Survey of Graduating Seniors University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Spring 2002



Office of the Vice President for Planning and Policy University of Hawai'i

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"I had a wonderful experience attending college. I have grown so much as a person. I cannot thank the UH system enough for what I have accomplished."

ENGINEERING MAJOR

"Diversity in culture and social backgrounds let me understand different points of view in society."

ENGINEERING MAJOR

"The professors are the major factor in gaining skills at school."

LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS, & LITERATURE MAJOR

"Was a great experience, I learned a lot and I think I am able to use my experience in the future."

EDUCATION MAJOR

Executive Summary

The spring 2002 UH Mānoa Survey of Graduating Seniors represents a continuing effort by the University of Hawai'i to conduct a variety of ongoing student assessment programs/activities that produce evidence of institutional effectiveness and serve as a vehicle for educational improvement and accountability. Others are reported separately in the *University of Hawai'i Institutional Effectiveness Report* (previously known as the *Benchmarks/Performance Indicators Report*).

This is the sixth campus-wide survey of UH Mānoa baccalaureate degree candidates (1988, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002). It is intended to measure educational outcomes at the college level, generate information about ways in which programs can be improved, and monitor changes in student behavior and perceptions. The results provide a wealth of data and comparative information on the thoughts, experiences, activities, plans, and backgrounds of spring 2002 baccalaureate degree candidates and their retrospective assessment of their undergraduate experience. This report also provides useful insights and suggests areas for further research and action.

The survey was mailed to 975 baccalaureate degree candidates who filed for graduation in spring 2002; 481 or 49 percent responded either by mail or electronically through the Web. A response rate in the 36 percent range is considered average for surveys of this type. Survey respondents were generally representative of spring 2002 seniors in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, and field of study. However, users of survey results should note that females, students 22–24 years old, those of Chinese ethnicity, and education/business majors are slightly overrepresented (see p. 18).

Graduating seniors rated their overall academic experience at Mānoa as good or excellent (76%)

and felt that the quality of academic programs was about what they expected or better (86%). Increased academic knowledge, understanding of people, independence, and job preparation were the most frequently cited gains from the UHM experience.

Seventy percent reported earning most of their general education credits at Mānoa. Almost 60 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the availability (57%), usefulness (58%), and knowledge gained (58%) in these courses. English is perceived as the most helpful general education core course for the undergraduate experience. Over three-fourths of the graduating seniors (77%) got to know two or more faculty well and over half (58%) got to know three or more well.

When asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of their major, 53 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the adequacy of the related library collection, 56 percent with the organization of the curriculum, 64 percent with the quality of printed information about their undergraduate program, and 69 percent with the quality of instruction.

Seventy-eight percent of the graduating seniors felt that the quality of campus life at Mānoa was about what they expected or better. The largest proportion spent an average of 10 hours or less per week on campus outside the classroom.

More than four out of five graduating seniors used and were satisfied with (1) the registration procedures and (2) services, functions, and activities provided by the Cashier's Office, Library, and Bookstore. Eighty-three percent rated the quality of information about student services and activities as fair or good.

Fourteen percent of the graduating seniors entered Mānoa as participants in special programs. College Opportunities and Regents'

Scholar were the most frequently cited programs.

Eighty percent of the baccalaureate students reported taking five or more years to complete their degree, and three-fourths reported having a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Forty percent of the graduating seniors reported transferring some credits from a UH Community College. Change of major, availability of courses, and work were the most frequently cited reasons for taking more than four years to complete undergraduate programs. Change of major was identified as the single most important reason for taking more than four years to graduate.

Of those who reported transferring credits from another institution to Mānoa, 77 percent indicated that most or all of the courses they expected to transfer actually transferred.

With respect to the cost of tuition, slightly less than three-fourths (73%) felt it was about right (fair and reasonable) and slightly over one-fourth (26%) thought it was too high. The majority reported that the cost of tuition did not result in a heavier credit load than preferred (62%) and that tuition should continue to be charged at a flat rate of 12 or more credits rather than per credit (73%). Eighty percent felt the value of their degree was well worth the investment.

Eighty-nine percent reported being employed while pursuing their undergraduate degree at Mānoa. Of those employed, the largest share (35%) worked 16-20 hours per week; 19 percent worked 21-35 hours per week; and 62 percent worked off-campus.

After graduation, 65 percent plan to pursue further higher education. Of those pursuing post-baccalaureate study, 55 percent plan to do it at Mānoa and 31 percent plan to advance their higher education on the mainland.

Education and Business Administration were the most frequently chosen post-baccalaureate fields of study by spring 2002 graduates. Slightly over two-thirds (68%) plan to work on O'ahu.

When given the opportunity to comment about their undergraduate experience at Mānoa, 78 percent or 375 responded. Of those providing comments, most graduating seniors named instructors/faculty, departments/programs, and facilities/equipment (library, computer labs, etc.) as the campus factors that contributed most to their educational gains while at Mānoa. Instructors/faculty, facilities/equipment, and campus life were the most frequently cited areas of disappointment. The comments indicate that the studentteacher relationship and facilities/equipment are critical factors affecting the overall quality of the undergraduate experience. The most common recommendations were to review and change core requirements, improve campus services/programs, provide better advisors and guidance, and improve the quality of instructors/faculty.

Introduction

In the spring of 2002, the Office of the Vice President for Planning and Policy conducted a campus-wide survey to measure the educational outcomes of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa baccalaureate degree candidates, generate information about ways in which programs can be improved, and monitor changes in student behavior and perceptions. The assessment instrument, a questionnaire consisting of 50 items in nine sections, was designed to (1) gather information on the thoughts, experiences, activities, postgraduation plans, and background of graduating seniors, and (2) elicit candid responses about their undergraduate experience and recommendations for changes at UH Mānoa.

To assist the University in future planning efforts and actions, six new questions were added to the questionnaire to gather information about transfer and overall academic experiences.

This is the sixth campus-wide survey of UH Mānoa baccalaureate degree candidates. This report analyzes 2002 responses, and compares these responses with previous surveys to determine trends and significant changes.

Mailing addresses for the baccalaureate degree candidates were obtained from Mānoa's Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) after the Office of Admissions and Records identified which students had petitioned for graduation in spring 2002. Questionnaires were mailed to 975 baccalaureate degree candidates. Completed surveys were received from 481 respondents, representing a 49 percent rate of return. With this sample size, findings that differ five percentage points from earlier results are worthy of consideration.

For some data displays (especially collegelevel), the number of responses may be too small to permit definitive conclusions. Populations overrepresented by approximately three percentage points or more are females, students 22–24 years old, those of Chinese ethnicity, and education/business administration majors. Males are underrepresented, and individuals 20-21 years old and social science/natural science majors are slightly underrepresented. These characteristics of the responding population should be kept in mind when using or commenting on specific survey results. However, when taken as a whole, the 2002 survey can be viewed as an overall reflection of prevailing thoughts, experiences, plans, perceptions, activities, and characteristics of graduating seniors.

College-level data is available upon request from the Institutional Assessment and Policy Office (956-7487). The Spring 2002 UHM Survey of Graduating Seniors and results of other assessment efforts are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.hawaii.edu/ovppp.

Synopsis

Trends:

- Continued steady increase in the percentage who plan to attend graduate school at Mānoa.
- Most general education credits are taken at Mānoa.
- Continued steady increase in the percentage of graduating students who got to know three or more faculty well.
- Continued steady decrease in the percentage of graduating students who felt that the quality of campus life was better than expected.
- A large, increasing percentage reporting a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.
- Students are decreasing the amount of time they spend on campus outside the classroom.
- The majority (over 60%) of the graduating seniors pursue further higher education.

Doing well:

- Most (80%) felt the value of their degree was well worth the investment.
- The general education core was very helpful in developing writing skills and awareness of diversity in cultures, peoples, and lifestyles.
- Most were satisfied with the usefulness, knowledge gained, and availability of general education core courses.
- Most were satisfied with the overall quality of their academic experience.
- Most used and were satisfied with registration procedures, and the services and operations of the Cashier's Office, Library, and Bookstore.

Getting better:

- A noticeable increase in the percentage who felt that the quality of academic programs at Mānoa was better than expected (+3%).
- There was a significant increase in the percentage expressing use and satisfaction with financial aid (+8%), campus security (+8%) and recreation/athletic programs (+6%).

Needs attention, improvement, and/or change:

- Many expressed the need to improve campus services/programs and review/change core requirements, especially foreign language. (Note: Effective fall 2001, a new, overhauled core curriculum offering more options and flexibility was implemented.)
- Nearly 60 percent encountered barriers while transferring to Mānoa.
- Less than half (44%) rated the quality of their academic experience to improve mathematical ability as good or excellent.
- There was a significant increase in those dissatisfied with career placement services (+7%) and those who felt that the quality of campus life was worse than expected (+7%).

Needs further research:

 The issue of grade inflation and articulation/transfer.

Other:

• Most felt tuition was fair and reasonable and that it should be charged as a flat rate for 12 or more credits rather than per credit.

- There was a large increase in the proportion of students living in off-campus housing (+8%; from 27% in 1999 to 35% in 2002).
- The majority (66%) perceive their degree as being of average quality.
- A large percentage (43%) attended and transferred credits from a UH Community College.
- Change in major was the most important reason for taking more than four years to graduate.
- There was a large increase in the proportion who plan to seek employment on O'ahu (+6%; from 62% in 1999 to 68% in 2002).
- The student-teacher relationship and facilities/equipment are critical factors affecting the quality of the undergraduate experience.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared under the overall guidance of the Office of the Vice President for Planning and Policy. Dennis Taga of the Institutional Assessment and Policy Office and members of his staff—Sandra Yano, Chatney Graham, and Karen Lai—took lead responsibility for administering the survey, analyzing the results, and preparing this report.

Ginger Carey of the Office of Information Technology Services provided computer programming support. The Institutional Research Office provided demographic data —such as gender, age, ethnicity, and field of study—for the spring 2002 senior class. The Office of Admissions and Records provided mailing labels for the cohort surveyed.

My appreciation to all these contributors.

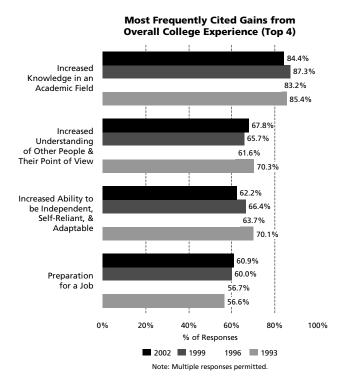
Colleen O. Sathre Vice President for Planning and Policy

Overall Undergraduate Experience at Mānoa

What have you gained from your college experience at Mānoa?

The four areas most frequently cited as gains from their undergraduate years at Mānoa were: *Increased Academic Knowledge, Understanding of People, Independence,* and *Job Preparation*.

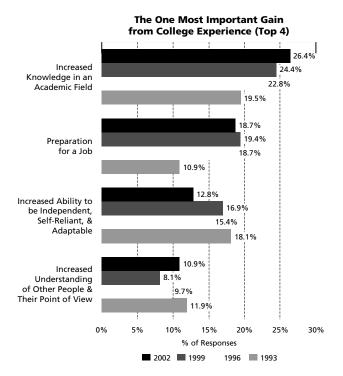
As in five previous graduating senior and alumni surveys between 1988 and 2000, these results continue to suggest that the undergraduate experience at Mānoa is perceived by students to benefit their cognitive skills and affective growth/development.



What do you feel is the most important thing you gained from your college experience at Mānoa?

Survey results indicate that *Increased Knowledge in an Academic Field* continues to be perceived as the foremost benefit of an undergraduate education at Mānoa.

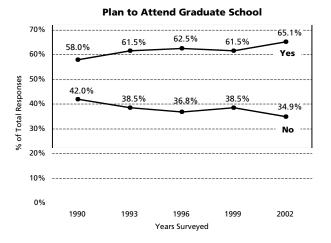
Preparation for a Job comes in second.



Post-Graduation Plans

Are you planning to attend graduate school?

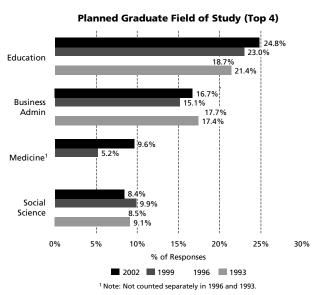
Sixty-five percent of the spring 2002 bachelor's degree candidates plan to attend graduate school, the highest proportion in the history of this survey.



If you plan to attend graduate school, what field of study do you plan to pursue?

Education and **Business Administration** continue to be the most frequently chosen post-baccalaureate fields of study for graduating seniors.

Compared to the previous survey (1999), there was a large increase (+4.4%) in those planning to pursue post-baccalaureate study in *Medicine*.

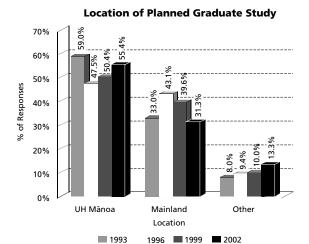


Where do you plan to attend graduate school?

Fifty-five percent of those planning to attend graduate school plan to attend programs at Mānoa.

Since 1996, there has been a steady increase in the share planning to pursue advanced studies at Mānoa and a decrease in those planning to do so on the mainland.

As in the three previous surveys, Business Administration and Social Science majors had the largest proportions planning to attend graduate school on the mainland.

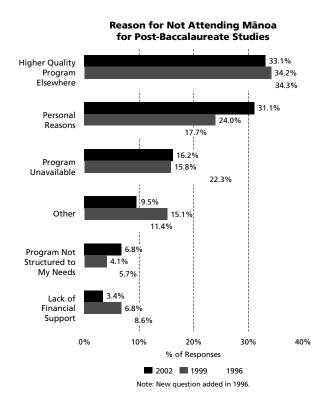


Post-Graduation Plans

If you plan to attend a graduate school at an institution other than Mānoa, what is the reason for not attending Mānoa?

Higher Quality Program Elsewhere (33.1%) was the most frequently cited reason for not attending UH Mānoa for post-baccalaureate studies.

Personal Reasons (31.1%), such as moved to the mainland, and **Program Unavailability** (16.2%) were also given as important factors for not attending UH Mānoa for postbaccalaureate studies.

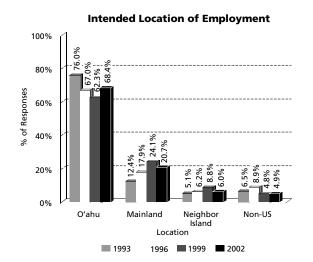


If you are planning to seek employment or have already been offered a job, where do you expect to work?

Slightly over two-thirds of the respondents (68.4%) expect to work on *O'ahu*, with the *U.S. Mainland* as the second most frequently mentioned location of intended employment.

Contrary to the employment plans of 1999 graduates, there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of graduating seniors who plan to seek employment on O'ahu (+6.1%) and a decrease in those intending to do so on the mainland (-3.4%).

Most Education majors (95%) plan to work on O'ahu or a Neighbor Island.

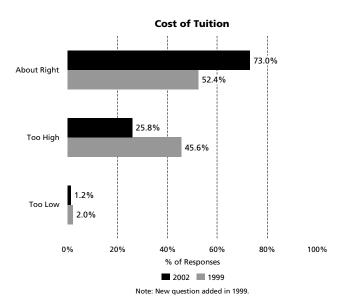


Thoughts on Tuition

Do you consider the cost of tuition at UH Mānoa about right, too high, or too low?

With respect to the cost of tuition at UH Mānoa, most—about three-fourths (73%)—felt it was **About Right (fair and reasonable)** and about one-quarter (26%) thought it was **Too High**.

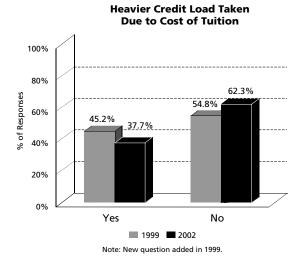
Significant differences in the responses between 1999 and 2002 are probably related to the number of 1999 graduating seniors who were attending Mānoa when tuition was increased substantially in 1995.



Did you take a heavier credit load than preferred because of the cost of tuition?

Although 38 percent of the respondents indicated a direct relationship between the cost of tuition and heavier credit loads, the largest proportion—about two-thirds (62%)—reported that the cost of tuition did not result in a heavier credit load than preferred.

A significant shift in responses between 1999 and 2002 appears directly related to those affected by the unusual tuition increases in the mid-1990s.

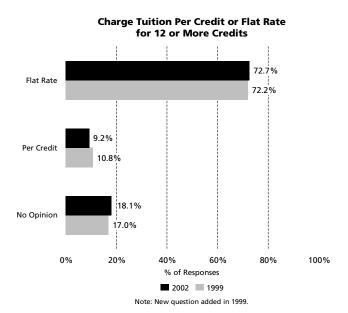


Thoughts on Tuition

Should tuition be charged per credit rather than as a flat rate for 12 or more credits?

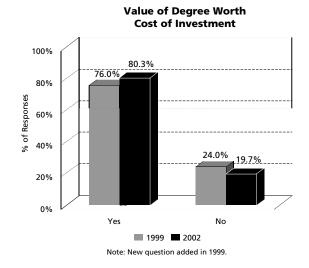
Nearly three-fourths (73%) of the respondents indicated that tuition should continue to be charged as a flat rate for 12 or more credits rather than per credit.

Similar results were reported by graduating seniors in 1999.



Is the value of your degree worth the cost of your investment at UH Mānoa?

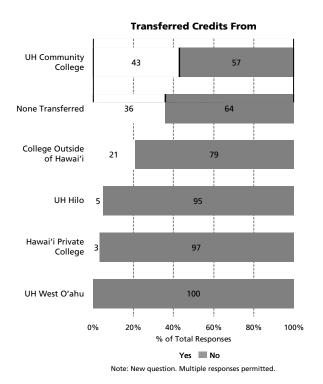
Most graduating seniors (80.3%) felt the value of their baccalaureate degree was well worth the cost of their investment at UH Mānoa.



Transfer Experience

Where did you transfer credits from?

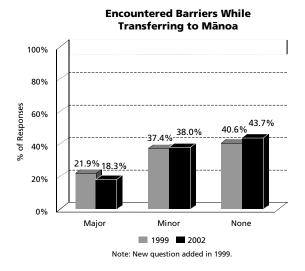
Forty-three percent of the respondents attended and transferred credits from a UH Community College.



What barriers did you encounter, if any, while transferring to this campus?

Of the respondents who transferred to Mānoa to complete their undergraduate study, over half (56.3%) encountered major (18.3%) or minor (38.0%) barriers while transferring.

Similar proportions were reported in 1999.



"UH MUST allow more credits to transfer."

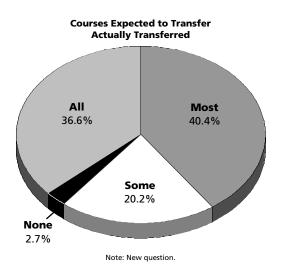
LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS, & LITERATURE MAJOR

Transfer Experience

How many of the courses you expected to transfer actually transferred?

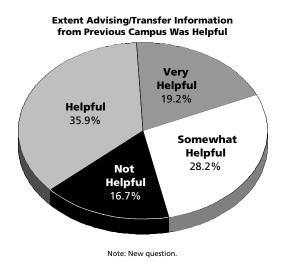
Of the respondents who reported transferring credits to Mānoa, over three-fourths (77%) indicated **Most** or **All** of the courses they expected to transfer actually transferred.

A relatively high percentage (20%) indicated that only *Some* of the courses they expected to transfer to Mānoa actually transferred.



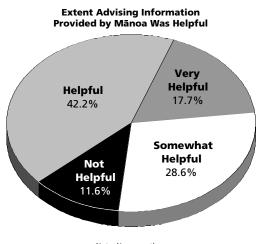
How would you describe the advising/transfer information provided by your previous campus?

Fifty-five percent of the respondents who transferred to Mānoa felt the advising/transfer information provided by their previous campus was *Helpful* or *Very Helpful*.



How would you describe the advising information provided by Mānoa?

Sixty percent of those who transferred to Mānoa described the advising information provided by Mānoa as being *Helpful* or *Very Helpful*, slightly better than what was provided at their previous campus.

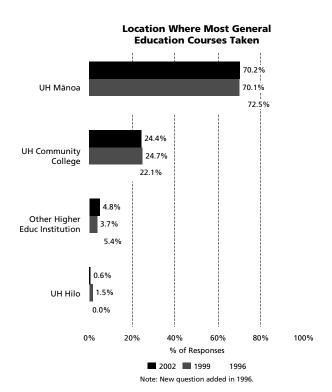


General Education Core Experience

At what campus did you take most of your general education courses?

Seventy percent of the respondents reported earning most of their general education credits from *UH Mānoa*. (In a separate item, 43 percent reported transferring some credits from a *UH Community College*; see page 6.)

Similar results were reported by graduating seniors in 1996 and 1999.

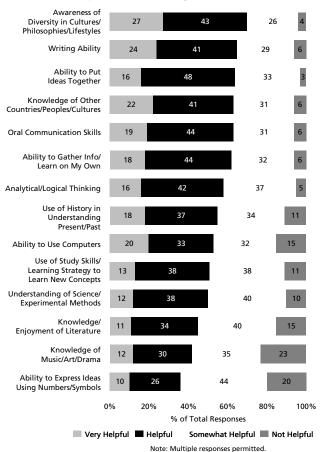


How would you rate the extent to which general education courses contributed to your knowledge, skills, and abilities?

Spring 2002 graduating seniors felt their general education core experience was *Helpful* or *Very Helpful* in developing (1) their awareness of diversity in cultures, philosophies, and lifestyles (70%); (2) their writing skills (65%); (3) their ability to put ideas together (64%); and (4) their knowledge of other countries, peoples, and cultures (63%).

Twenty percent or more of respondents indicated that general education courses were **Not Helpful** in developing their ability to express ideas using numbers and symbols (20%) and in contributing to their knowledge and enjoyment of music, art, and drama (23%).

Extent General Education Courses Were Helpful with Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities



General Education Core Experience

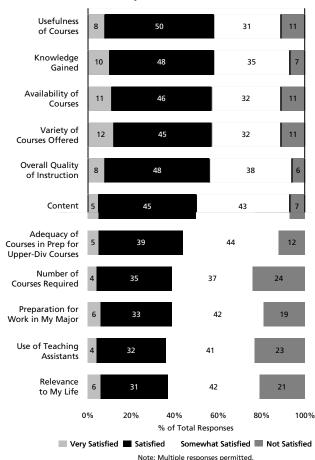
Rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following aspects of general education.

When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with selected aspects of general education, almost 60 percent were *Satisfied* or *Very Satisfied* with the usefulness of general education courses (58%), the knowledge gained in these courses (58%), and the availability of general education courses (57%).

More than 20 percent were **Not Satisfied** with general education courses relative to: the number of courses required (24%), the use of teaching assistants (23%), and the relevance of general education courses to their life (21%).

For fields of study with 30 or more responses, Social Science majors appeared the most satisfied with the adequacy of core courses in preparing them for upper-division courses. Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources majors appeared the most satisfied with the quality of instruction in core courses, but were least satisfied with the adequacy of these courses in preparing them for upper-division courses. Natural Science majors appeared the least satisfied with the overall quality of instruction in core courses.

Overall Satisfaction with Various Aspects of General Education



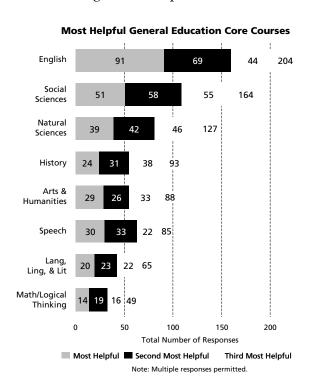
For future graduating seniors, Mānoa overhauled its general education core curriculum requirements to: offer more options and flexibility; provide undergraduate mentoring; and move undergraduates through the system in four years rather than the typical five or six. The new curriculum, effective fall 2001, reduces the number of required core credits from 40 to 31 but adds breadth to the number and types of courses that fit. After the freshman year, every student will have a faculty mentor to develop an individual academic plan.

General Education Core Experience

What general education core courses did you perceive as most helpful to you in your undergraduate education?

When asked to identify the general education core courses that were most helpful to their undergraduate education, most respondents mentioned English, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences.

As in 1996 and 1999, English is perceived as the most helpful general education core course for the undergraduate experience.

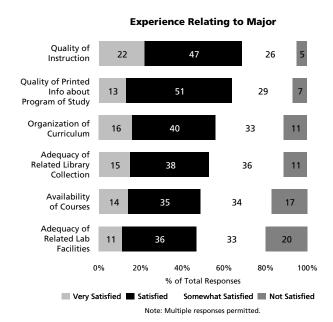


For each of the items listed, rate the satisfaction of your core experience as it relates to your major.

When asked to rate their satisfaction with selected aspects of their major, between 50 and 70 percent were **Satisfied** or **Very Satisfied** with the quality of instruction (69%), quality of printed information about their undergraduate program (64%), organization of the curriculum (56%), and adequacy of the related library collection (53%).

Less than half were **Satisfied** or **Very Satisfied** with the availability of courses (49%) and adequacy of laboratory facilities (47%).

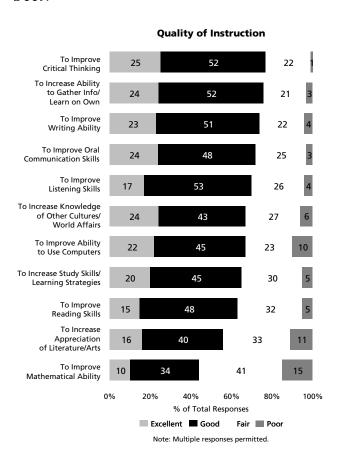
Similar ratings and levels were reported by graduating seniors in 1996 and 1999.



Rate the overall quality of instruction as it pertains to each of the following skill areas.

About three-fourths of the graduating seniors rated *Good* to *Excellent* the quality of instruction received in: improving their critical thinking (77%), increasing their ability to gather information and learn on their own (76%), improving their writing skills (74%), and improving their oral communication skills (72%).

As in previous graduating senior surveys (1996 and 1999), more than half of the respondents (56%) rated the quality of instruction to improve their mathematical ability as *Fair* to *Poor*.

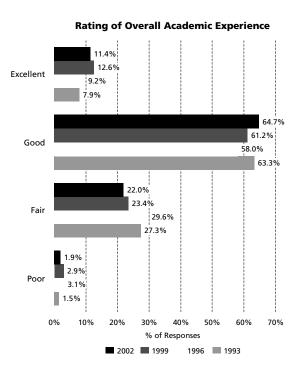


How would you rate the overall quality of your academic experience at Mānoa?

Over three-fourths (76%) rated the overall quality of their academic experience at Mānoa as either *Good* or *Excellent*.

For fields of study with 30 or more respondents, Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and Education majors seemed the most pleased with their overall academic experience.

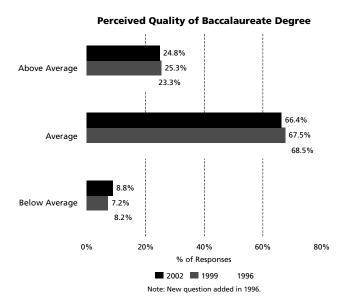
Similar results were reported by graduating seniors in 1999.



Which of the following best represents how you feel about the quality of your baccalaureate degree from Mānoa?

The majority (66%) perceived their degree from Mānoa as being of *Average* quality, while one-fourth thought their degree was *Above Average*.

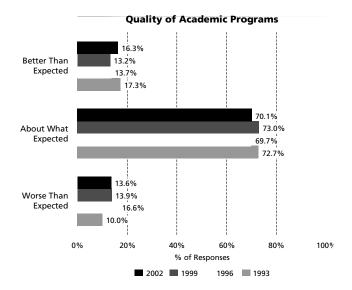
Similar perceptions were reported in previous graduating senior (1996, 1999) and alumni (1991, 1994, 1997, 2000) surveys.



The quality of academic programs at Mānoa is...

Over 86 percent of the respondents felt that the quality of academic programs at Mānoa was **About What They Expected** or **Better**.

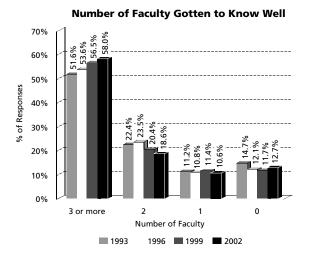
Of interest is the increase from 1999 in the percentage of respondents who felt that the quality of their academic program was **Better Than Expected** (+3.1%)



How many Mānoa faculty have you gotten to know well?

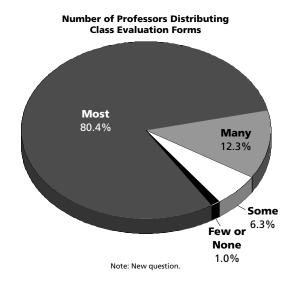
Over three-fourths (77%) of the respondents got to know two or more faculty well, and the largest proportion—over half (58%)—got to know three or more well.

Since 1990, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of graduating seniors who got to know three or more faculty well during their academic experience at Mānoa. Given that the new general education core program implemented in fall 2001 calls for every freshman to have a faculty mentor after his or her freshman year, this trend is expected to continue.



How many of your Mānoa professors distributed class evaluation forms at the end of the semester?

A vast majority (93%) of respondents reported that *Many* or *Most* of their professors at Mānoa distributed class evaluation forms at the end of the semester.

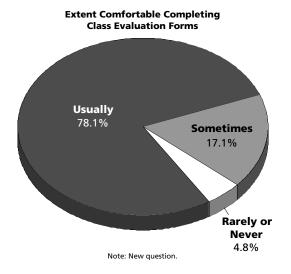


"I think teachers getting to know the students personally and making themselves available to us is very important. It's hard to become motivated sometimes when not even the professors really care."

SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR

Did you feel comfortable saying what you really thought on class evaluation forms?

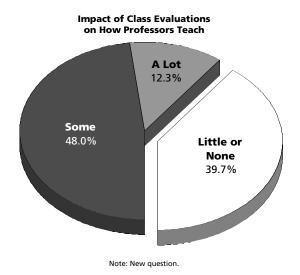
Most graduating seniors (78%) felt comfortable saying what they really thought on class evaluation forms distributed at the end of the semester.



How much impact do you think the comments you and your classmates make on class evaluation forms have on how professors teach?

The majority (60%) of graduating seniors thought their class evaluations will have *Some* or *A Lot* of impact on how professors teach.

A significant share of respondents (40%) felt the amount of influence will be *Little or None*.



"Some very committed teachers made the learning experience very helpful and worthwhile."

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE & HUMAN RESOURCES MAJOR

Experiences Outside the Classroom

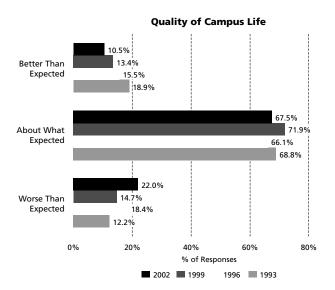
The quality of campus life at Mānoa is...

When comparing expectations with their actual experiences regarding the quality of campus life, over three-fourths (78%) felt it was **About What They Expected** or **Better**.

Since 1993, there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of respondents who felt that their actual experience of campus life was **Better Than Expected**.

Compared to 1999, there was a significant **increase** in those that felt the quality of campus life was **Worse Than Expected** (+7.3%) and a similar **decrease** in those that felt it was **About What They Expected** or **Better** (-7.3%).

Given recent investments in capital improvement projects, repairs and maintenance, and other quality of life programs/activities, improved ratings are expected when graduating seniors are surveyed again in 2005.

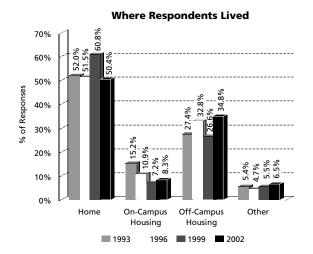


Where do you presently live?

Half (50%) lived at home.

Compared to 1999, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of students living at home (-10.4%) and a large increase in the number residing in off-campus housing (+8.2%).

The proportion of students residing in offcampus housing has increased. This trend started in the late 1980's.



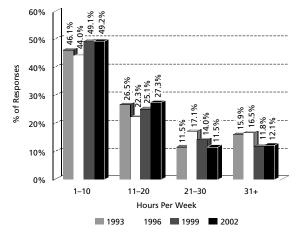
Experiences Outside the Classroom

Over the last two years, what was the average number of hours you spent on campus each week outside of classes?

The largest proportion of respondents (49%) spent an average of 10 hours or less per week on campus outside the classroom.

Similar proportions were reported by graduating seniors in 1999.





"Not much of an active campus life."

NURSING MAJOR

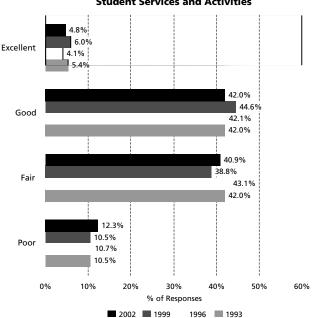
"Campus deserted after 3pm and on weekends."

LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS, & LITERATURE MAJOR

How would you rate the quality of information about student services and activities?

Most graduating seniors rated the quality of information about student services and activities as either *Fair* (41%) or *Good* (42%).





"Increase awareness of student services available. Enrich the college atmosphere on campus by increasing the amount and variety of student activities."

NATURAL SCIENCES MAJOR

Experiences Outside the Classroom

How would you rate each of the following services, functions, and activities?

More than four out of five graduating seniors at Mānoa **Used** and were **Satisfied** with the Bookstore (86%), registration procedures (86%), the Library (83%), and the Cashier's Office (81%).

Food services (37%), on-campus housing (20%), and academic advising (19%) had the highest percentage of **Dissatisfied** users.

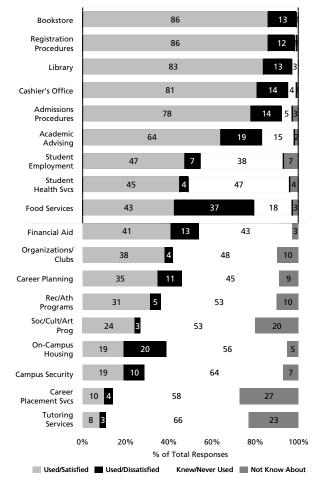
Compared with 1999, there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of respondents expressing use and satisfaction with financial aid (+8%), campus security (+8%), and recreation/athletic programs (+6%). Conversely, there was a noticeable decrease in those expressing satisfaction with career placement services (-6%).

About two-thirds *Knew* about but *Never Used* —or never had the opportunity to use—tutoring services (66%) and campus security (64%).

About one-fourth did **Not Know About** career placement (27%) and tutoring (23%) services available at Mānoa.

Survey results may serve as a barometer to gauge student awareness and perceptions about campus programs, services, and activities.





"Overall, I feel the programs and services UH offers are excellent."

OTHER ARTS & SCIENCES/LIBERAL STUDIES MAJOR

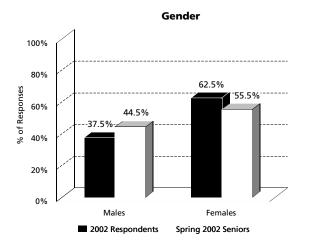
"Improve student housing to be more conducive to a healthy learning environment."

SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR

What is your gender?

Although females were somewhat overrepresented, respondents were generally representative of spring 2002 seniors in terms of age, ethnicity, and field of study. Survey results can be taken as an approximate reflection of the graduating class as a whole.

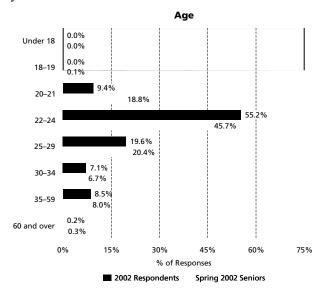
Gender results reflect enrollment trends at UH and nationally where women continue to represent a larger share of the total enrollment.



What is your current age?

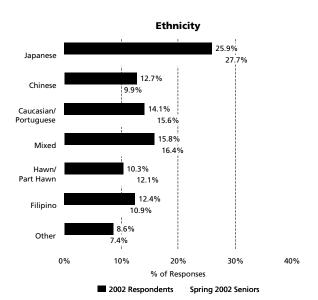
Those 20–21 years old were underrepresented and those 22–24 were overrepresented, but respondents were generally representative of spring 2002 seniors in terms of age.

The majority of the respondents were 22–24 years old.



What is your ethnic background?

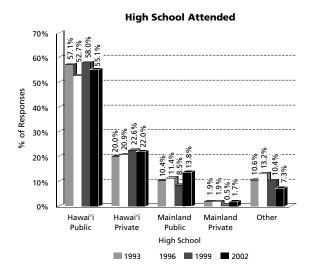
Although Chinese were slightly overrepresented (+2.8%), the respondents were generally representative of the entire senior class in terms of ethnic background.



What type of high school did you attend?

Over three-fourths of spring 2002 graduating seniors attended public (55%) or private (22%) high schools in Hawai'i, a 3.5 percent decrease from 1999 (mostly in the public sector).

Of interest is the increase (+5.3%) in the percentage of graduating seniors who attended public high schools on the mainland.

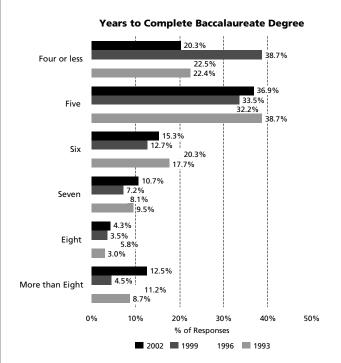


When did you first begin your college studies?

Eighty percent of the baccalaureate students reported taking five or more years to complete their degree.

The most frequently reported time-to-degree was five years (37%).

Divergent responses were received in 1999; more than 72 percent reported taking five or less—rather than five or more—years to complete their baccalaureate programs. The accelerated time-to-degree reported in 1999—especially the proportion taking four or less years—was influenced by periods of substantial tuition increases. The 1999 senior class experienced a 50 percent increase in 1996–97 and another 23 percent increase in 1997–98. In 1999, a significantly high proportion (46%) of the graduating seniors felt that the cost of tuition was too high.



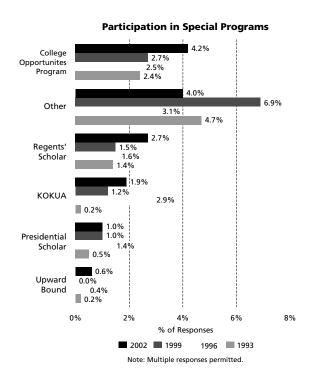
19

If you entered UH Mānoa as a participant in a special program, fill in all choices that apply.

Fourteen percent of the respondents indicated they entered UH Mānoa as participants in special programs.

The College Opportunities Program assisted 4.2 percent of the respondents—these students proved able and qualified for college but their low SAT scores, limited college preparation, and/or economic difficulties might have prevented them from attending Mānoa.

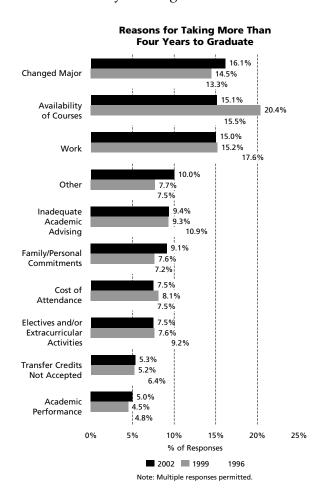
Selected Studies, National Student Exchange, Study Abroad, and Honors were other special programs mentioned by respondents.



If you took longer than 4 years to graduate, what were the three most important reasons?

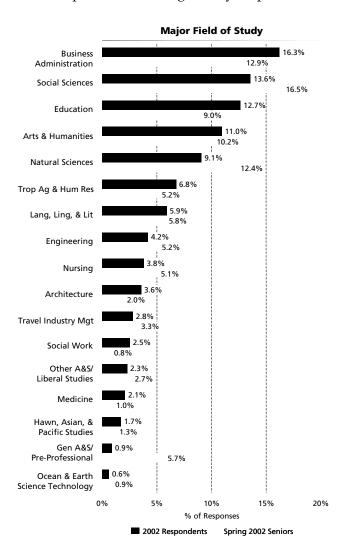
Change of Major, **Availability of Courses**, and **Work** continue to be cited as the three most important reasons for taking more than four years to complete an undergraduate program.

Graduating seniors felt *Change of Major* was the *single most important reason* for taking more than four years to graduate.



What is your field of study?

In terms of field of study, Education and Business Administration students were slightly overrepresented and Social Sciences and Natural Sciences were slightly underrepresented among survey respondents.

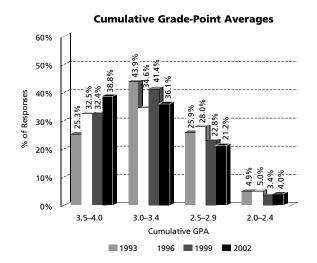


What is your cumulative UH Mānoa GPA?

The largest proportion (39%) reported completing their undergraduate study with a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.5 to 4.0.

Compared to 1999, the percentage of graduating seniors reporting cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher remains stable, but there is a noticeable increase in those reporting 3.5 or higher (+6.4%). The trend since 1993 shows a substantial increase (+13.5%) in respondents reporting cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or better. The issue of grade inflation may deserve attention.

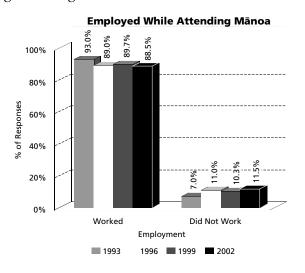
Education majors had the highest proportion of majors who completed their undergraduate program with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (97%). About two-thirds (65%) had a cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 4.0.



Did you work while attending Mānoa?

The vast majority (89%) of respondents indicated that they worked while attending Mānoa.

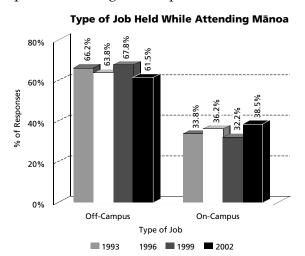
A similar proportion was reported by graduating seniors in 1996 and 1999.



If you worked while attending Mānoa, what kind of job did you have?

Of those employed, 62 percent reported being employed off-campus.

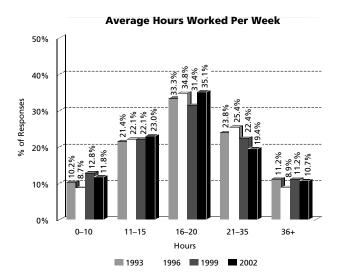
Compared with 1999, there was a significant increase in the percentage of respondents who reported working on-campus (+6.3%).



If you worked while attending Mānoa, what was the average hours worked per week during the last two years?

The largest proportion (35%) worked an average of 16–20 hours per week during their last two years of undergraduate study at Mānoa.

As in 1999, 89 percent of those employed worked less than 36 hours per week.



"Working on-campus really helped a lot. It's a great way to make money while attending college. Off-campus jobs are more strict about giving time off to study."

MEDICINE MAJOR

Comments about Undergraduate Experience

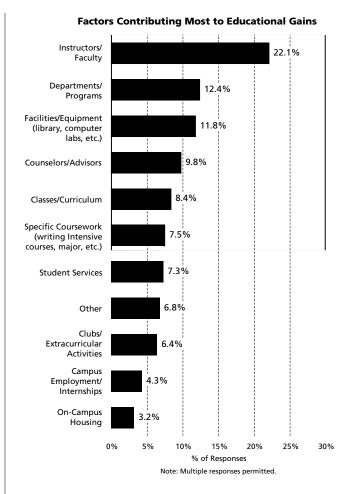
Seventy-eight percent or 375 of the survey respondents provided comments about their undergraduate experience at UH Mānoa. Individual responses are not necessarily representative of spring 2002 baccalaureate degree candidates (1,091).

What campus factors/conditions/programs/ etc., do you think contributed most to your educational gains while at Mānoa?

Of those providing comments, Instructors/Faculty, Departments/Programs, Facilities/Equipment (library, computer labs, etc.) and Counselors/Advisors were most frequently mentioned as factors contributing most to their educational gains.

Student service factors, such as *Extracurricular Activities*, *Campus Employment*, and *On-Campus Housing*, were also mentioned as rewarding aspects of the undergraduate experience at Mānoa.

Similar factors and results were reported by graduating seniors in 1999.



"The classes that I really enjoyed here at UH Mānoa were the ones that required close student-professor relationships..."

OTHER ARTS & SCIENCES/LIBERAL STUDIES MAJOR

"Overall, I think the professors and the knowledge and experience each brought contributed most to my educational gains."

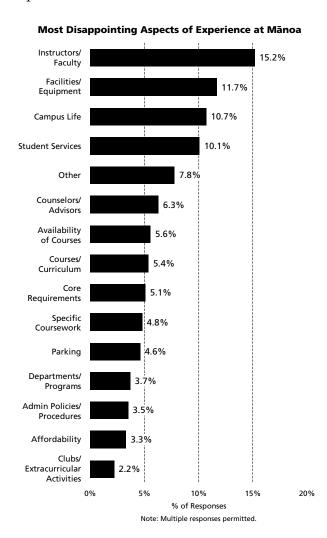
ARCHITECTURE MAJOR

Comments about Undergraduate Experience

What was the most disappointing thing about your experience at Mānoa?

Of those providing comments, most expressed dissatisfaction with *Instructors/Faculty*, *Facilities/Equipment*, *Campus Life*, and *Student Services* (including lack of information).

When considering the most rewarding and disappointing aspects of the UH Mānoa experience, the student-teacher relationship continues to emerge as a critical factor affecting the quality of the undergraduate experience.



What changes in undergraduate education would you recommend at Mānoa?

Of those that responded, the most common recommendation was to **Review and Change Core Requirements**, especially foreign language and the amount of requirements.

Improve Campus Services/Programs, Improve the Quality of Instructors/Faculty, and Better Guidance/Advisors were other frequently mentioned changes recommended by graduating seniors.

Recommended Changes to Undergraduate Education Review & Change 27.1% **Core Requirements** Improve Campus Services/Programs Improve Quality of 12.6% Instructors/Faculty Better 9.4% Guidance/Advisors Increase Availability of Courses/Sections Improve Academic 7.0% Standards/Courses Improve 6.8% **Facilities** Other 6.8% Improve 63% Campus Life Improve Parking 20% 30% 10%

% of Responses
Note: Multiple responses permitted

Survey Instrument

UH Mānoa Survey of Graduating Seniors
Spring 2002

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Survey of Graduating Seniors



MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Use a No. 2 pencil or a blue or black ball point pen.
- Do not use felt tip pens.
- Make solid marks that fill the response completely.
- Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.

CORRECT:

INCORRECT: $\emptyset \otimes$



PART I: PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR OVERALL UNDERGRADU				
What have you gained from your college experience at Mānoa? (Fig. 2) Propagation for a job.				
a. Preparation for a jobb. Increased knowledge in an academic field	 g. Increased ability to be independent, self-reliant and adaptable h. Increased understanding of other people and their points of view 			
c. Preparation for graduate or professional study				
	 i. Increased leadership skills j. Skills and attitudes that enrich life and foster self-development k. Increased awareness of and involvement in community issues 			
d. A meaningful philosophy of life				
e. Increased involvement in cultural and artistic activities				
f. Increased self-confidence	I. Other (Please specify)			
2. Of the above, what do you feel is the most important thing you have g a b c d e f q h i	gained from your college experience at Mānoa? (Choose only one from above) () (Choose only one from above)			
PART II: PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLA 3. Are you planning to attend graduate school? Yes	ANS O No			
4. If "yes," what field of study do you plan to pursue? (Please refer to the	e attached "Graduate Maior Fields of Study" for clarification)			
Arts and Humanities Haw, Asian, & Pac Studies	○ Education			
□ Lang, Ling, & Literature □ Ocean & Earth Sci Tech	○ Engineering			
○ Natural Sciences	○ Tropic Agri & Hum Resrcs ○ Other (Please specify)			
○ Social Sciences ○ Business Administration	○ Medicine			
Other A&S/Comm & Info Sci Travel Industry Managemen				
	-			
5. If "yes," where are you planning to attend graduate school?				
○ UH Mānoa ○ UH Hilo ○ Mainland university	Private Hawai'i university Other			
○ Higher quality program available elsewhere ○ Pers	noa, what is the reason for not attending Mānoa? k of financial support sonal reasons (i.e., moved to the mainland, etc.) er (<i>Please specify</i>)			
7. If you are planning to seek employment or have already been offered : — Honolulu/Oʻahu — Neighbor island —	a job, where do you expect to work?			
PART III: PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON TUITION 8. Do you consider the cost of tuition at UH Mānoa	ight (<i>fair and reasonable</i>)			
9. Did you take a heavier credit load than preferred because of the cost of	of tuition? Yes No			
10. Should tuition be charged per credit rather than as a flat rate for 12 or	more credits? Yes No No opinion			
11. Is the value of your degree worth the cost of your investment at UH Ma	ānoa? Yes No			
PART IV : PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR TRANSFER EXPERIENC	E			
12. Where did you transfer credits from? (Check all that apply.)	_			
○ Did not transfer credits—skip to Question 17 ○ UH Hilo	A Hawai'i private college			
A UH community college UH West C				
13. What barriers did you encounter, if any, while transferring to this camp	pus?			
14. How many of the courses you expected to transfer actually transferred	d2 All Some None			

─ Very Helpful	hat helpful ONot helpful
16. How would you describe the advising information provided by UH Mānoa	?
○ Very Helpful	hat helpful Not helpful
PART V : PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION COR	RE EXPERIENCE
General education is the core set of courses required for all students pursuin	g an undergraduate degree.
17. At what campus did you take most of your general education courses? (Select only one campus)
A UH community college	Other higher education institution
18. For each of the following items, how would you rate the extent to which g	eneral education courses contributed to your knowledge, skills and abiliti
1 - VERY HELPFUL 2 - HELPFUL 3 - SOM	EWHAT HELPFUL 4 - NOT HELPFUL
① ② ③ ④ Writing ability	① ② ③ ④ Ability to express ideas using numbers and symbols
① ② ③ ④ Ability to use computers	① ② ③ ④ Understanding of science and experimental methods
① ② ③ ④ Oral communication skills	① ② ③ ④ Awareness of diversity in cultures, philosophies and lifestyle
① ② ③ ④ Ability to put ideas together	① ② ③ ④ Knowledge of other countries, peoples, cultures
① ② ③ ④ Analytical and logical thinking	① ② ③ ④ Knowledge and enjoyment of literature
① ② ③ ④ Use of study skills/learning strategies to learn new concepts	
① ② ③ ④ Ability to gather information and learn on my own	① ② ③ ④ Use of history in understanding the present and the past
19. Please rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following aspects	-
	EWHAT SATISFIED 4 - NOT SATISFIED
① ② ③ ④ Usefulness of courses	① ② ③ ④ Knowledge gained through general education courses
① ② ③ ④ Availability of general education courses	① ② ③ ④ Preparation by gen-ed courses for work in my major
① ② ③ ④ Content of general education courses	① ② ③ ④ Use of teaching assistants in general education courses
① ② ③ ④ Number of general education courses required	① ② ③ ④ Adequacy of general education CORE courses in
① ② ③ ④ Variety of general education courses offered	preparing me for upper-division courses
① ② ③ ④ Relevance of general education requirements to my life	① ② ③ ④ Overall quality of general education instruction
20. Please tell us what general education CORE courses you perceived as	most helpful to you in your undergraduate experience?
Most helpful course Third	most helpful course
Second most helpful course	
21. For each of the following items, please rate the satisfaction of your COF	RE experience as it relates to your major.
1 - VERY SATISFIED 2 - SATISFIED 3 - SOM	EWHAT SATISFIED 4 - NOT SATISFIED
① ② ③ ④ Quality of printed information about my program of study	① ② ③ ④ Adequacy of the library collection related to my major
① ② ③ ④ Availability of courses in my major	① ② ③ ④ Adequacy of laboratory facilities related to my major
① ② ③ ④ Organization of the curriculum in my major	① ② ③ ④ Overall quality of instruction in my major
PART VI: PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR OVERALL ACADEMIC EXPE	ERIENCE
22. Rate the overall quality of instruction as it pertains to each of the followin	g items.
1 - EXCELLENT 2 - GOOD	3 - FAIR 4 - POOR
① ② ③ ④ To improve my writing ability	① ② ③ ④ To improve my ability to use computers
① ② ③ ④ To improve my reading skills	① ② ③ ④ To increase my knowledge about other cultures/world affair
① ② ③ ④ To improve my oral communication skills	① ② ③ ④ To increase my appreciation of literature and the arts
① ② ③ ④ To improve my listening skills	(1) (2) (3) (4) To increase my ability to gather information/learn on my ow
① ② ③ ④ To improve my critical thinking ability	1) (2) (3) (4) To increase my study skills and learning strategies
① ② ③ ④ To improve my mathematical ability	
23. How would you rate the overall quality of your total academic experience	at Mānoa?
─ Excellent	○ Poor
24. Which of the following best represents how you feel about the quality of a	rour haccalaureate degree from Mānoa?
24. Which of the following best represents how you feel about the quality of y Above average Above average Below	

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



18297

25. The quality of academic prog Better than expected	grams at Mānoa is About what expected	0	Worse than expected	
26. How many Mānoa faculty ha	ove you gotten to know well? One	0	Two	☐ Three or more
27. How many of your Mānoa pr	ofessors distributed class eva	luation	forms at the end of the	semester?
	─ Many	0	Some	Few or none
28. Did you feel comfortable say	ing what you really thought or	n class	evaluation forms?	
Usually	Sometimes		Rarely or never	
29. How much impact do you thin	nk the comments you and you	ur class	smates make on class e	evaluation forms have on how professors teach?
			Little or none	
PART VII : PLEASE TELL US A	ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE	S OUT	SIDE THE CLASSROO	DM
30. The quality of campus life at				
 Better than expected 	About expected	\circ	Worse than expected	
31. Where do you presently live	?			
 On-campus housing 	Off-campus housing	0	At home	Other
32. Over the last two years, wha	it was the average number of	hours	vou spent on campus e	ach week outside of classes?
1-10	○ 11-20		21-30	○ 31+
22. How would you rate the good	lity of information about stude		inco and activities?	
33. How would you rate the qual Excellent	Good		Fair	○ Poor
34. Please rate each of the follow	wing services, functions and a	activitie	es at Mānoa.	
	ED IT AND WAS SATISFIED ED IT AND WAS DISSATISFII	ED		ABOUT THIS BUT DID NOT USE IT OT KNOW ABOUT THIS
①②③④ Admissions pr				n-campus housing
① ② ③ ④ Registration p				ecreation and athletic programs
① ② ③ ④ Cashier's offic			①②③④ Fo	
① ② ③ ④ Academic adv				udent health services
	esting, and career planning se	rvices	1234 Lil	
① ② ③ ④ Tutoring service	ces		1234 B	pokstore
① ② ③ ④ Financial aid			①②③④ Ca	ampus security services
① ② ③ ④ Student emplo			1234 Sc	ocial, cultural, and artistic programs
① ② ③ ④ Career placem	nent services		1234 St	udent organizations and clubs
PART VIII: PLEASE TELL US	ABOUT YOURSELF			
35. What is your gender?		male		
36. What is your current age?				
O Under 18 ○ 18-19	20-21	-24	<u> </u>	30-34
37. What is your ethnic backgro	und? (Choose only one)			
 Caucasian/Portuguese 	─ Filipino	0	Japanese Other	(Please specify)
Chinese	Hawaiian/Part Hawaiia	n 🔿	Mixed	
38. What type of high school did	l you attend?			
	Mainland public	\cap	Other (Please specify)	
Hawaiʻi private	Mainland private			

39. Were any of your credits earned at anotherNo, all earned at MānoaYes, at a UH community college	er college? Yes, at a Hawai'i private college Yes, at a college outside Hawai'i
40. When did you first begin your college stud 1991 1992 1993 1994 ((Please select the semester) Fall Spring	lies? (Please select the year) 1995
	in a special program, fill in all choices that apply. ential Scholar College Opportunities Program d Bound Other (<i>Please specify</i>)
a - Workb - Cost of Attending Collegec - Family/Personal Commitments	e, what were the three most important reasons? e - Changed My Major f - Academic Performance (Poor Grades) g - Inadequate Academic Advising e - Another Institution's Credits Did Not Transfer
(Select only one choice for each reason) a b c d e f a h i b Second b c d e f a h i c Second	
Lang, Ling, & Literature Natural Sciences Social Sciences	(Please refer to the attached "Undergraduate Major Fields of Study" for clarification) Gen Arts & Sci/Pre-Profnl
44. What is your cumulative UH Mānoa GPA 4.0 - 3.5 3.4 - 3.0	2.9 - 2.5
45. Did you work while attending Mānoa?	
46. If "yes," what kind of job did you have?	○ On-campus job ○ Off-campus job
47. If "yes," average hours worked per week 1 - 10 11 - 15	during last two school years? 16 - 20 21 - 35 36+
	R THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AT MĀNOA. as/etc. do you think contributed most to your educational gains while at Mānoa?
49. What was the most disappointing thing a	oout your experience at Mānoa?
50. What changes in undergraduate education	on would you recommend at Mānoa?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed business reply envelope to the

Office of the Vice President for Planning & Policy, University of Hawai'i, Sinclair Annex 1, Room 6, Honolulu, HI 96822.