74% FULL TIME STUDENTS
- 41% IN FIRST YEAR OF STUDY
- 68% FEMALE, 32% MALE
- MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDING WERE GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS (32%) AND LOANS (30%)

SURVEY RESULTS

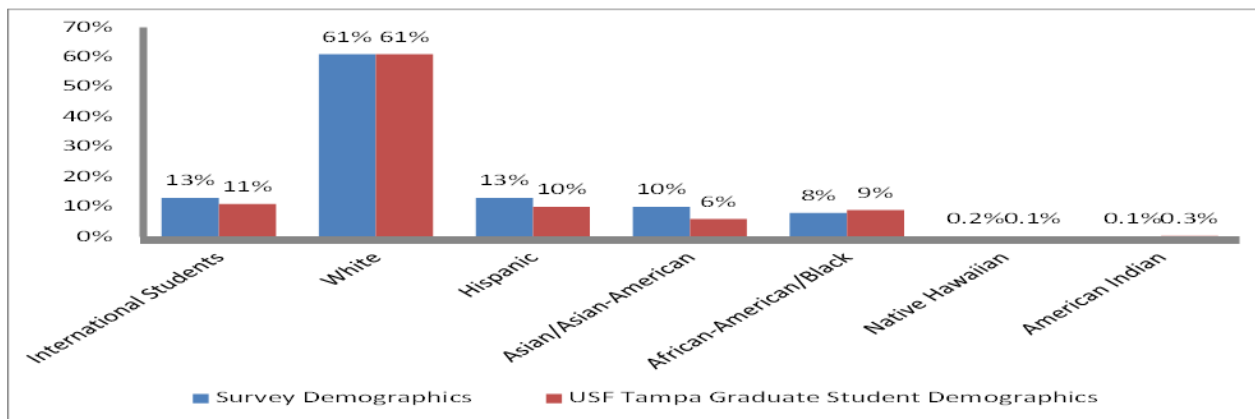
- MAJORITY WERE US CITIZENS (83%).
- 42% EMPLOYED PART-TIME, 35% EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
- MOST (49%) WERE SINGLE AND DID NOT HAVE CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEM (77.5%).
- 53% WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 22-29.
- NEARLY ALL STUDENTS LIVED OFF-CAMPUS (98%) AND THE MAJORITY (61%) LIVED LESS THAN 15 MILES FROM CAMPUS.
- MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS WERE WHITE (61.3%) FOLLOWED BY HISPANIC (13.2%), ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN (10.4%) AND AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK (8.4%).

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Charts Comparing Survey Demographic Data with USF Tampa SP12 Demographic Data



N=1,065; USF Tampa Graduate Student SP12 Enrolment = 8,353



SURVEY RESULTS

- UTILIZATION OF CAMPUS SERVICES AND OFFICES:
 - LIBRARY REPORTED TO BE MOST USED CAMPUS FACILITY (47%)
 - MOST RESPONDENTS (63.5%) WOULD ACCESS STUDENT SERVICES BEYOND 5PM.
 - LEADING SETTING FOR FREQUENT USE FOR DINING WAS THE USF LIBRARY (STARBUCKS) (20%) WITH THE MARSHALL CENTER FOOD COURT BEING THE LEADING SETTING FOR SOMETIME USE (45%).
 - 66% OF STUDENTS DID NOT HAVE A GRADUATE STUDENT MEAL PLAN.

SURVEY RESULTS

- PROGRAMMING & SUPPORT SERVICES:
 - MOST NEEDED SUPPORT SERVICES WERE GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS (75%) AND TRAVEL GRANTS TO CONFERENCES (70%).
 - WRITING SKILLS SUPPORT WAS LISTED AS BEING MOST OR SOMEWHAT BENEFICIAL (58%).
 - ALSO NEEDED WAS GRADUATE STUDENT COMPUTER LABS WITH PRINTING (77%), FOLLOWED BY A GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER (69%), AND GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGES (63%).

SURVEY RESULTS

- MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ALSO FOUND PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS WOULD BE MOST OR SOMEWHAT BENEFICIAL (72%) FOLLOWED BY RESEARCH WORKSHOPS/SHOWCASES (70%) AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATION WORKSHOPS (69%).

SURVEY RESULTS

- **CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT/ SCHOOL CHOICE/GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE**
 - 86% OF STUDENTS USED THE USF WEBSITE, FOLLOWED BY TALKING TO FELLOW STUDENTS (80%), NOTE-A BULL NEWS EMAIL (75%) AND THE COLLEGE WEBPAGE (72%).
 - 64.5% WERE NOT INVOLVED NOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FEW SERVED IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (15%).
 - MAJORITY ATTENDED SPONSORED LECTURES (54%) AND PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WITH FACULTY (52.5%), FOLLOWED BY PROFESSIONAL/CAREER EVENTS/ACTIVITIES (43%) AND SOCIAL EVENTS (40%).

SURVEY RESULTS

- MAJORITY FELT THEY BELONGED TO USF (60%) AND FELT VALUED AS A STUDENT AT USF (52%).
- MAJORITY CHOSE USF AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (69%), FELT USF MET EXPECTATIONS (66%), AND WOULD RECOMMEND USF TO OTHERS (64%).

SURVEY RESULTS

- 41.5% WERE SATISFIED WITH GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE.
- 21% FOUND THAT THEIR TRANSITION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL WAS NEITHER EASY/DIFFICULT.
- 20% FOUND THE TRANSITION TO BE MODERATELY EASY OR DIFFICULT.

SURVEY RESULTS

- GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE CHALLENGES
 - PARKING
 - FINANCES
 - COURSE LOAD
 - RESEARCH
 - TIME MANAGEMENT
 - LIFE BALANCE

SURVEY RESULTS

- COMPARISONS OF STUDENTS:
 - Examples of significant differences between doctoral and master's students include doctoral students being more likely or more often:
 - Fulltime and attend on-campus classes, older, employed part-time, international,
 - Use the library and find research services and attending related programs and workshops most beneficial, and
 - Lead graduate student organizations, involved in leadership activities, find graduate assistantships, thesis and dissertation support and travel grants most beneficial.
 - Master's students had greater interest in career services, never purchased meals on campus, ranked USF as first-choice and to recommend USF to others, are younger, and want access to offices beyond 5pm.

SURVEY RESULTS

- Examples of significant differences between international and domestic students include international students being
 - More frequent users of the library, parking, the computer store, food services and programming on campus,
 - More likely not to have a meal plan, need graduate support services, use the webpages, be involved in graduate student organizations, and find research showcases and conference workshops would be beneficial,
 - More likely to be enrolled as doctoral students, younger, fulltime, single, Asian/Asian American, live 5 miles or less from campus, and mainly funded by graduate assistantships or family, and
 - More involved in graduate student organizations and satisfied with graduate student life at USF.

SURVEY RESULTS

- THREE OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS WERE ASKED FOCUSED ON GRADUATE SCHOOL ORIENTATION, GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE IMPROVEMENTS, AND WHAT YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE STARTING STUDIES AT USF.

SURVEY RESULTS

- EXAMPLES OF THEMES FROM OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:
 - Graduate school orientation should be shorter, more opportunity for interaction, even more notice.
 - Graduate student life improvements focused on more evening services, better/cheaper/staff parking, more financial assistance, more social events, more career placement, more advising, and more lounges.

SURVEY RESULTS

- WHAT YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE STARTING STUDIES:
 - housing information, what to really expect, pace, requirements, how to find an advisor, financial aid issues, navigating USF-MORE SERVICES!

SURVEY RESULTS

- Colleges have been given their own findings for review and discussion.
- Immediate results of the survey have led to a complete makeover of Graduate School Orientation (many more workshops, interactive, offered later in the day and evening) and development of a Graduate Student Life Guide.

SURVEY RESULTS

- Other areas being worked on include expanding financial aid workshops and information, working with parking services, better information distribution about the need for graduate student involvement in graduate student organizations and student government, development of Graduate School Ambassadors, enhanced communication related to available services already at USF (lounges, workspaces, etc.), and more!

FUTURE PLANS

- We plan to administer the survey to new Fall graduate students each spring semester so students have an opportunity to learn about USF and participate in activities.
- Administration of the survey on a yearly basis will help us determine our success in meeting graduate student needs.

THE END!

- THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

