



IRIM RESEARCH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Graduating Senior Survey Analysis Research Executive Summary

IRIM administers the Graduating Senior Survey (GSS) every academic term to EMU students who have applied for graduation. Data is obtained from the three semesters each academic year, and is analyzed and formulated into a comprehensive survey report. This report is a partial analysis for the fall class of graduating seniors between 2011 and 2016. The data in this analysis was collected from the fall semester of 2011 (464 students) and is compared to 2016 (504 students). The purpose of this survey is to acquire feedback regarding ways that EMU could improve. Within the survey, there are three main sections revolving around the satisfaction of intellectual aspects, facilities, and a sense of well-being.

In this analysis, we found significant results that positively reflected EMU. The highest growth among students was in the area of advising, with results increasing 8%. Figure 1 demonstrates the 8% increase in the University Advising Center and a 4% increase in the area of advising from the college advising office. Another key aspect in the areas of achievement is the 4% increase in the area of student safety. This indicates the various services EMU provides insuring the safety of students is demonstrating success.

Figure 1.

Areas with the Largest Increase	
Survey Aspect	% Change 2011 to 2016
Advising from the University Advising Center	8%
Results of the graduate audit	6%
Lab/Studio facilities	5%
Positive interactions with staff in administrative services	5%
Advising from college advising office	4%
I felt safe on campus	4%

Research Executive Summary (continued)

There were some areas of dissatisfaction from the GSS results, as presented in Figure 2. The largest area of dissatisfaction was in the area of food services and parking facilities, with a decrease of 19% and 10%, respectively. Students claimed their academic performances were negatively affected by financial pressure (7%), and experienced a decrease in satisfaction by 9% when working with the Financial Aid services. One aspect that should especially be noted is the decline of recommendation of EMU to others. On the surface, a 5% decrease does not look drastic, but it is a question that holds a great deal of merit.

Figure 2.

Areas with Largest Decrease	
Survey Aspect	% Change 2011 to 2016
Food services	-19%
Parking facilities	-10%
Financial Aid counseling and services	-9%
Academic performance was negatively affected by financial pressure*	7%
Athletic facilities	-6%
Quality of faculty in major	-5%
EMU student center	-5%
I would recommend EMU to others	-5%
Academic support systems	-5%
Quality of courses in major	-3%

*Indicates reverse scoring

EMU is committed to helping their students find employment after they graduate. Figure 3 (next page) represents a five-year comparison of student's employment status at the time of graduation. In five years, the amount of students who indicated they would continue their current full-time job stayed around the same, but there was a 10.8% increase in students who would begin a full-time job upon graduation. The rate of students who would begin a full-time job after graduation rose from 22.2% to 33%, a 10.8% increase over the span of five years. In Figure 4 (next page), the graduating students were asked how their degree is related to their current job. A total of 51.4% of students surveyed indicated their degree is highly related to their job, which is a difference of 15.6% from 2011. There was also a decrease from 2011 of 14.6% of students who disclosed their degrees were not related to their job. These figures are important because it demonstrates how well EMU graduating students are doing in the job field.

Figure 3.

Which of the following best describes your employment status?		
	2011	2016
I will continue in my current full-time employment (≥35 hours/week)	25.6%	29.9%
I will begin full-time employment upon graduation	22.2%	33.0%
I will be self-employed after graduation.	0.8%	1.2%
I will be employed part-time after graduation	13.2%	7.3%
I am still seeking employment	32.3%	25.3%
I will mainly be doing volunteer work or internship after graduation	0.4%	1.2%
Other	5.5%	2.3%

Figure 4.

Is your upcoming EMU degree related to your job?		
	2011	2016
Yes, highly related.	35.8%	51.4%
Yes, somewhat related.	26.7%	25.7%
No, not related.	37.5%	22.9%

The Graduating Senior Survey, with data collected from 2011 to 2016, provided areas of improvements and for potential growth. The advising through the University Advising Center and College Advising Office have improved substantially, which indicates our students are receiving helpful information regarding their future careers. However, there was a significant decrease in satisfaction in the campus facilities, mainly the food services and parking facilities. The overall results from the sections revolving around students' future careers looks promising for EMU. More students indicated they would be working full-time in a career that is closely correlated with their degrees. Please watch for our annual GSS report that will be released in the fall of 2017.