



Juniors and Seniors at Loyola Want More Opportunities for Capstone Experiences in Their Majors

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A survey of undergraduates has been administered at Loyola every spring since 2006. In 2011, the survey was substantially revised, although the general topics remained the same. As of 2011, however, the survey is not intended to cover graduating seniors, only freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.¹

This report focuses on the results from the 2011 Undergraduate Survey, analyzed separately for each class level.² The survey response rate was 30%, although approximately 50 respondents did not complete the entire survey. As this response rate is fairly low, results should be interpreted with caution, as they may not be representative of the undergraduate population.

Most questions are on a 5 point scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and very dissatisfied. For the purposes of the report, the percentage satisfied or very satisfied is reported. For most items, the overall percentage is reported; where the difference is notable, percentages are also reported for the class levels with the highest or lowest percentage. Basic characteristics of respondents are reported in Appendix A.

Key findings

Overall satisfaction and attitudes

- Of all respondents, 87% were satisfied or very satisfied with academics overall at Loyola. Freshmen were the most satisfied (91%) and seniors were the least satisfied (83%).
- Eighty-one percent of respondents said they felt that Loyola cared somewhat or very much about

¹ A separate survey, the Graduating Senior Exit Survey, is now administered to graduating seniors. Seventy four graduating seniors who were not, as of the start date of the survey, listed in administrative records as graduating, were administered the Undergraduate Survey instead of the Graduating Senior Exit Survey; they are included as seniors in these analyses.

² In some cases, relatively few (less than 50) students responded (Social Work, dual degree 5 year, and other programs). For these schools, therefore, results should be interpreted with extra caution.

them. Eighty-six percent of freshmen felt that way, while 75% of seniors felt that way.

- Fully 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Loyola has a strong academic reputation.
- Eighty-five percent of students overall agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend Loyola to prospective students, with freshmen most likely to agree (90%) and seniors least likely to agree (80%).
- Seventy-seven percent of students overall agreed or strongly agreed that they felt like a member of the Loyola community, with freshmen most likely to agree (86%) and seniors least likely (74%).
- Seventy-five percent of students overall agreed or strongly agreed that they had someone at Loyola to talk to about personal matters. The difference between class levels was relatively large: freshmen 86% and seniors only 65%.

Satisfaction with major

- The quality of teaching was the area in their major in which respondents overall were most satisfied, with 83% satisfied or very satisfied. Seventy-seven percent were satisfied with the quality of learning in their major.
- Fifty-six percent of respondents overall were satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of courses in their major, while 52% were satisfied with the availability of a capstone (most relevant to juniors and seniors).
- Eighty percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with availability of faculty in their major, but only 54% were satisfied or very satisfied with faculty advising in their major.
- Only 35% were satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to participate in faculty research.

Satisfaction with Core and Loyola faculty

- About two-thirds of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching and the quality of learning in the Core (see Table 3). Only 52% were satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of Core courses.
- A substantial majority of students overall were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of Loyola University faculty (82%) and with the availability of Loyola faculty (80%).

- Seventy-five percent of respondents overall were satisfied or very satisfied with communication between students and Loyola faculty, while 70% were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of their relationships with Loyola faculty.
- About two-thirds said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the encouragement and motivation they received from Loyola faculty.

Satisfaction with learning experiences

- Not surprisingly, seniors were most likely to have participated in course-based service learning (56%), an internship (41%), and LUROP (28%).
- Seniors were most likely to have participated in a Learning Community (41%; 24% of freshmen had participated).

Satisfaction with learning resources

- A great majority of respondents overall were satisfied or very satisfied with Library resources/collections (85%) and services (85%).
- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors were less likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of experiential learning opportunities than were freshmen, perhaps because freshmen had not yet really looked for such an opportunity.
- Freshmen were much more satisfied with the Center for Tutoring and Academic Excellence (79%) than were juniors (55%) and, especially, seniors (50%).
- Seventy-three percent of freshmen were satisfied or very satisfied with Career Development Center resources, compared to 53% of juniors and 51% of seniors. It appears that some freshmen appear to have reported satisfaction level with Career Development Center without having used it. Likewise, 69% of freshmen reported being satisfied or very satisfied with Center for Experiential Learning Services, compared to 51% of juniors and 50% of seniors.
- Juniors were least satisfied with academic advising (49% satisfied or very satisfied), while freshmen were most satisfied (69% satisfied or very satisfied).

Satisfaction with Loyola services

- Of the services listed on the survey, students overall were most satisfied with the Hub, at 76% satisfied or very satisfied.
- Fifty-nine percent of students overall were satisfied or very satisfied with the Registrar's Office, 57% with the Financial Aid Office, and 58% with the Bursar's Office.
- Fifty-nine percent of students overall were satisfied or very satisfied with their Dean's Office.

Satisfaction with non-academic life

- The great majority of students overall (92%) were satisfied or very satisfied with U-Pass; 80% were satisfied or very satisfied with the shuttle, and 71% with 8-Ride. On each of these, satisfaction declines as class level increases from freshman to senior.
- Sixty-three percent of students overall were satisfied or very satisfied with campus life activities and events. Freshmen were more likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with campus fitness/recreation (73%), compared to juniors (50%) and seniors (54%).
- Freshmen were more likely to be satisfied or very satisfied with personal safety in the area around campus (75%) than were juniors (54%).
- Forty-three percent of students overall were satisfied or very satisfied with their meal plan, and only 34% were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall campus dining experience.

Conclusions

- Where there are differences, seniors (and often juniors) tended to be less satisfied with Loyola than did freshmen.
- Freshmen were more likely to have someone at Loyola to talk to about personal matters than were seniors.
- Only half of juniors and seniors were satisfied with the availability of a capstone experience in their major.
- Students were very satisfied with the Library.
- Most students were satisfied with Loyola faculty, but many fewer were satisfied with faculty advising in their major.

Table 1					
Overall Satisfaction and Attitudes, by Class Level					
	Class level				Total
	Freshman	Sophomor	Junior	Senior	
	%	%	%	%	
Satisfaction with academics overall <i>% satisfied/very satisfied</i> ¹	90.7	88.7	85.0	83.1	87.2
Feel LUC cares <i>Somewhat/very much</i> ²	86.4	81.9	79.1	75.4	81.3
Attitudes toward Loyola <i>Agree/strongly agree</i> ³					
LUC has strong academic reputation	93.7	91.4	87.2	89.1	90.2
Would recommend LUC to prospective students	90.3	83.4	83.4	79.8	84.8
Feel like member of LUC community	86.2	76.3	70.6	74.1	76.6
Have someone at LUC to talk about personal matters	86.2	76.2	70.3	65.0	75.4

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Response scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

² Response scale: very much, somewhat, not very much, not at all.

³ Response scale: strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree.

Table 2					
Satisfaction with Major, by Class Level					
	Class level				Total
	Freshman	Sophomor	Junior	Senior	
	%	%	%	%	
Satisfaction with major ¹ <i>% satisfied/very satisfied</i> ²					
Quality of teaching by faculty in major	82.4	82.6	84.2	83.9	83.3
Availability of faculty in major	80.6	77.9	79.3	81.4	79.5
Quality of learning in major	79.5	77.5	75.4	73.3	76.7
Availability of courses in major	65.4	56.6	51.2	54.1	56.4
Faculty advising in major	57.8	55.0	51.7	53.3	54.2
Availability of capstone in major	53.5	52.2	51.7	51.0	52.2
Opportunities to participate in faculty research	40.9	34.5	31.6	33.6	34.8

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Includes only respondents who have declared major.

² Response scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

Table 3					
Satisfaction with Core and Loyola Faculty, by Class Level					
	Class level				Total
	Freshman	Sophomor	Junior	Senior	
	%	%	%	%	
Satisfaction with Core					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied¹</i>					
Quality of teaching in Core	72.4	69.6	67.1	72.7	69.8
Quality of learning in Core	69.2	64.6	62.6	67.5	65.4
Availability of Core courses	56.3	50.6	49.6	56.3	52.4
Satisfaction with LUC faculty					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied¹</i>					
Quality of LUC faculty	81.4	83.1	80.1	81.6	81.4
Availability of LUC faculty	82.5	81.4	77.6	80.8	80.3
LUC faculty/student communication	78.4	76.6	72.7	73.3	75.3
Quaility of relationships w ith LUC faculty	70.7	69.6	68.3	68.9	69.3
Encouragement/motivation from LUC faculty	68.5	65.0	63.9	64.8	65.5

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Response scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied

Table 4					
Satisfaction with Learning Experiences and Resources, by Class Level					
	Class level				Total
	Freshman	Sophomor	Junior	Senior	
	%	%	%	%	
Participation in learning experiences¹					
<i>% reporting satisfaction level with experience</i>					
UNIV 101	97.1	82.5	30.9	31.0	61.5
Service learning in course	19.4	25.8	36.8	56.1	31.9
Learning Community	23.9	28.1	26.7	40.6	28.0
Internship	8.1	14.6	23.7	40.9	19.4
UNIV 102	23.4	23.0	13.6	19.8	19.3
LUROP	10.5	14.3	16.9	28.2	15.9
Satisfaction with learning experiences¹					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied²</i>					
Learning Community	74.0	70.9	61.2	66.0	67.4
Service learning in course	62.9	63.5	60.8	62.2	62.0
Internship	45.5	52.6	55.9	57.7	54.6
LUROP	45.6	39.5	44.9	57.7	46.5
UNIV 102	60.3	48.4	31.7	36.0	46.4
UNIV 101	31.7	44.1	45.7	45.6	39.4
Satisfaction with learning resources					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied²</i>					
Library resources/collections	88.8	86.8	83.7	80.3	85.4
Library services	90.9	84.3	84.0	78.7	85.2
Opportunities to study abroad	78.2	70.5	66.8	66.7	70.4
Center for Tutoring & Academic Excellence services	79.0	64.7	55.3	49.6	63.4
Career Development Center advising	73.0	62.1	52.6	50.9	59.0
Academic advising	68.8	59.1	48.7	55.5	57.4
Center for Experiential Learning services	69.2	55.3	51.0	49.6	55.9
Availability of experiential learning opportunities	62.7	46.1	42.8	44.7	47.1

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Participation is defined as having expressed level of satisfaction with the experience; it appears, however, that in some cases students (especially freshmen) seem to have expressed an opinion although they are unlikely to have participated.

² Response scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

Table 5					
Satisfaction with University Services and Non-academic Life, by Class Level					
	Class level				Total
	Freshman	Sophomor	Junior	Senior	
	%	%	%	%	%
Satisfaction with LUC services					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied¹</i>					
Sullivan Center Hub	79.1	75.9	73.7	72.7	75.5
Registrar's Office	61.8	56.4	57.0	65.4	59.2
Financial Aid Office	59.6	55.0	53.8	63.0	56.7
Your Dean's Office	57.7	58.3	59.6	62.5	59.4
Bursar's Office	60.1	58.1	56.4	61.3	58.3
Satisfaction with non-academic life					
<i>% satisfied/very satisfied¹</i>					
U-Pass	96.8	93.7	90.0	83.3	92.1
Shuttle	88.8	81.2	74.4	72.8	79.9
8-Ride	82.5	71.9	65.7	63.7	71.3
Campus life activities and events	73.6	61.7	56.1	58.4	62.8
Personal safety in area around campus	75.0	60.4	54.2	60.2	62.1
Campus fitness/recreation	73.4	59.5	50.3	54.4	59.7
Meal plan	39.0	41.7	42.1	34.2	40.3
Overall campus dining experience	27.6	37.2	35.6	37.5	33.9

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Response scale: very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied.

Appendix A										
Respondent Characteristics, by Class Level										
	Class level								Total	
	Freshman		Sophomore		Junior		Senior			
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
School										
Arts & Sciences	67.9	401	61.9	356	58.9	475	60.9	168	62.2	1400
Business Administration	10.8	64	14.4	83	16.7	135	18.1	50	14.8	332
Communication	3.9	23	6.6	38	5.7	46	3.6	10	5.2	117
Continuing and Professional Studies	1.2	7	2.3	13	3.2	26	5.4	15	2.7	61
Education	3.0	18	3.5	20	4.3	35	1.4	4	3.4	77
Nursing	10.2	60	8.2	47	4.7	38	3.3	9	6.8	154
Social Work	.5	3	1.0	6	2.5	20	1.8	5	1.5	34
Dual-degree (5 year) program	1.9	11	1.7	10	2.6	21	2.2	6	2.1	48
Other	.7	4	.3	2	1.4	11	3.3	9	1.2	26
Declared major										
Yes	85.9	507	94.3	544	97.4	785	94.9	260	93.3	2096
No	14.1	83	5.7	33	2.6	21	5.1	14	6.7	151
Status at entry¹										
New freshman	94.6	509	81.9	430	67.0	482	43.3	107	75.3	1528
Freshman transfer	4.6	25	2.7	14	2.4	17	3.2	8	3.2	64
Sophomore transfer	.4	2	15.4	81	14.5	104	19.4	48	11.6	235
Junior transfer	.4	2	.0	0	15.9	114	23.9	59	8.6	175
Senior transfer	.0	0	.0	0	.3	2	10.1	25	1.3	27
Parent has a least some college experience										
Yes	74.9	403	72.7	380	71.9	517	61.6	151	71.7	1451
Unsure	1.3	7	1.9	10	1.1	8	2.4	6	1.5	31
No	23.8	128	25.4	133	27.0	194	35.9	88	26.8	543
Total respondents²	100.0	598	100.0	584	100.0	815	100.0	280	100.0	2277

Source: Undergraduate Survey, spring 2011

¹ Some respondents reported contradictory information (e.g., entered as a sophomore transfer, but currently a freshman).

² Not all respondents completed the entire survey. Approximately 2025 did complete the entire survey.