SENIOR SURVEY RESULTS

2022-2023

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Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the University of Northwestern (UNW) Senior Survey administered to graduation seniors in December 2022 and May 2023 as part of the pre-commencement procedures. The survey was completed by 303 (79.5%) students of the graduating classes using an online format.

Data is also provided to show comparison with previous senior classes where available.

Items for the survey were selected by the Assessment Steering Committee with input from a variety of campus offices and committees.

Satisfaction with Academic Life
Faculty in Major

Seniors were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to faculty in their major field.
Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 1. Mean score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Prepare carefully for their courses	3.46	50.3	45.9	3.0	0.7
Are available and accessible	3.51	55.7	39.9	4.1	0.3
Use teaching methods that promote learning	3.42	47.6	47.6	4.1	0.7
Are interested in the welfare of students	3.59	62.8	34.5	1.7	1.0
Are professionally competent	3.53	56.8	40.2	2.4	0.7
Are role models of Christian maturity	3.53	55.1	43.2	1.4	0.3
Have clearly stated expectations for students	3.42	48.0	46.3	5.4	0.3
Evaluate fairly and appropriately	3.46	50.7	45.3	3.4	0.7
Are knowledgeable academic advisors	3.48	52.7	43.2	3.4	0.7
Create a safe space for questions and discussion of difficult topics	3.47	53.4	41.6	4.1	1.0

Table 2. Comparison with previous years

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Prepare carefully for their courses	96.3	93.1	93.7	97.3	95.2
Are available and accessible	95.6	94.3	95.7	96.6	96.3
Use teaching methods that promote learning	95.3	94.6	95.7	97.4	96.1
Are interested in the welfare of students	97.3	95.3	96.5	97.7	96.1
Are professionally competent	97.0	95.3	96.9	98.5	96.7
Are role models of Christian maturity	98.3	97.5	97.6	95.8	96.7
Have clearly stated expectations for students	94.2	93.7	95.3	96.2	92.5
Evaluate fairly and appropriately	96.0	95.9	96.1	96.6	94.3
Are knowledgeable academic advisors	95.9	93.1	93.7	95.5	93.1
Create a safe space for questions and discussion of difficult topics	94.9	95.3	95.3	96.6	94.6

Satisfaction with Academic Life

Academic Major

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 3. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My academic major is academically rigorous	3.36	42.6	51.7	5.1	0.7
My academic major is relevant and appropriate for preparation in the field	3.46	50.0	45.9	4.1	0.0
My academic major encourages critical thinking	3.56	58.1	40.2	1.4	0.3
My academic major encourages integration of faith and learning	3.52	56.1	40.5	3.0	0.3

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 4. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
My academic major is academically rigorous	94.3	89.0	92.5	95.1	92.5
My academic major is relevant and appropriate for preparation in the field	95.9	90.2	94.5	94.7	95.2
My academic major encourages critical thinking	98.3	95.9	97.6	98.9	97.9
My academic major encourages integration of faith and learning	96.6	95.9	94.9	97.0	99.1

Overall Academic Experience

Table 5. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Teaching methods promoted learning	3.42	47.6	47.6	4.1	0.7
Overall quality of instruction	3.21	36.1	52.0	8.8	3.0
Overall UNW experience	3.21	39.2	46.3	10.8	3.7

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 6. Percentage who selected "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" excluding "Can't Rate"

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Teaching methods promoted learning	95.3	94.6	95.7	97.4	96.1
Overall quality of instruction	88.2	85.5	87.5	93.2	88.9
Overall UNW experience	85.5	76.7	82.0	89.1	84.9

Satisfaction with University Life
Student Life Services
Very satisfied = 4, Satisfied = 3, Neutral = 2, Dissatisfied = 1

Table 7. Seniors were asked to rate their satisfaction with student services and community life.

	Mean Score	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied
Sense of community on campus	3.05	33.0	44.9	16.0	6.1
Campus spiritual climate	2.95	28.1	48.1	14.6	9.2
Values of Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	2.96	27.7	45.5	21.2	5.5
Expectations of the Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	2.82	25.7	41.1	22.9	10.3
Student employment	3.13	39.5	39.5	14.9	6.0
Opportunities to serve in leadership	3.14	36.6	42.8	18.3	2.3
Food Service	2.28	12.4	33.4	23.4	30.7
Attitudes of UNW employees toward students	3.28	42.9	44.9	9.1	3.0
Services for students with disabilities	2.98	34.8	35.6	22.0	7.6
Academic Achievement tutor and writing center	3.14	32.8	50.3	14.7	2.3
Opportunities for study abroad	3.02	33.1	39.3	24.1	3.4
Academic advising	3.11	36.3	43.3	15.5	4.9
Career development services	3.20	38.2	47.0	11.6	3.2
Library services	3.32	41.4	50.0	7.9	0.7
Registrar's office services	3.27	42.2	43.3	13.5	1.1
Degree Audit as an academic planning tool	3.35	49.7	38.1	10.2	2.0
Resident life experience	3.00	27.0	50.6	17.8	4.6
Resident hall policies	2.66	16.4	44.7	27.0	11.9
Campus housing facilities	2.88	21.1	51.0	22.7	5.3
Commuter Life experience	2.85	25.8	40.6	26.7	6.9
Counseling services	3.15	42.4	34.3	18.7	4.5
Campus health services	2.95	27.9	44.6	21.9	5.6
Chapel programming	2.51	15.5	37.6	29.0	17.9
Chapel attendance policy	2.20	13.0	28.3	24.6	34.1
Student activity opportunities (i.e. events, intramurals, clubs)	3.03	27.7	50.0	19.7	2.7
Local and global outreach/engagement opportunities	2.83	22.0	44.5	28.0	5.5
Support from Student Life during a personal crises or impactful event	2.86	28.0	38.5	24.7	8.8

Satisfaction with University Life

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 8. Percentage who selected "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" excluding "Can't rate"

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sense of community on campus	77.9	73.4	74.6	86.0	74.8
Campus spiritual climate	76.3	71.4	77.3	79.2	72.8
Values of Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	73.3	66.5	73.3	80.0	66.8
Expectations of the Declaration of Christian Community (DCC)	66.8	60.6	67.3	70.5	57.0
Student employment	79.0	74.5	77.9	90.2	79.1
Opportunities to serve in leadership	79.4	75.1	76.2	82.0	68.8
Food Service	45.9	35.2	51.4	60.4	57.8
Attitudes of UNW employees toward students	87.8	87.0	86.7	91.3	89.5
Services for students with disabilities	70.5	72.6	78.2	86.2	70.3
Academic Achievement tutor and writing center	83.1	82.5	82.6	90.5	81.0
Opportunities for study abroad	72.4	64.0	75.4	80.0	47.3
Academic advising	79.6	78.3	80.1	81.3	77.4
Career development services	85.1	79.0	80.7	83.6	71.2
Library services	91.4	88.8	92.1	93.7	90.1
Registrar's office services	85.5	86.9	89.2	91.9	88.0
Degree Audit as an academic planning tool	87.8	88.7	92.8	93.1	87.7
Residence life experience	77.6	66.8	78.6	81.5	67.4
Residence hall policies	61.1	48.5	49.0	52.0	45.5
Campus housing facilities	72.1	65.5	76.1	80.3	69.9
Commuter life experience	66.4	67.2	67.4	72.6	56.6
Counseling services	76.8	71.9	73.8	86.3	76.9
Campus health services	72.5	66.4	75.3	87.7	78.5

Satisfaction with University Life

Spiritual Formation and Growth

Table 9. Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

	Mean Score	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW.	3.48	56.2	36.9	5.5	1.4
My capacity to love people grew during my time at UNW.	3.51	57.2	37.2	5.2	0.3
I met in a mentoring relationship with an UNW employee (faculty or staff).	3.00	38.6	30.3	23.1	7.9

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 10. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW.	93.1	90.1	94.0	93.0	89.8
My capacity to love people grew during my time at UNW.	94.5	91.7	92.8	94.9	93.4
I met in a mentoring relationship with an UNW employee (faculty or staff).	69.0	62.3	54.0	63.8	61.7

Spiritual Life Activities

Seniors were asked how frequently they engaged in spiritual life activities.

Table 11. Percentage who selected each option.

	Received	Provided	Mutual	Not Involved
Met in an intentional accountability/care relationship with a peer	23.5	19.3	32.1	25.2

	Attender	Serving	Was not involved
Involved in a church community	58.3	30.1	11.6

Table 12. I learned to spend time with God through spiritual disciplines/practices (select all that apply):

	%
I learned to spend time with God through Bible study	25.9
I learned to spend time with God through Scripture meditation/devotional scripture reading	21.3
I learned to spend time with God through prayer practices	21.4
I learned to spend time with God through solitude	13.9
I learned to spend time with God through on-campus small group/community	12.9
I did not learn to spend time with God through spiritual disciplines/practices	1.2
I learned to spend time with God through other means	3.5

Attainment of Core Curriculum Outcomes

Core Curriculum Outcomes

Very Much = 5, Much = 4, Average = 3, Little = 2, Very Little = 1

Table 13. Mean score & percentage who selected each option – UNW influence on attaining the outcome.

	Mean	Very Much	Much	Average	Little	Very Little
Becoming competent in my major field	4.26	43.7	41.4	13.8	0.0	1.1
Find, evaluate and use information effectively and ethically	4.23	41.8	40.1	17.8	0.3	0.0
Employ critical thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and reasoning	4.31	44.9	41.8	12.7	0.7	0.0
Synthesize a position or solve a problem through engagement with multiple perspectives	4.22	42.8	38.0	17.1	2.1	0.0
Analyze messages actively and critically with consideration to the intended audience	4.23	42.1	41.1	14.4	2.4	0.0
Communicate effectively and respectfully through writing, speaking, and other media for a variety of audiences and purposes	4.35	48.6	38.4	12.0	1.0	0.0
Compare diverse historical, social, and cultural perspectives in order to appreciate one's own and others' viewpoints	4.00	35.7	35.1	23.7	4.8	0.7
Acquire knowledge of the historical roots of our world from ancient to modern times.	3.79	31.0	31.0	26.4	9.2	2.3
Evaluate contemporary civic or global issues from a biblical perspective.	4.01	35.7	35.1	24.7	3.8	0.7
Analyze works of artistic expression	3.88	35.3	29.7	23.8	9.8	1.4
Perform or create works of artistic expression	3.87	38.3	27.7	20.2	9.9	3.9
Develop skills for leadership in the home, church, community, and world	3.99	27.6	49.4	17.2	5.7	0.0
Develop awareness of how one's core calling, or sense of vocation, relates to one's professional, civic, church, and personal leadership	4.02	33.3	42.5	18.4	4.6	1.1
Demonstrate workforce readiness through professional engagement	3.99	28.7	47.1	18.4	5.7	0.0
Generate documents to apply for a job or graduate school (resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, etc.)	4.03	43.7	34.5	9.2	6.9	5.7
Apply principles of discipleship to the Christian life including conversion, spiritual growth, and evangelism	4.03	35.6	36.3	24.3	3.4	0.3
Apply proper interpretive methods to understand the historical meaning and contemporary applications of the Bible	4.09	37.6	38.3	20.0	3.4	0.7
Examine personal, intellectual, theological, and ethical issues through the lens of biblical truth	4.13	39.0	38.6	19.3	2.4	0.7
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.30	49.4	34.5	13.8	1.1	1.1
Apply scientific understanding and reasoning	4.05	36.0	36.7	23.8	3.1	0.3
Analyze the methods of inquiry of a social science theory and its underlying assumptions	3.91	32.8	34.5	25.4	5.9	1.4
Use mathematics to solve hypothetical or real-world problems	3.86	32.4	31.7	26.6	8.3	1.0

Attainment of Core Curriculum Outcomes

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 14. Mean scores compared with previous years. Blank sections indicate no comparable data available.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Becoming competent in my major field	4.26	4.18	4.22	4.32	4.28
Find, evaluate and use information effectively and ethically	4.23				
Employ critical thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and reasoning	4.31				
Synthesize a position or solve a problem through engagement with multiple perspectives	4.22				
Analyze messages actively and critically with consideration to the intended audience	4.23				
Communicate effectively and respectfully through writing, speaking, and other media for a variety of audiences and purposes	4.35				
Compare diverse historical, social, and cultural perspectives in order to appreciate one's own and others' viewpoints	4.00				
Acquire knowledge of the historical roots of our world from ancient to modern times	3.79				
Evaluate contemporary civic or global issues from a biblical perspective	4.01				
Analyze works of artistic expression	3.88				
Perform or create works of artistic expression	3.87				
Develop skills for leadership in the home, church, community, and world	3.99				
Develop awareness of how one's core calling, or sense of vocation, relates to one's professional, civic, church, and personal leadership	4.02				
Demonstrate workforce readiness through professional engagement	3.99				
Generate documents to apply for a job or graduate school (resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, etc.)	4.03				
Apply principles of discipleship to the Christian life including conversion, spiritual growth, and evangelism	4.03				
Apply proper interpretive methods to understand the historical meaning and contemporary applications of the Bible	4.09				
Examine personal, intellectual, theological, and ethical issues through the lens of biblical truth	4.13				
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.30				
Apply scientific understanding and reasoning	4.05				
Analyze the methods of inquiry of a social science theory and its underlying assumptions	3.91				
Use mathematics to solve hypothetical or real-world problems	3.86				

Participation While Attending UNW
Events Since Entering UNW

Seniors were asked to indicate whether they had participated in events or activities while at UNW.

Table 15. Percentage who responded positively to the item.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Have a part-time job off-campus	68.3	75.7	71.0	63.8	70.2
Have a part-time job on-campus	67.2	59.7	67.3	73.9	72.0
Work 30 or more hours per week during the school year	31.0	30.0	24.6	31.9	31.6
Participate in an internship for college credit	58.6	56.9	48.4	54.5	57.0
Participate in a non-credited internship	20.7	23.3	15.7	30.7	27.1
Utilize the Career Development Center	59.0	57.5	52.0	58.0	56.0
Conduct informal interviews/networking meetings with professional in you field of interest	60.7	55.6	52.8	59.1	58.4
Create a professional resume	91.7	92.3	92.7	90.7	90.1
Create a LinkedIn account	75.9	74.1	65.3	65.8	65.4
Took honors courses	19.3	19.8	18.2	28.8	23.5
Participate in volunteer/service activities	64.8	67.1	71.4	77.8	80.7
Participate in university-sponsored student life or athletic mission or service trip	22.1	23.2	19.8	25.7	25.3
Participate in an academic-sponsored educational cross-cultural experience	28.6	30.7	29.4	35.0	34.3
Apply for graduate school	12.8	11.8	13.3	14.8	12.1
Utilize Counseling Services	47.9	47.9	42.7	45.5	43.1
Utilize Health Services	64.1	63.9	60.1	65.4	71.4