Introduction

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) maintains a constant commitment to high quality education and research relevant to the mission of the Navy and Department of Defense (DoD). Through the use of surveys, student feedback has provided valuable and essential information for evaluating and assessing the school’s effectiveness in achieving its strategic goals. Since 1993, a principal vehicle for monitoring student perception of these goals has been the exit survey, administered to graduating students at the end of each academic quarter. Specifically, the exit survey addresses educational effectiveness, support services and resources, and the uniqueness and relevance of the DoD to the graduate education of NPS students.

Methodology

Survey

The NPS Graduating Students Survey consisted of 37 items rated on a five-point Likert scale, extending from strongly disagree to strongly agree, as well as a non-choice option. The last item asks for (open-ended) comments on any experience at NPS. GSEAS has five additional questions beyond the open-ended question. Current WASC standards helped guide the development of the survey items. The relationship between the survey items and the WASC standards can be referenced from the document "Crosswalk of NPS Graduating Student Survey Items with WASC Criteria for Review".

Analysis

Target Population consisted of current term graduating students in NPS degree programs for resident students.

- Surveys were administered to 892 graduating resident students.
- Total respondents = 583 students 65% response rate

Data Analysis: Survey response data is organized and analyzed for all of the four schools (GSBPP, GSEAS, GSOIS, SIGS), examining percentage of all resident respondents. The top 10 positive responses (Strongly agree + Agree), as well as top 10 negative responses (Strongly disagree + Disagree) are presented. Additionally, a demographic analysis of gender, ethnicity, and service is presented.
1. Instruction and research at NPS had the ultimate goal of enhancing combat effectiveness of the US and Allied armed forces.
2. The University administration is committed to supporting teaching and research for the purpose of enhancing combat effectiveness of the US and Allied armed forces.
3. The unique defense-oriented environment made my graduate education at NPS more relevant than it would have been at a civilian university.
4. My curriculum was related to national security or defense needs.
5. My education at NPS is relevant to my future assignments and responsibilities.
6. Completing a thesis, group project or capstone project was a valuable component of my NPS education.
7. My thesis or capstone research project at NPS made a useful contribution to combat effectiveness or another national security need.
8. My coursework and research at NPS were closely integrated.
9. NPS is always working to improve instruction and research.
10. I understood the body of knowledge and skills I was expected to contribute to combat effectiveness or another national security need.
11. My academic background was adequate preparation for successful completion of my program.
12. The graders I received at NPS accurately reflected the level of my performance.
13. The texts that I took at NPS were fair and relevant.
14. Refresher courses at NPS were sufficient to prepare me for subsequent course work.
15. NPS provided opportunities for learning outside the regular curricular program.
16. My NPS program provided me with sufficient electives to pursue my special military career interests.
17. Diversity in Service enriched my NPS education.
18. Diversity in culture enriched my NPS education.
19. Diversity in ethnicity enriched my NPS education.
20. Diversity in gender enriched my NPS education.
21. NPS represented itself accurately in promotional materials and representations about the school.
22. I was aware that NPS had an appeals process for student academic complaints.
23. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to teaching.
24. NPS faculty members involved me in active and participative learning experiences.
25. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to my success as a student.
26. NPS faculty in my program were generally available to provide additional assistance outside the classroom when I needed it.
27. NPS faculty in my program utilized student feedback to improve the educational program.
28. My faculty appeared to be well qualified for the defense-related teaching and research done in my curriculum or program.
29. I received the faculty advice and guidance that I needed to successfully complete my thesis, group project or capstone research project.
30. NPS personnel facilitated my transition to student life.
31. Registrar: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
32. Scheduling: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
33. Student Services: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
34. Program Officer: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
35. Program Office Staff: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
36. Thesis Processing: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
37. Lab Techs: NPS staff provided sufficient support to enable me to meet my educational goals.
38. Books: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
39. Databases: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
40. Journals: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
41. Facilities (computers, study rooms, carrels): NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
42. Reference Assistance & Instruction: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
43. Restricted Resources and Services: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
44. Services (circulation, interlibrary loan, course reserve, printing, etc.): NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.
45. NPS computer services met all my course work and research needs.
46. I would recommend NPS to other military officers or defense civilians for their graduate education.
47. Commuting and parking were not a problem at NPS.
48. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Adequate in number.
49. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Adequate in number.
50. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Good Working Condition.
51. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Well Maintained.
52. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Accessible.
53. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Accessible.
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58. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Good Working Condition.
59. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Well Maintained.
60. The LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Responsive to Course & Research Needs.
61. The overall quality, appearance and currency of the LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Adequate in number.
62. Adequate health services were available for my family and me whilst at NPS.
63. Open-Ended Response.
64. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I understand the capabilities and limitations of current/future technologies in battle space environments.
65. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I am able to apply emerging and advanced technologies to enhanced joint-war-fighting capabilities.
66. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I am able to prepare for emerging and advanced technologies.
67. My education in GSEAS provided me advanced technical and scientific knowledge so that I am confident that I am able to anticipate, respond, and lead in future complex, rapidly changing technological environments.
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### Chart 2
**Top 10 Positive Responses for All Residents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>% All Resident Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48. The CLASSROOM and other NON-LABORATORY facilities for my program had the following characteristics: Accessible</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. NPS faculty in my program were generally available to provide additional assistance outside the classroom when I needed it.</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to my success as a student.</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. NPS faculty members involved me in active and participative learning experiences</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. NPS faculty in my program were dedicated to teaching</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. I would recommend NPS to other military officers or defense civilians for their graduate education</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. My faculty appeared to be well qualified for the defense-related teaching and research done in my curriculum or program.</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Journals: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Diversity in Service enriched my NPS education</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Databases: NPS library resources met all my course work and research needs.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Positive Responses = Strongly agree + Agree

### Chart 3
**Top 10 Negative Responses for All Residents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>% All Resident Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47. Commuting and parking were not a problem at NPS</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. My NPS program provided me with sufficient electives to pursue my special military career interests</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. I was aware that NPS had an appeals process for student academic complaints.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Completing a thesis, group project or capstone project was a valuable component of my NPS education.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. NPS provided opportunities for learning outside the regular curricular program.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Diversity in gender enriched my NPS education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. My coursework and research at NPS were closely integrated</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. My thesis or capstone research project at NPS made a useful contribution to combat effectiveness or another national security need.</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The unique defense-oriented environment made my graduate education at NPS more relevant than it would have been at a civilian university.</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Diversity in ethnicity enriched my NPS education</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Negative Responses = Strongly disagree + Disagree