Senior Exit 2009 Survey Results

Strategic Research & Analysis

Valdosta State University

http://www.valdosta.edu/sra

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Structure of Report

- Overview
- Highest Rated Items
- Respondent Demographics
- Program Perceptions
- Overall Perceptions
- Future Plans
- Appendices – Summaries of Survey Responses

Overview

- This survey is applicable to all graduating undergraduate students for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

- Participants are asked to:

  - rate aspects of their course curriculum and their experiences at VSU.

  - rate their overall perception of VSU's social and learning experiences.

  - indicate their future plans after graduation.

Overview

- In 2009, the Senior Exit survey was revised and conducted online via BANNER for the first time.
- Students were able to take the survey in BANNER from November 1, 2008 to May 15, 2009.
  - A total of 198 responses were received via BANNER.
  - Exhibits 1 through 30 illustrate survey responses in graphical format.
  - Exhibits 31 and 32 (located in Appendix A) provide tabular summaries of responses.

Overview

- A total of 312 responses to the original paper survey instrument were also received in fiscal year 2009.
- As the paper survey differs substantially from the revised version of the survey in BANNER, responses from the two groups of respondents could not be combined.
  - Exhibits 33 to 36 (located in Appendix B) provide tabular summaries of responses from the paper surveys.
- The overall response rate, based on BANNER and paper surveys, was 32%.

Highest Rated Items

Effectiveness of courses and instruction:

- Quality of overall instruction in the major field of study was rated as excellent or good by over 89% of participants.
- Course curriculum in the major field of study was rated as excellent or good by over 88% of participants.
- Interaction with faculty was rated as excellent or good by over 88% of participants.

Overall Perception:

- Experience with Odum Library's collections and resources was rated excellent or good by over 80% of participants.
- Over 85% of participants would recommend VSU to others.
- Over 95% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU promoted the use of computers and information technology.

Demographics

Demographics

- Exhibit 1 shows that 74.7% of participants are White.
- Exhibit 2 shows that 61.1% of participants ranged in age from 18 to 24 years.
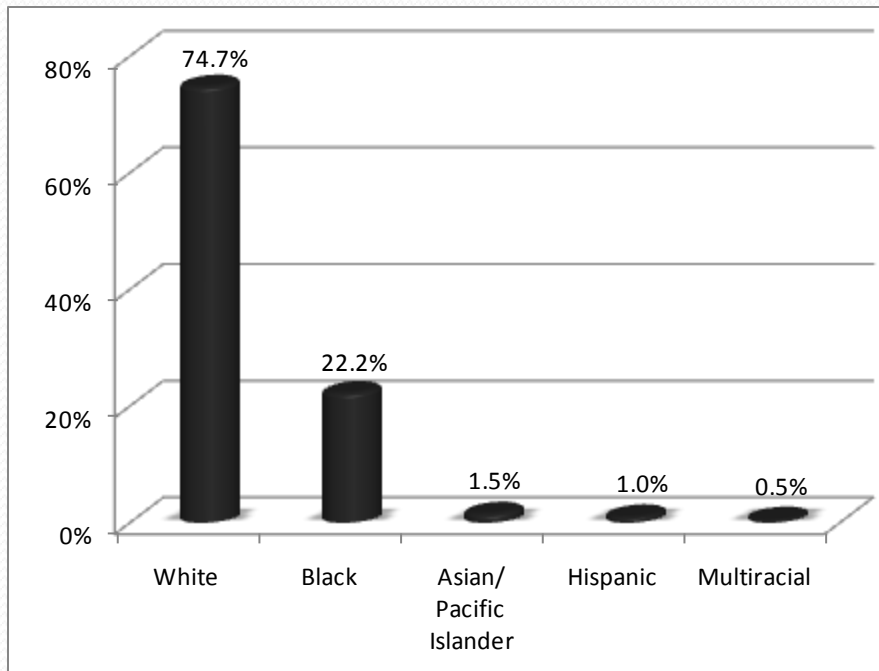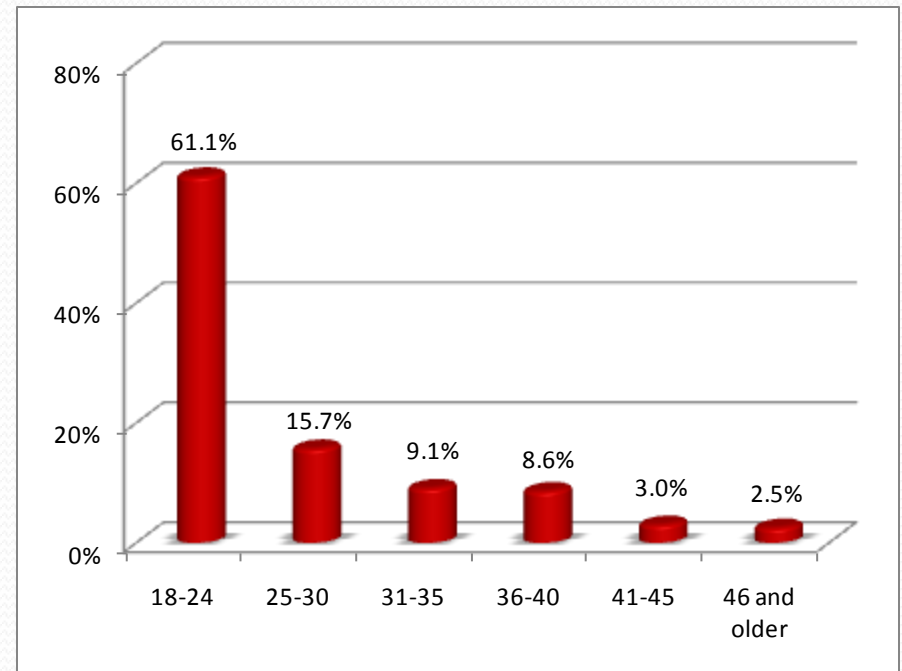
EXHIBIT 1: ETHNICITY

EXHIBIT 2: AGE

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.

Demographics

- Exhibit 3 shows that students from Early Childhood Education were the largest participating group (18.7%).
- Exhibit 4 shows that 52.5% of participants pursued their degree in the College of Education.
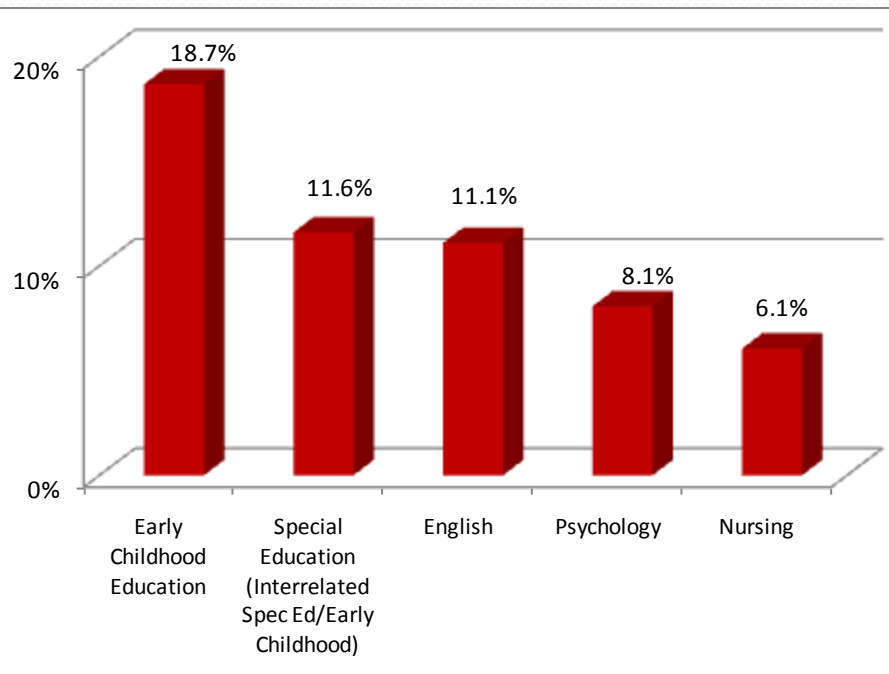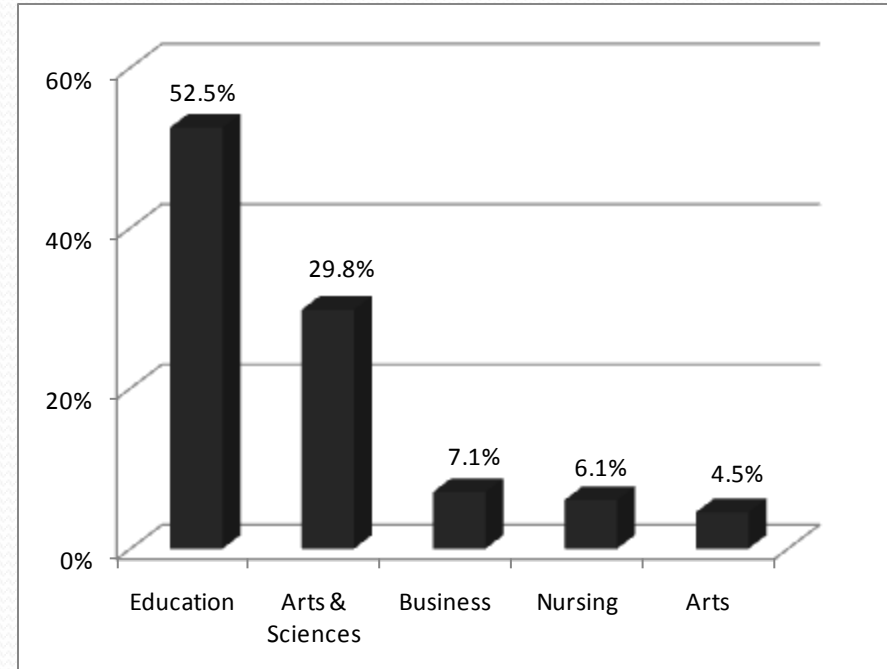
EXHIBIT 3: LARGEST MAJORS

EXHIBIT 4: COLLEGE

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.

Program Perceptions

Course Availability

- Exhibit 5 shows that 76.7% of participants rated the availability of required core courses as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 6 shows that 72.2% of participants rated the availability of courses in their field of study as either good or excellent.

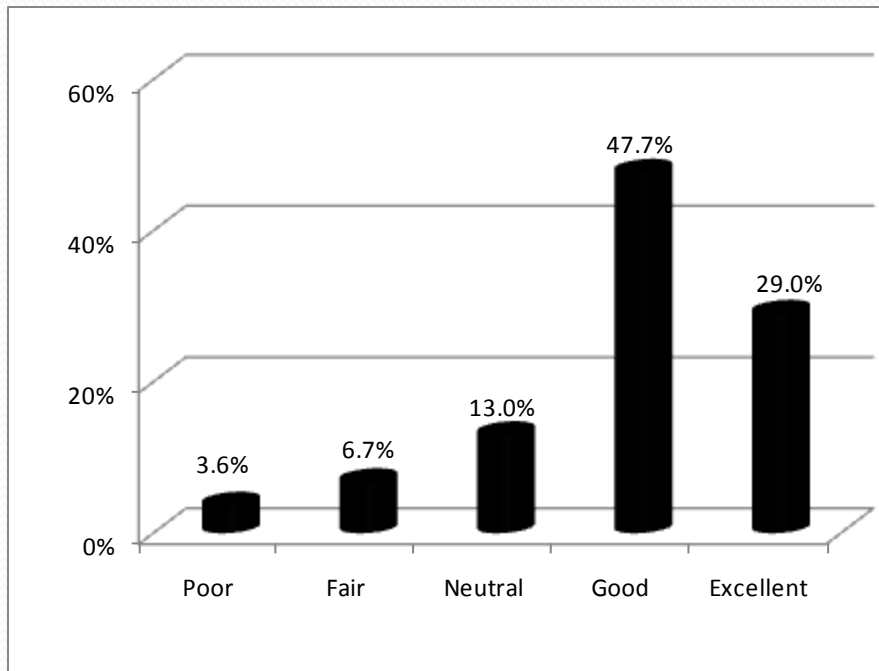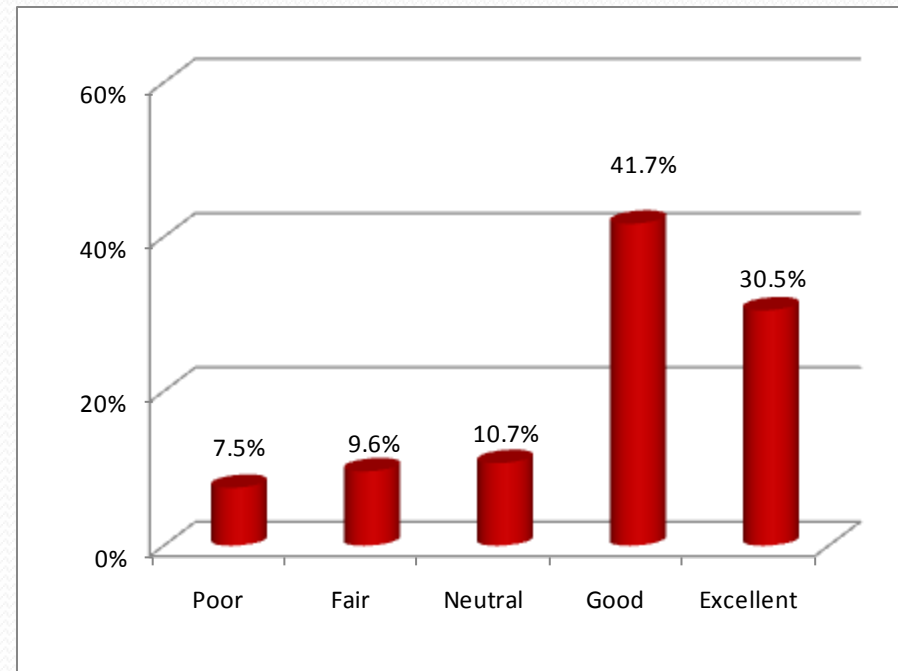EXHIBIT 5: AVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED CORE COURSES

EXHIBIT 6: AVAILABILITY OF COURSES IN MY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

Source: VSU SRA Office, September, 2009.

Overall Quality of Instruction

- Exhibit 7 shows that 83.5% of participants rated the overall quality of instruction in required core courses as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 8 shows that 89.7% of participants rated the overall quality of instruction in their major field of study as good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 7: OVERALL QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN REQUIRED CORE COURSES
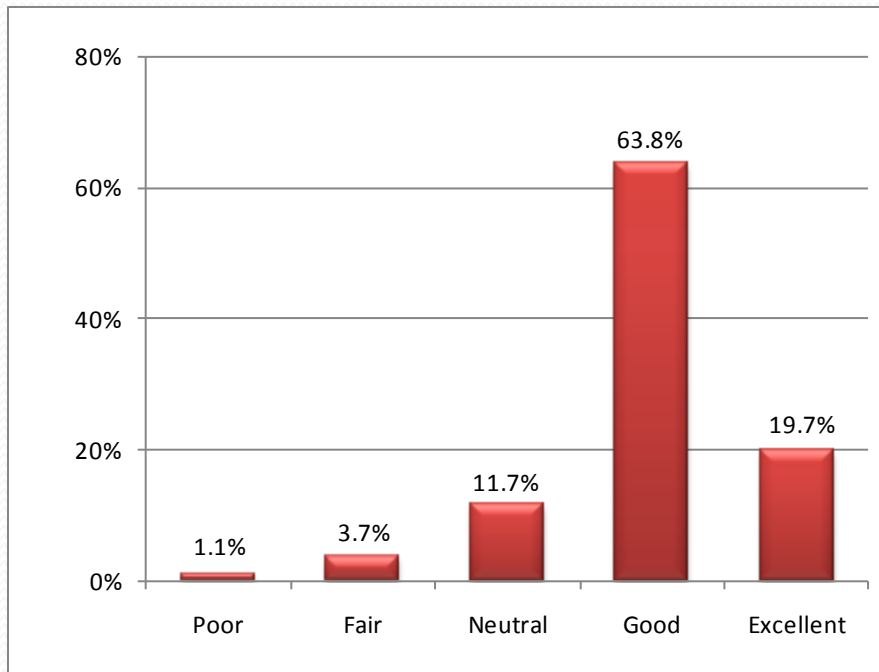
EXHIBIT 8: OVERALL QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN MY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.

Course Curriculum

- Exhibit 9 shows that 77.4% of participants viewed the curriculum of required core courses as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 10 shows that 88.3% of participants viewed the curriculum in their major field of study as good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 9: CURRICULUM OF REQUIRED CORE COURSES

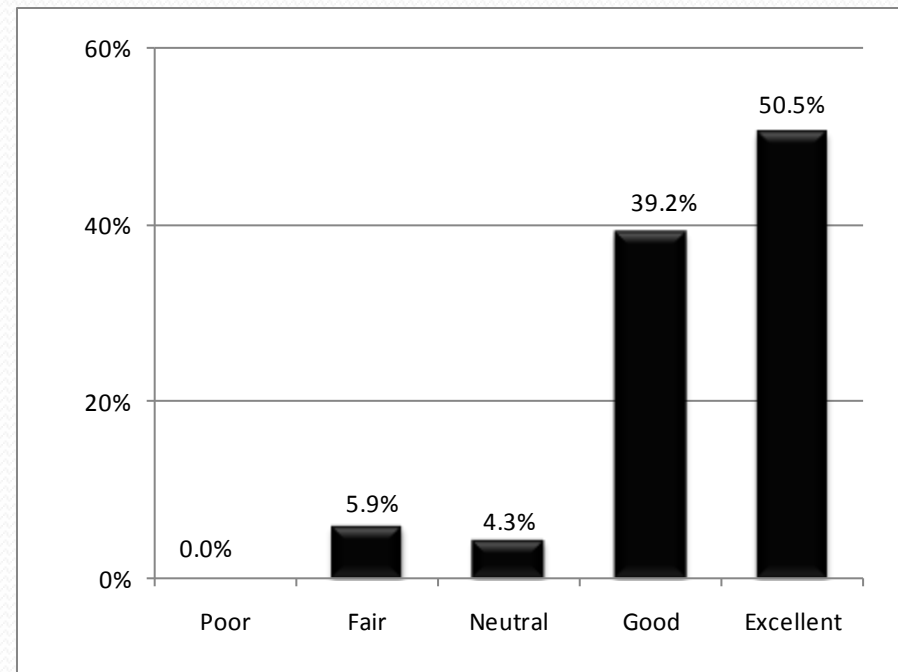|	Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent
Value	2.2%	3.8%	16.7%	59.1%	18.3%
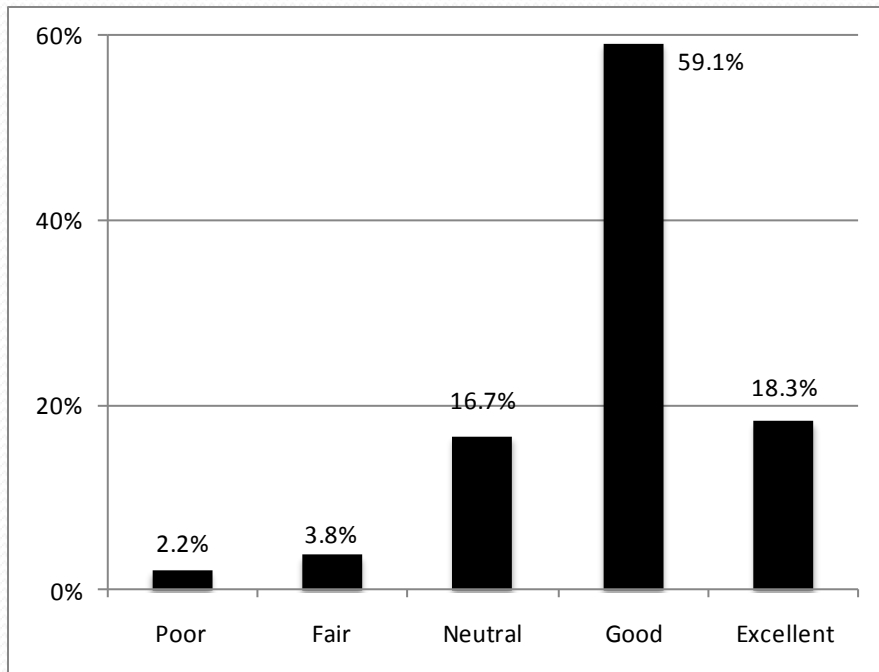
EXHIBIT 10: CURRICULUM IN MY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY

	Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent
Value	0.5%	5.3%	5.9%	45.5%	42.8%

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
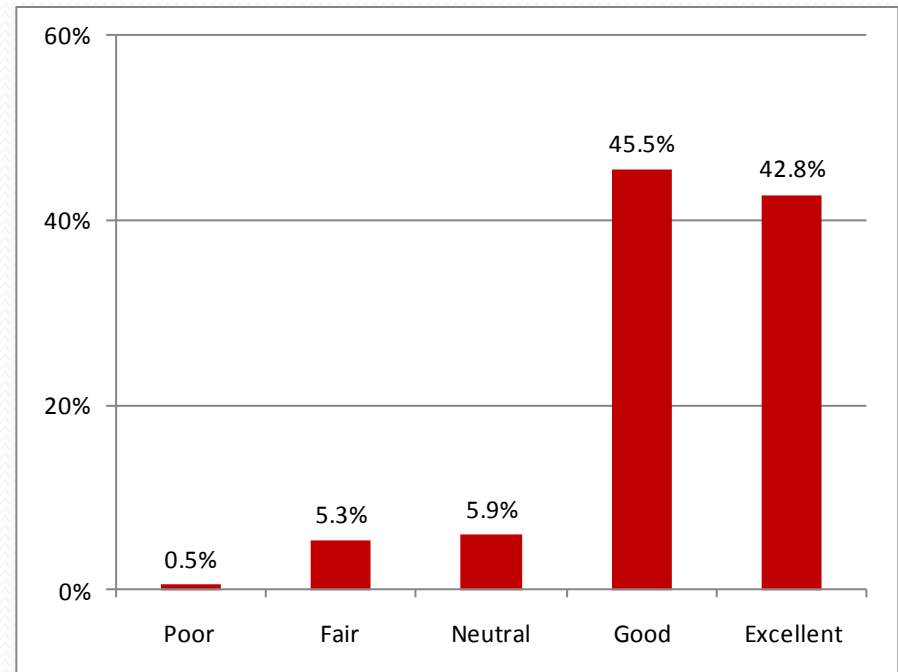
Interaction with Faculty

- Exhibit 11 shows that 86.1% of participants believed that the faculty in their academic department were good or excellent.
- Exhibit 12 shows that 88.7% of participants believed that the opportunities for interaction with faculty were good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 11: FACULTY IN MY ADADEMIC DEPARTMENT
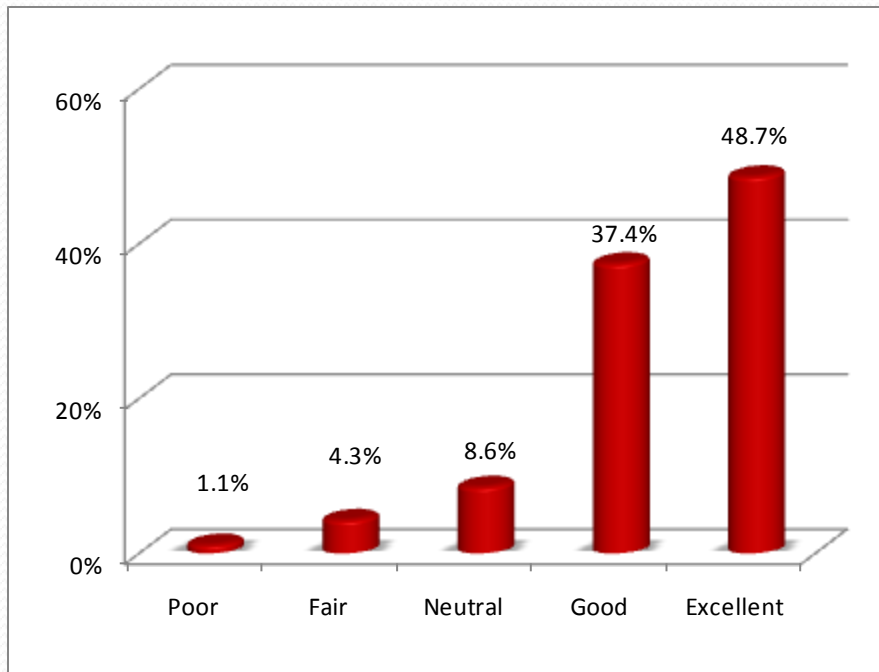
EXHIBIT 12: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION WITH FACULTY

Source: VSU SRA Office, September, 2009.
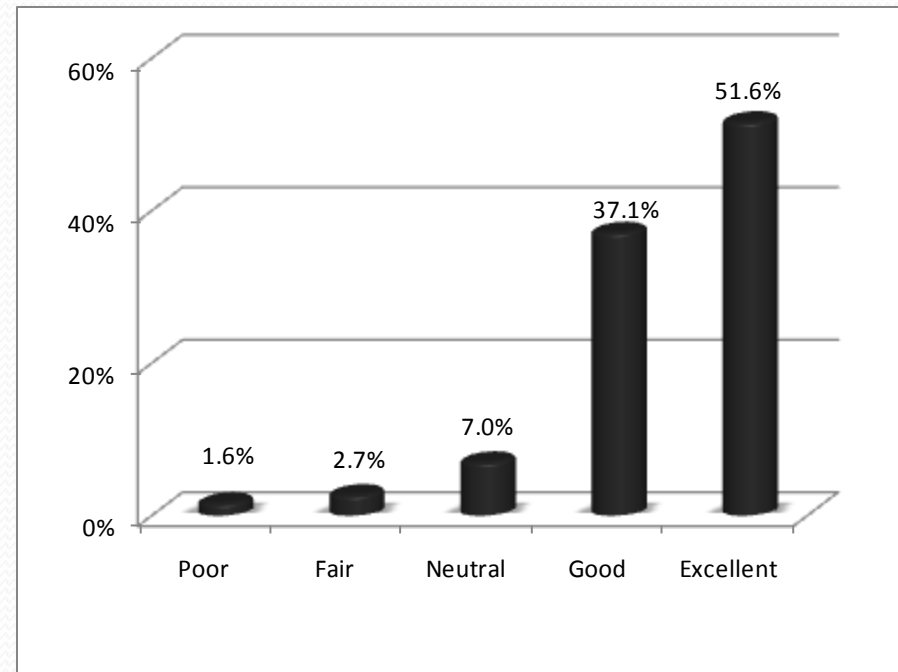
Experience Ratings

- Exhibit 13 shows that 80.7% of participants rated Odum Library's collections and resources, including online databases, as good or excellent.
- Exhibit 14 shows that 71.3% of participants rated Student Financial Services/Bursary and the fee payment process as good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 13: ODUM LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING ONLINE DATABASES

Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent
2.2%	3.2%	14.0%	46.8%	33.9%
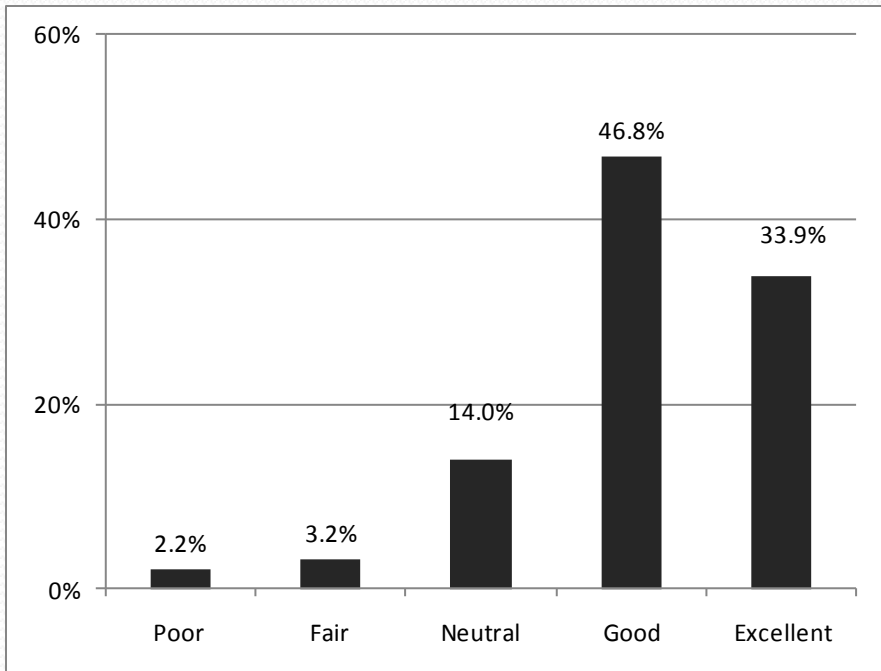
EXHIBIT 14: STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES/BURSARY AND THE FEE PAYMENT PROCESS

Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent
6.6%	22.1%	0.0%	45.9%	25.4%

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
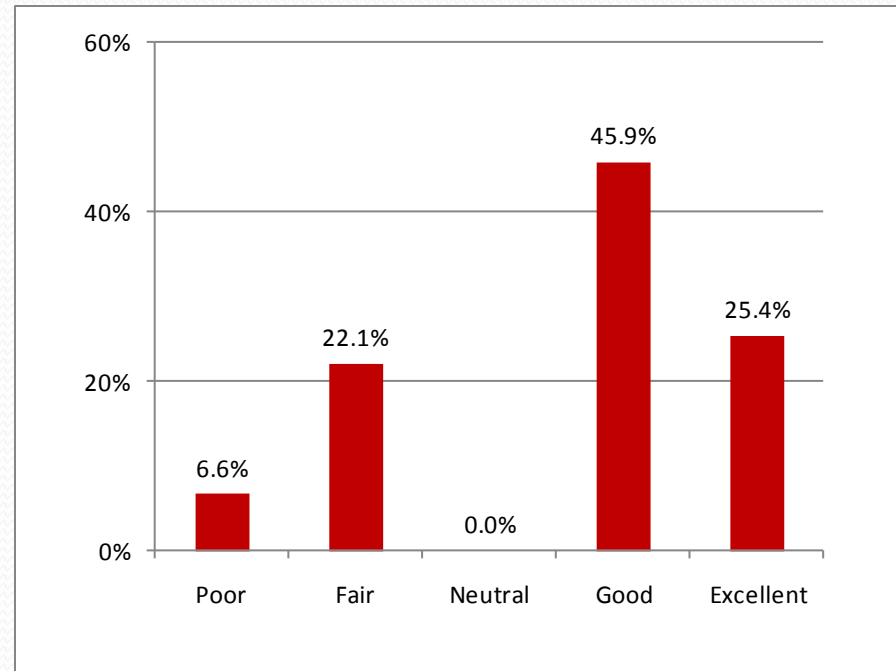
Experience Ratings

- Exhibit 15 shows that 80.0% of participants who used the Student Success Center rated it as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 16 shows that 70.9% of participants rated their social experiences at VSU as either good or excellent.

EXHIBIT 15: STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
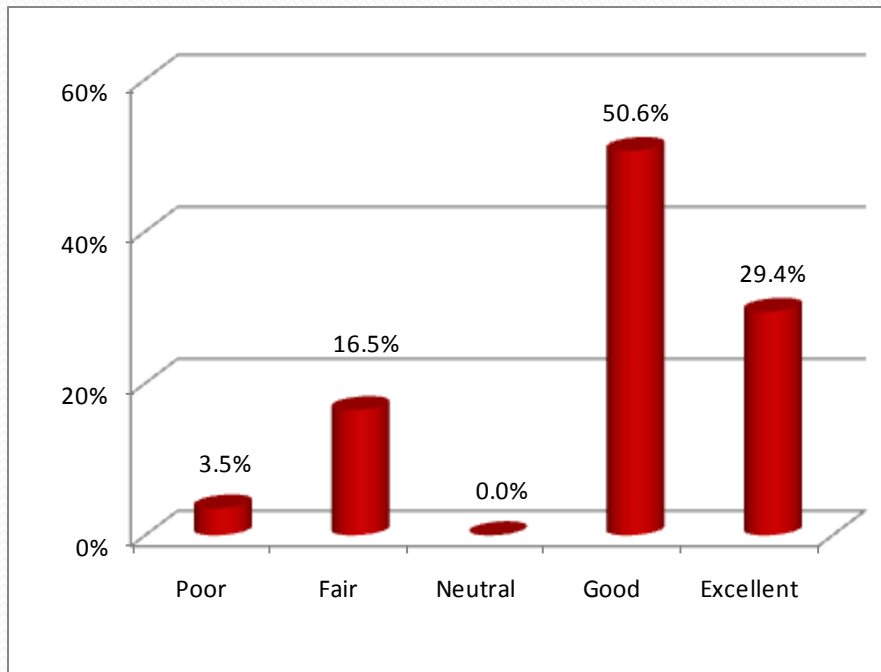
EXHIBIT 16: SOCIAL EXPERIENCES AT VSU

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
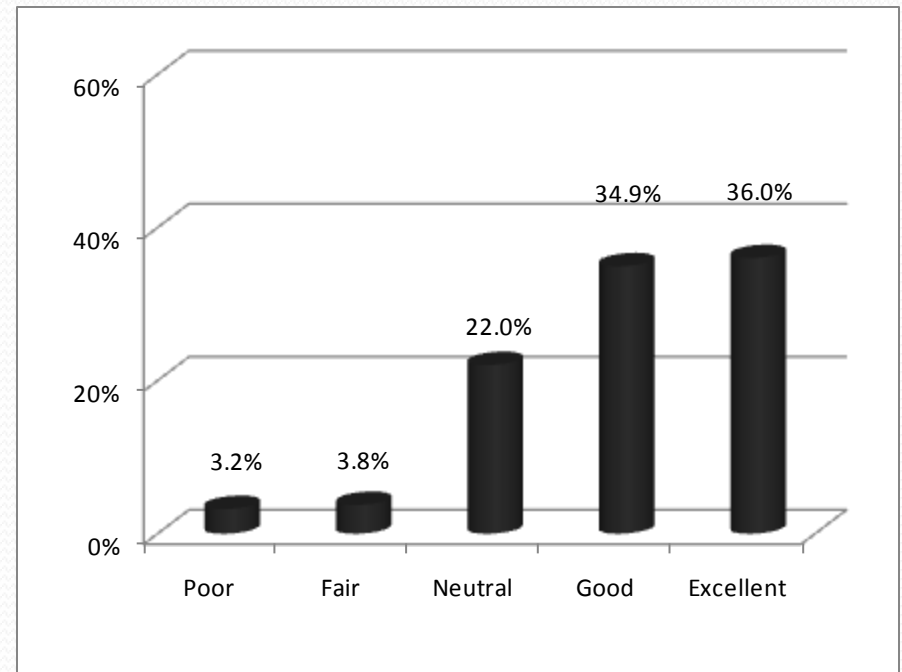
Overall Perceptions

Overall Perception

- Exhibit 17 shows that 84.9% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with VSU as either good or excellent.
- Exhibit 18 shows that 85.5% of participants would recommend VSU to others.

EXHIBIT 17: MY OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH VSU:
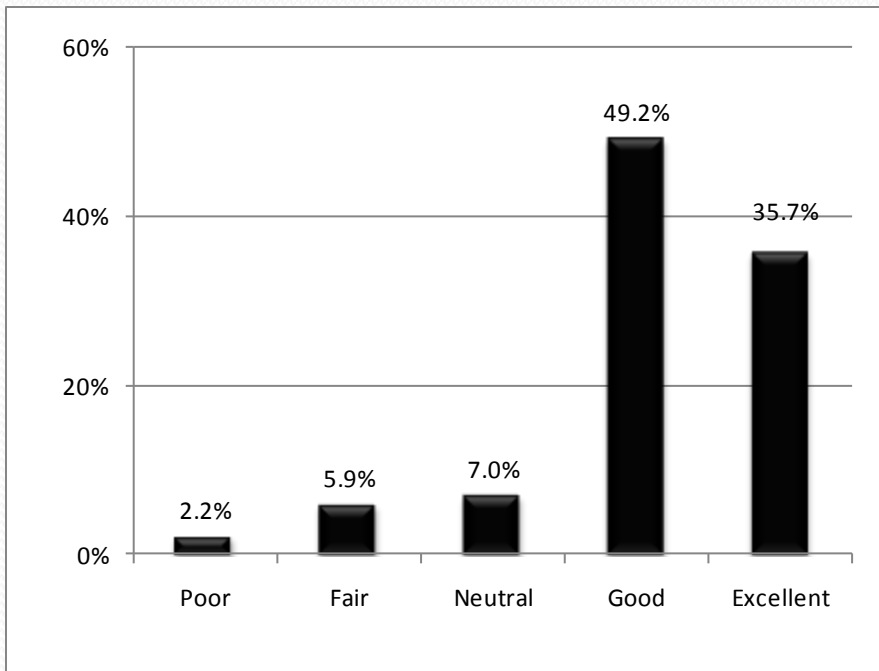
EXHIBIT 18: I WOULD RECOMMEND VSU TO OTHERS:

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
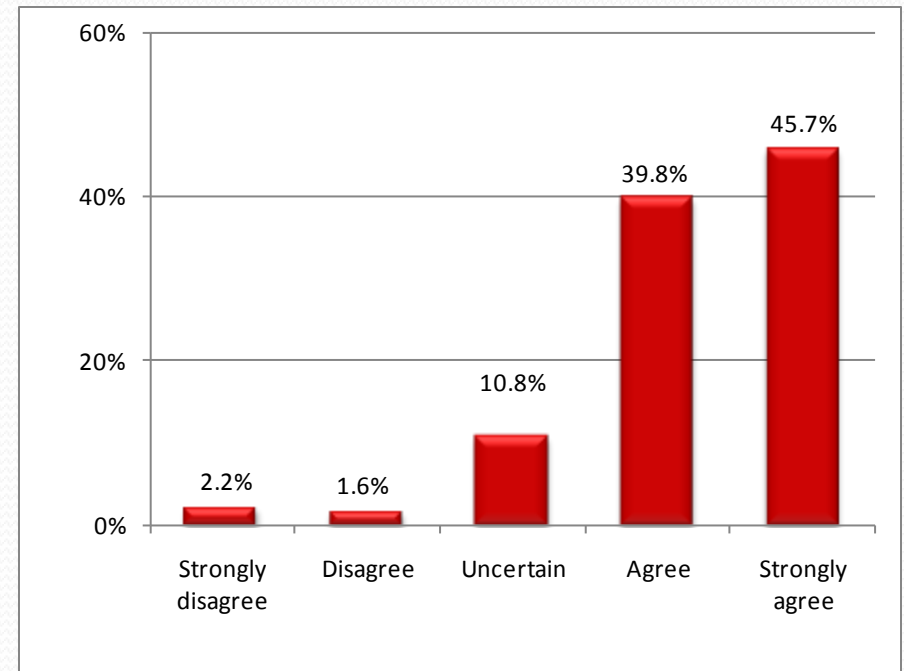
Overall Perception

- Exhibit 19 shows that 75.8% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to gain knowledge and understanding of U.S. society and its ideals.
- Exhibit 20 shows that 76.3% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to learn and demonstrate their knowledge of cross-cultural perspectives and other societies.

EXHIBIT 19: KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY AND ITS IDEALS TO BECOME AN INFORMED AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN
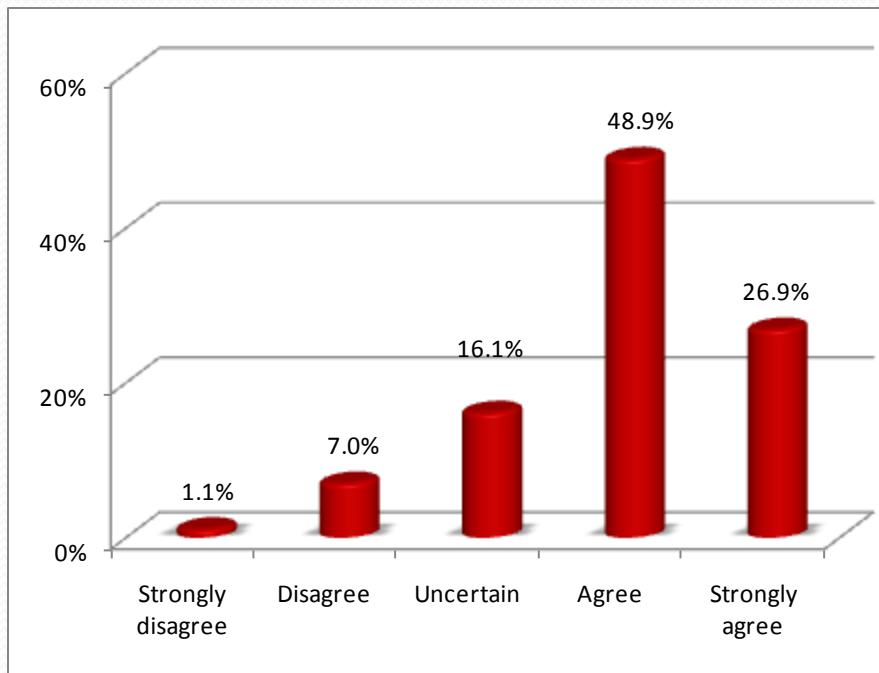
EXHIBIT 20: LEARNED AND DEMONSTRATED KNOWLEDGE OF CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
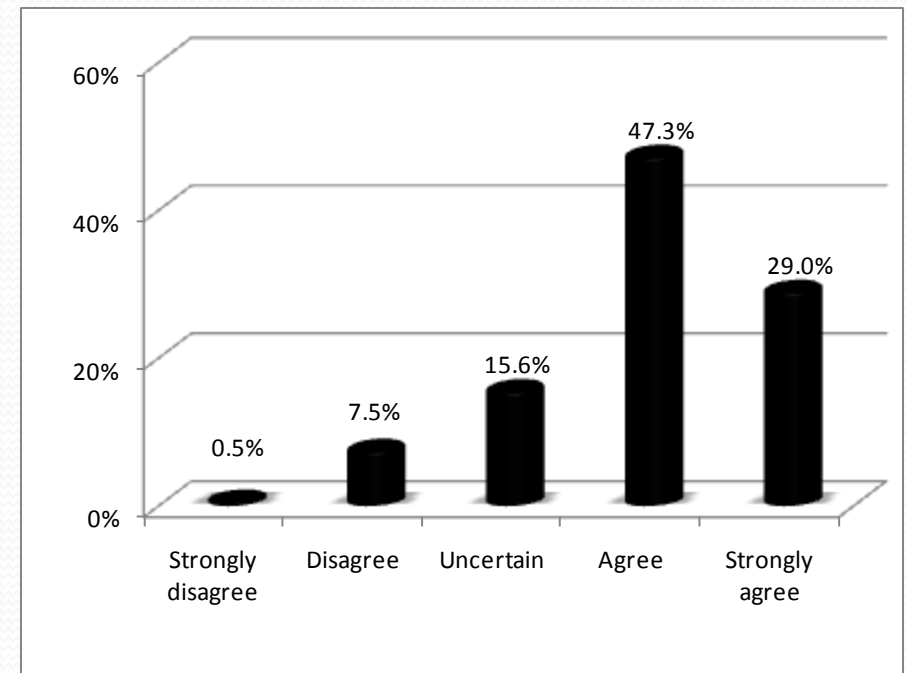
Overall Perception

- Exhibit 21 shows that 96.2% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU promoted the use of computers and information technology in courses.
- Exhibit 22 shows that 93.5% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to demonstrate their competence in written and oral communication.

EXHIBIT 21: USE OF COMPUTERS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
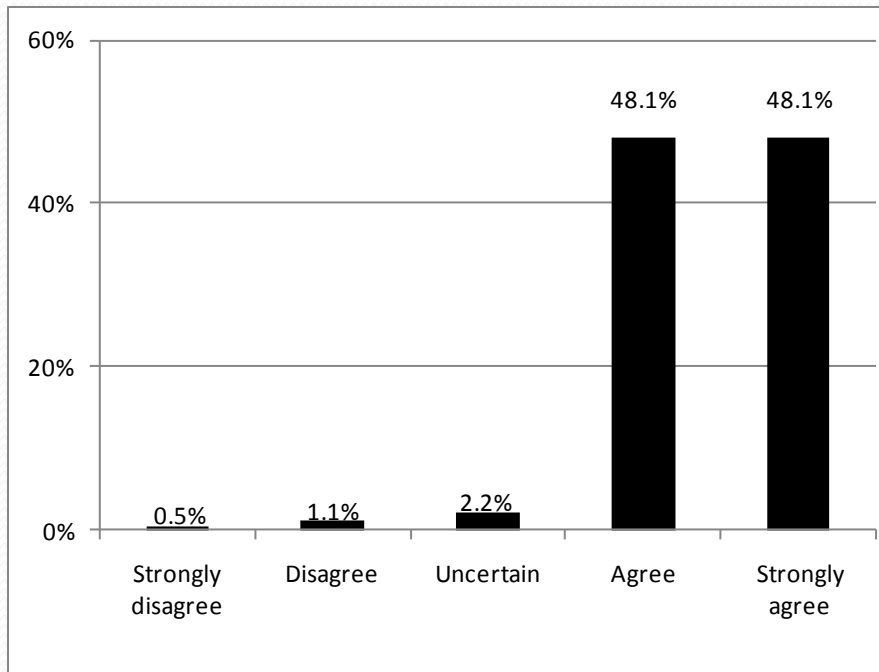
EXHIBIT 22: DEVELOPED AND DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE IN COMMUNICATION

Source: VSU SRA Office, September, 2009.
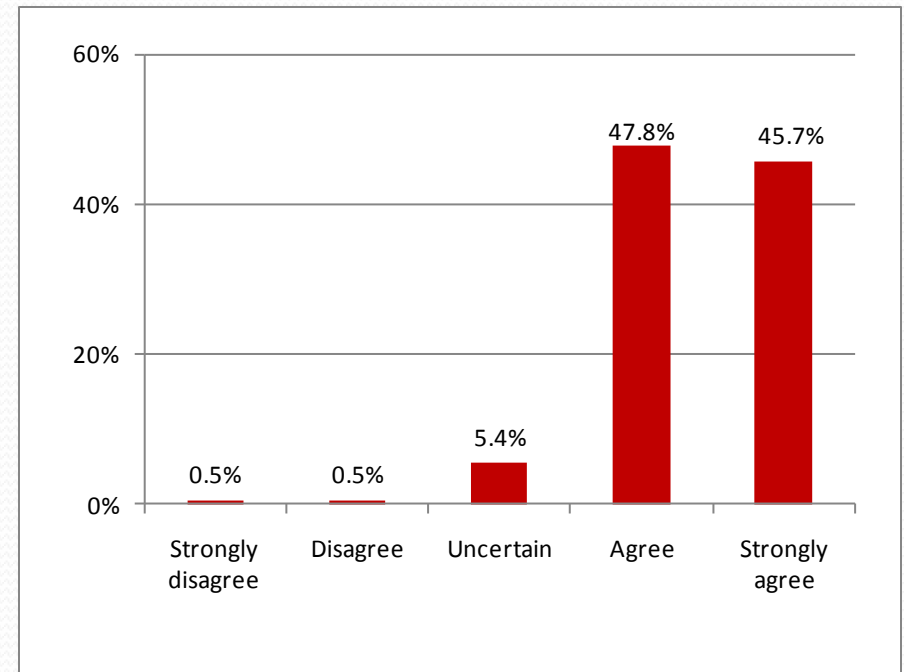
Overall Perception

- Exhibit 23 shows that 82.2% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to develop additional knowledge in ethics, analysis, and resolution of moral problems.
- Exhibit 24 shows that 88.4% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to demonstrate the ability to analyze, evaluate, and make inferences in order to be skilled at inquiry, logical reasoning, and critical analysis.

EXHIBIT 23: KNOWLEDGE IN ETHICS, ANALYSIS, AND RESOLUTION OF MORAL PROBLEMS

Response	Percentage
Strongly disagree	1.7%
Disagree	3.9%
Uncertain	12.2%
Agree	53.3%
Strongly agree	28.9%
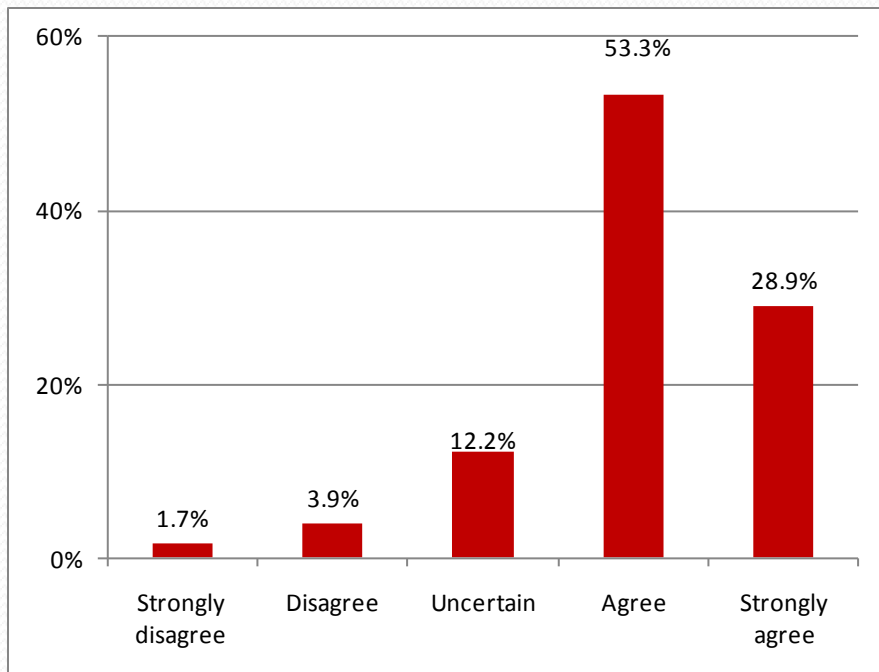
EXHIBIT 24: ABILITY TO ANALYZE, EVALUATE, AND MAKE INFERENCES

Response	Percentage
Strongly disagree	0.6%
Disagree	1.1%
Uncertain	9.9%
Agree	51.4%
Strongly agree	37.0%

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
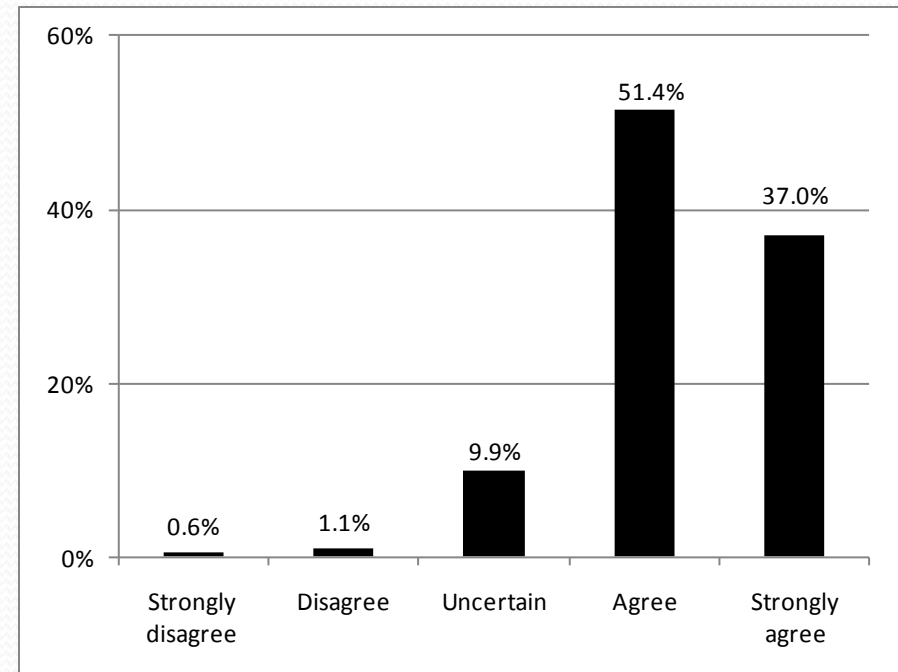
Overall Perception

- Exhibit 25 shows that 74.8% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to learn or demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the form of arts, humanities, and sciences.
- Exhibit 26 shows that 82.6% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that VSU helped them to demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles.

EXHIBIT 25: KNOWLEDGE OF DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGES
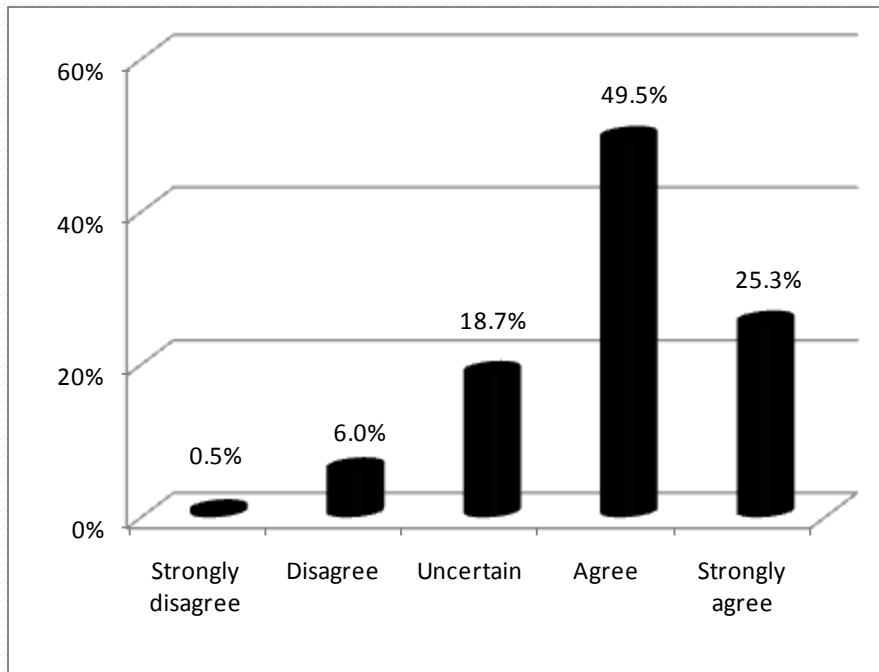
EXHIBIT 26: KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLES

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
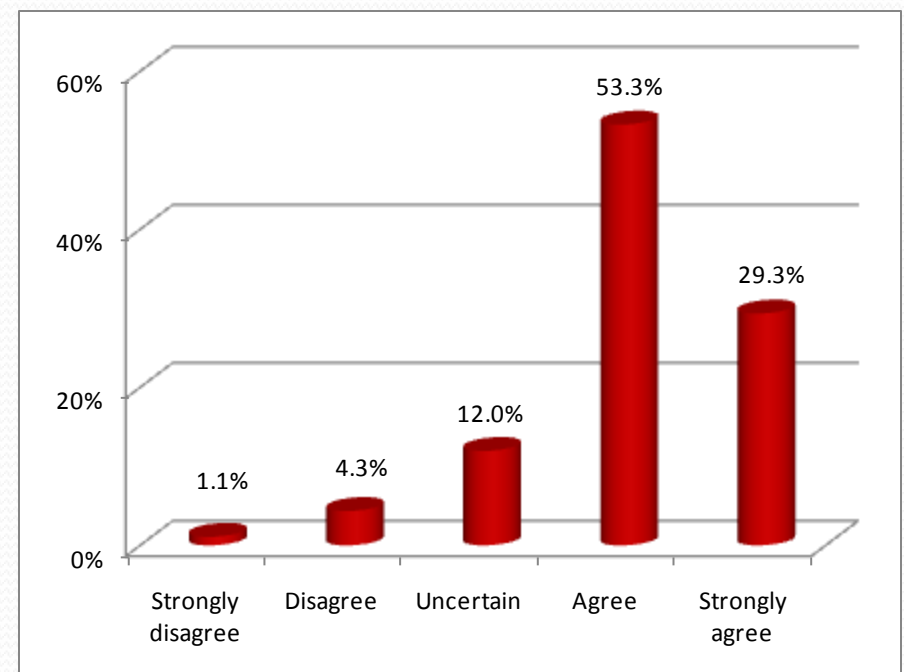
Future Plans

Future Plans

- Exhibit 27 shows that while attending VSU, 72.2% of participants were employed either full-time or part-time.
- Exhibit 28 shows that after graduation, 50.8% of participants will seek employment related to their major and 37.9% plan to attend graduate school.

EXHIBIT 27: WHILE AT VSU, I WAS EMPLOYED:
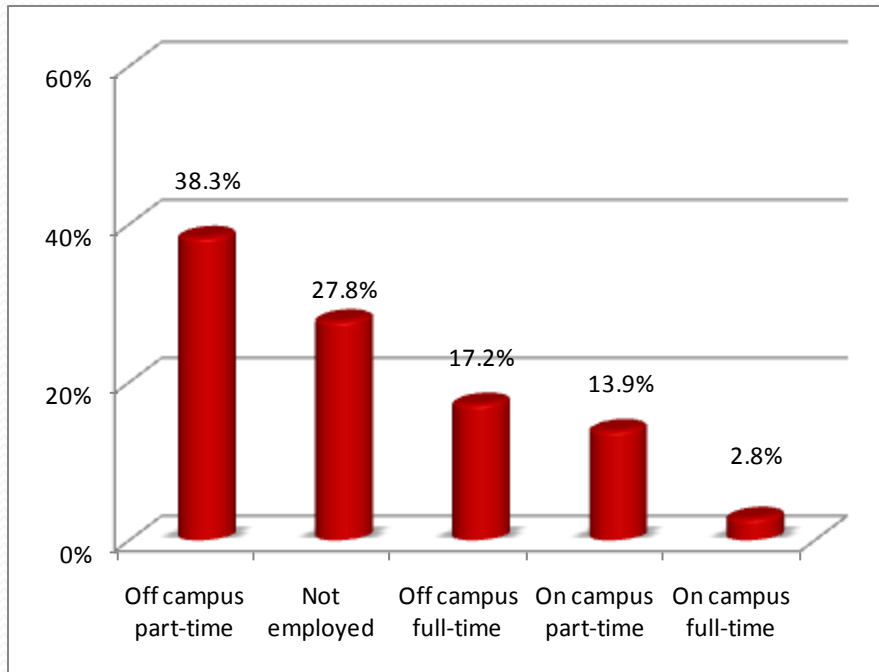
EXHIBIT 28: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLANS?
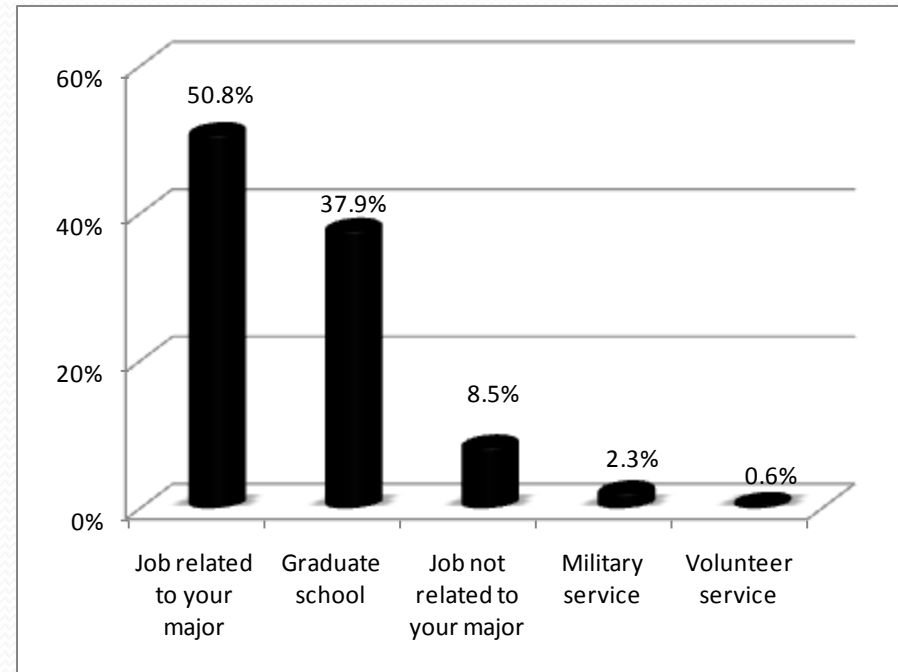
Future Plans

- Exhibit 29 shows that 69.1% of participants plan to stay in the South Georgia area after graduation.
- Exhibit 30 shows that 83.2% of participants plan to stay in the state of Georgia after graduation.

EXHIBIT 29: DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE SOUTH GEORGIA AREA AFTER GRADUATION?

30.9%

69.1%

■ No ■ Yes
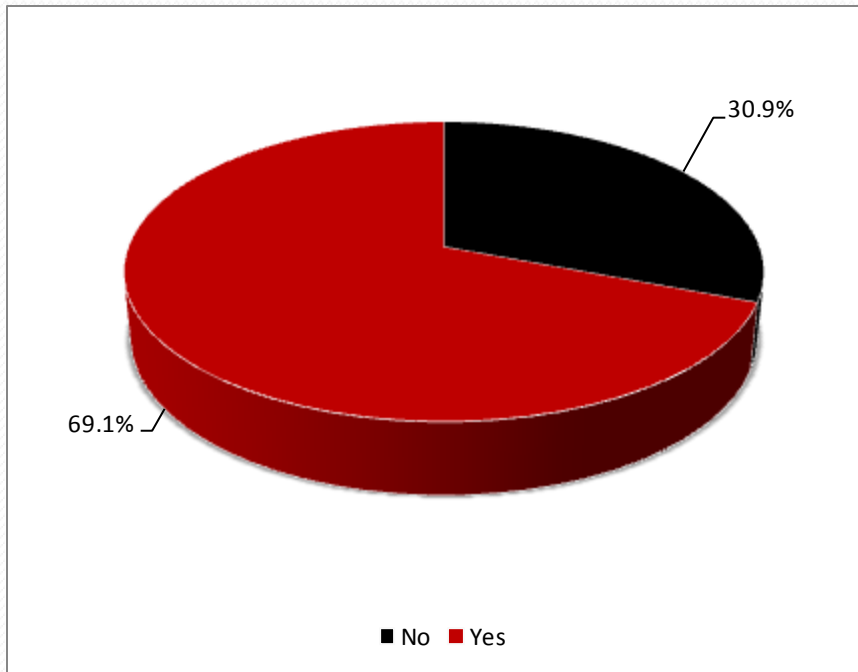
EXHIBIT 30: DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA AFTER GRADUATION?

16.8%

83.2%

■ No ■ Yes

Source: VSU SRA Office, September 2009.
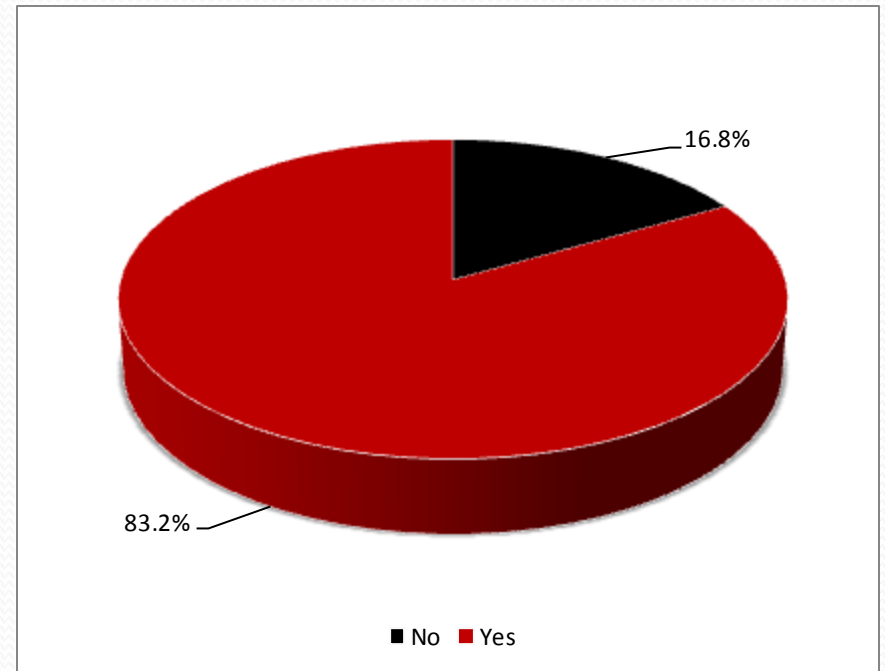
Appendices

Appendices

- Prior to implementation of the revised online BANNER survey 312 paper surveys were completed during fiscal year 2009 by graduating seniors.

- As the paper survey differs substantially from the revised version of the survey in BANNER, responses from the two groups of respondents could not be combined.

- Exhibits 31 to 32 contain summaries of the responses received from the online BANNER surveys.

- Exhibits 33 to 36 contain summaries of the responses received from the paper surveys.

Appendix A:
FY09 BANNER Survey Response Summary

Quality of Experiences

EXHIBIT 31: QUALITY RATINGS OF EXPERIENCES – BANNER SURVEY RESPONSES

	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Quality of Experience				
				Excellent	Good	Neutral	Fair	Poor
The availability of required core courses was	193	3.92	1.007	29.0	47.7	13.0	6.7	3.6
The overall quality of instruction in required core courses was	188	3.97	.749	19.7	63.8	11.7	3.7	1.1
The curriculum of required core courses was	186	3.88	.826	18.3	59.1	16.7	3.8	2.2
The availability of courses in my major field of study was	187	3.78	1.196	30.5	41.7	10.7	9.6	7.5
The overall quality of instruction in my major field of study was	186	4.34	.819	50.5	39.2	4.3	5.9	0.0
The curriculum in my major field of study was	187	4.25	.832	42.8	45.5	5.9	5.3	0.5
The faculty in my academic department were	187	4.28	.874	48.7	37.4	8.6	4.3	1.1
The opportunities for interaction with faculty were	186	4.34	.851	51.6	37.1	7.0	2.7	1.6
Odum Library's collections and resources, including online databases, were	186	4.07	.895	33.9	46.8	14.0	3.2	2.2
My social experiences at VSU were	186	3.97	1.013	36.0	34.9	22.0	3.8	3.2
My overall satisfaction level with VSU was	185	4.10	.924	35.7	49.2	7.0	5.9	2.2
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Rate your experiences with Student Financial Services/Bursary and the fee payment process:	181	2.90	.857	24.6	44.4	21.4	6.4	3.2
Rate your experiences with the Student Success Center:	85	3.06	.777	13.4	23.0	7.5	1.6	54.5

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Quality of Experiences

EXHIBIT 32: QUALITY RATINGS OF EXPERIENCES – BANNER SURVEY RESPONSES

	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would recommend VSU to others:	186	4.25	.873	45.7	39.8	10.8	1.6	2.2
While at VSU, I gained knowledge and understanding of the society of the United States and its ideals in order to become an informed and responsible citizen.	186	3.94	.898	26.9	48.9	16.1	7.0	1.1
While at VSU, I learned and demonstrated my knowledge of cross-cultural perspectives and other societies so that I can interact with an informed perspective.	186	3.97	.894	29.0	47.3	15.6	7.5	0.5
VSU promoted the use of computer and information technology, including online searching, research, and collaboration, in my courses.	185	4.42	.647	48.1	48.1	2.2	1.1	0.5
While at VSU, I developed and demonstrated my competence in communication by expressing myself clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking.	184	4.38	.666	45.7	47.8	5.4	0.5	0.5
While at VSU, I demonstrated my knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices, including the ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data.	184	4.05	.828	29.3	53.3	12.0	4.3	1.1
While at VSU, I learned and demonstrated my knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, humanities, and other social sciences, including literature, languages, history, and performing arts.	182	3.93	.854	25.3	49.5	18.7	6.0	0.5
While at VSU, I demonstrated the ability to analyze, evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written, and visual materials in order to be skilled at inquiry, logical reasoning, and critical analysis.	181	4.23	.716	37.0	51.4	9.9	1.1	0.6
VSU helped me develop additional knowledge in the principles of ethics, analysis and resolution of moral problems, my own value system, and develop a sense of professional self.	180	4.04	.848	28.9	53.3	12.2	3.9	1.7

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Appendix B:
FY09 Paper Survey
Response Summaries

Quality of University Services

EXHIBIT 33: QUALITY RATINGS OF UNIVERSITY SERVICES – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

University Services and Facilities	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Quality of Service			
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Housing & residence halls	102	2.61	.692	5.9	54.9	33.3	5.9
Sororities & fraternities	35	3.29	.789	42.9	48.6	2.9	5.7
Clubs & student organizations	134	3.24	.674	36.6	51.5	11.2	0.7
Intramural program & services	83	3.28	.650	37.3	54.2	7.2	1.2
Athletic and recreation facilities	204	3.54	.590	58.3	38.7	2.0	1.0
VSU Undergraduate Bulletin/Catalog	162	3.31	.623	39.5	51.9	8.6	0.0
VSU Food Services	228	2.87	.713	17.1	55.7	24.6	2.6
Support services for international students	24	2.83	1.090	33.3	33.3	16.7	16.7
Parking	261	1.52	.726	1.9	8.0	30.3	59.8
Shuttle bus services	168	2.51	.758	7.7	44.0	39.9	8.3
Cooperative education program	30	3.20	.664	30.0	63.3	3.3	3.3
University work-study program	21	3.43	.507	42.9	57.1	0.0	0.0
Campus student employment	54	3.04	.751	27.8	50.0	20.4	1.9
Career planning services	54	3.20	.711	37.0	46.3	16.7	0.0
Job placement services	30	3.33	.547	36.7	60.0	3.3	0.0
Counseling center services	37	3.54	.558	56.8	40.5	2.7	0.0
Testing services	72	3.10	.675	26.4	58.3	13.9	1.4
Minority programs/counseling	10	2.90	.876	20.0	60.0	10.0	10.0
Veterans services	23	3.22	.795	39.1	47.8	8.7	4.3
Public safety services	49	3.12	.881	38.8	40.8	14.3	6.1
Bookstore	274	2.93	.862	27.4	45.3	20.8	6.6
Post Office	89	3.24	.640	33.7	57.3	7.9	1.1
Handicapped accessibility for VSU facilities	16	2.94	.854	25.0	50.0	18.8	6.3
Services for special needs	22	3.36	.581	40.9	54.5	4.5	0.0
Health services	196	2.95	.861	28.1	45.9	19.4	6.6
VSU Home page	277	3.47	.599	52.0	43.3	4.3	0.4

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Ratings of Core Curriculum

EXHIBIT 34: QUALITY RATINGS OF CORE CURRICULUM – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

Academic Core	n	Mean	Std. Dev.	Quality of Experience			
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
VSU Personnel Support							
Availability of academic advisor	239	3.11	.879	38.1	41.8	13.4	6.7
Helpfulness of academic advisor	238	3.05	.929	37.4	37.8	16.8	8.0
Helpfulness of departmental office staff	234	2.94	.818	25.2	48.3	21.4	5.1
Opportunities for interaction with faculty	242	2.90	.844	26.0	43.0	26.0	5.0
Attitude of faculty toward students	248	2.99	.800	27.0	49.6	19.0	4.4
Overall quality of faculty	249	3.03	.761	27.3	51.8	17.7	3.2
VSU Instructional Support							
Courses as preparation for liberal education	196	2.94	.688	19.9	55.6	23.5	1.0
Courses as preparation for initial employment	210	2.82	.792	19.0	48.6	27.6	4.8
Courses as preparation for graduate school	194	2.86	.786	20.6	49.0	26.3	4.1
Ease of getting into required courses	239	2.85	.825	20.9	50.2	22.2	6.7
Ease of getting into elective courses	231	2.91	.789	23.8	46.3	26.8	3.0
Organization of the curriculum for your major	229	2.90	.742	19.7	53.3	24.0	3.1
Quality of instruction	234	2.97	.717	22.2	53.8	22.2	1.7
Fairness of grading	233	3.03	.706	24.9	55.4	18.0	1.7
Practicum or internship experiences	115	2.97	.760	23.5	53.0	20.0	3.5
Study abroad experiences	72	3.10	.735	30.6	50.0	18.1	1.4
Appearance of printed information about program	201	2.97	.754	24.9	49.3	23.9	2.0
Usefulness of printed information about program	197	2.97	.745	23.9	52.3	21.3	2.5
Availability of research support	172	2.95	.774	23.8	50.6	22.1	3.5
Usefulness of research support	167	2.95	.767	24.0	50.3	22.8	3.0
VSU Facilities							
Quality of distance learning courses	102	2.92	.767	21.6	52.9	21.6	3.9
Library collection/resources	223	3.23	.689	36.8	50.2	12.1	0.9
Library facilities	237	3.32	.661	42.6	46.4	11.0	0.0
Computer lab facilities	237	3.26	.717	40.1	47.3	11.0	1.7
Computer lab availability	236	3.11	.797	33.9	47.0	15.3	3.8
Classroom facilities	239	3.13	.685	29.7	55.2	13.8	1.3
Laboratory facilities (not computer)	215	3.17	.686	31.6	55.8	10.7	1.9

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Ratings of Major Curriculum

EXHIBIT 35: QUALITY RATINGS OF MAJOR CURRICULUM – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

Major Courses	n	Mean	Std. Dev.	Quality of Experience			
				Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
VSU Personnel Support							
Availability of academic advisor	281	3.42	.757	55.9	33.5	7.8	2.8
Helpfulness of academic advisor	282	3.46	.805	61.7	26.2	8.2	3.9
Helpfulness of departmental office staff	274	3.34	.740	48.5	38.3	11.7	1.5
Opportunities for interaction with faculty	279	3.37	.716	50.2	36.6	12.9	0.4
Attitude of faculty toward students	282	3.37	.685	48.2	41.5	9.6	0.7
Overall quality of faculty	283	3.39	.655	47.3	44.5	7.4	0.7
VSU Instructional Support							
Courses as preparation for liberal education	212	3.20	.659	33.5	52.8	13.7	0.0
Courses as preparation for initial employment	240	3.23	.723	39.2	46.3	13.3	1.3
Courses as preparation for graduate school	227	3.24	.701	37.9	49.3	11.5	1.3
Ease of getting into required courses	278	3.14	.856	38.8	41.4	14.4	5.4
Ease of getting into elective courses	256	3.20	.723	36.3	49.6	12.1	2.0
Organization of the curriculum for your major	271	3.13	.764	35.1	43.5	20.3	1.1
Quality of instruction	278	3.26	.679	38.8	49.3	11.2	0.7
Fairness of grading	278	3.18	.712	33.5	52.9	11.5	2.2
Practicum or internship experiences	191	3.29	.717	43.5	43.5	12.0	1.0
Study abroad experiences	98	3.33	.715	45.9	41.8	11.2	1.0
Appearance of printed information about program	248	3.18	.703	33.9	51.2	13.7	1.2
Usefulness of printed information about program	249	3.11	.741	31.3	50.2	16.5	2.0
Availability of research support	215	3.18	.695	33.5	51.6	14.0	0.9
Usefulness of research support	214	3.16	.707	33.6	49.1	16.8	0.5
VSU Facilities							
Quality of distance learning courses	125	3.18	.708	34.4	49.6	15.2	0.8
Library collection/resources	260	3.29	.701	41.9	46.2	10.8	1.2
Library facilities	269	3.40	.660	49.1	42.8	7.4	0.7
Computer lab facilities	275	3.31	.748	46.2	41.1	10.5	2.2
Computer lab availability	272	3.13	.798	35.7	44.9	16.2	3.3
Classroom facilities	274	3.19	.720	35.0	50.4	12.8	1.8
Laboratory facilities (not computer)	219	3.23	.719	38.4	47.5	12.8	1.4

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Atmosphere for Learning

EXHIBIT 36: ATMOSPHERE FOR LEARNING – PAPER SURVEY RESPONSES

Atmosphere for Learning	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	Agreement with Statement			
				Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably No	Definitely No
VSU helped me develop and demonstrate my ability to think critically and independently	293	3.49	.565	52.2	44.4	3.4	0.0
VSU helped me to engage in free and open exchange of ideas	289	3.46	.623	52.2	42.9	3.8	1.0
VSU helped me to acquire and draw upon knowledge embodied in the liberal arts	267	3.28	.684	40.8	47.6	10.9	0.7
VSU helped me to function in a professional setting and to act with ethical awareness	289	3.52	.651	59.9	32.9	6.6	0.7
VSU encouraged me to expand my range of human experience personally, culturally, socially, artistically, and politically	289	3.44	.685	53.6	37.4	8.0	1.0
If I started college over, I would choose to attend VSU	287	3.34	.780	49.8	37.3	9.8	3.1
I would recommend VSU to others	291	3.54	.617	59.8	35.1	4.5	0.7
Quality of Ratings							
	n	Mean	SD	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
I would rate my academic experiences at VSU as	295	3.40	.619	46.4	47.1	6.1	0.3
I would rate my social experiences at VSU as	294	3.24	.744	41.8	41.8	15.3	1.0
I would rate my overall experiences at VSU as	295	3.37	.686	47.5	42.7	8.8	1.0

Note: Yellow indicates highest percent value for each question. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.