2011 NSU Alumni Academic Outcomes Assessment
Executive Summary

The following is a brief summary of the results of Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Alumni Assessment of Academic Outcomes survey for 2011. This is the second annual assessment of all NSU alumni.

The online survey was launched on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 and initial email invitations were sent to 127,810 alumni. Because NSU has multiple email address for some alumni, a total of 154,173 email invitations were sent with email reminders delivered to alumni who did not respond prior to the close of the survey on Friday, April 1, 2011. Because some messages were undeliverable, ultimately, 150,925 invitations were received, 10,312 were opened, and 5,701 responded, resulting in a total response rate of 4.5%. Individual academic unit's participation was calculated, as follows:

Response	2011	2010
Fischler School of Education and Human Services	35%	32%
H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship	22%	23%
Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences	7%	7%
Shepard Broad Law Center	6%	6%
College of Allied Health and Nursing	6%	5%
Center for Psychological Studies	6%	8%
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences	5%	5%
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences	3%	3%
College of Osteopathic Medicine	3%	3%
College of Pharmacy	2%	3%
College of Optometry	1%	3%
College of Dental Medicine	1%	1%
Oceanographic Center	1%	1%
Criminal Justice Institute	1%	1%
College of Medical Sciences	0%	0%

The survey was comprised of two main components: the "core survey" (questions asked of all NSU graduates) requesting an overall academic assessment of the outcomes of participants' NSU academic experience, and the college- or center-specific survey questions developed by individual colleges within NSU. This executive summary is focused on the results from the broader core survey. The analysis for the college-specific questions was completed by NSU Institutional Effectiveness.

The goal of the core survey was to continue and extend past efforts by NSU to capture alumni perspectives on the quality of the academic experience while attending NSU, as well as the general impact their education had on their careers and personal development. Questions from the core survey are identical to last year's (2010) survey to allow for proper comparison.

- The overall results of the 2011 alumni survey are nearly identical to the 2010 survey. We have confidence in the results as they were replicated in two consecutive years. Moving forward, the alumni survey will focus exclusively on new alumni.
- At least 94% of alumni reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with their "*Quality of academic experience at NSU", with the "Variety of courses at NSU", with the "Quality of instruction at NSU",* and *with their "Overall experience at NSU".* In each instance, the mean for these items fell between 81 and 84 on a 100 point scale.
    - o Alumni from the College of Optometry, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, and the Oceanographic Center, were the only groups to report a higher percentage of alumni who were *Satisfied* rather than *Very satisfied* across all four satisfaction outcomes.
- Alumni report that there is an average gap of -15.49 between the mean importance of various skills and the contribution that their academic experience at NSU made towards developing those skills.
    - o The largest gaps appear in the following skill areas: *Communicate well orally, Lead and/or supervise groups of people, Utilize technology effectively, Write effectively, Function effectively as a member of a team,* and *Define and solve problems*.
- Approximately 90% of alumni felt that NSU prepared them for their career and lifelong learning, with a mean of 80 out of 100 for each.
- More than 93% of alumni *Agree* or *Strongly agree* that the learning environment at NSU was *interactive, open to differences*, and *discussed the relevance of topics beyond the classroom*; but a slightly lower percentage expressed similar support for a *variety of instructional techniques, effective use of technology,* and *the teaching of library research skills*.
- Although alumni appear to be fairly satisfied with the quality of *Instruction* and with *Faculty knowledge* in their programs, they appear to be noticeably less satisfied in areas such as *Research opportunities, Field experiences, Administration responsiveness, Academic advisement, academic support services, Career counseling, Out-of-classroom experiences,* and *Facilities*.
- After reflecting on their work experience since graduation, 89% of alumni said *Yes* or *Mostly yes* that their educational experience at Nova Southeastern University provided them with the competencies needed for success in their job.
    - o The schools that had the largest percentages of alumni who responded *No* were the *Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (11%),* the *Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (10%),* and the *Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences (10%).*
- When asked to explain in their own words how they benefited from their experiences at NSU, the two largest themes were the development of specific skills and knowledge, as well as career preparation, opportunities, and advancements that their degree, skill, and knowledge provided.
- Only 24% of alumni reported that they participated in co-curricular activities while they were a student, and 88% of those alumni who participated in co-curricular activities felt that these activities were *Important* or *Very important* to their experiences at NSU.
- 37% of alumni felt that NSU was an *Excellent value for the cost* whereas 41% felt that it was a *Good value for the Cost*.
    - o Results vary by college where, for example, the alumni from the Criminal Justice perceive a much higher value for the cost, and the alumni form the Oceanographic Center perceived the value of their academic experience as being much lower.
- Only 79% of alumni said that they would choose NSU if they could begin their education again.
    - o The most popular reason by far that alumni give for not choosing NSU again is *Cost*.

- 88% of alumni are either *Likely* or *Very likely* to recommend their program or NSU to prospective students, but a slightly larger percentage (compared to 2010) are *Very likely* to recommend their specific program.
- Since leaving NSU, 74% are working either part-time or full-time in the field of study, 12% are working outside their field, 6% are unemployed, and 8% are retired.
- Since graduating from NSU, 7% of alumni have earned another degree and 17% are currently pursuing a degree.
  - For these alumni, the most popular additional degrees were in *Education*, distantly followed by degrees in *Business Administration* and *Psychology*.
  - These degrees have been pursued at 232 distinct institutions, with the most prominent being *Florida International University* and *Florida Atlantic University*.
- With regard to remaining connected to NSU, 19% of alumni feel that they are *Very connected* and about a third (34%) feel *Somewhat connected*, leaving almost half (47%) feeling either *Little* or *No connection*.
  - Results greatly differ by college and alumni from the professional programs (Dental, Osteopathic, Nursing, Law, and Medicine) appear to feel the least amount of connection to NSU.

The following tables provide some basic demographics that can help contextualize the respondent sample as compared to the group's population.

Grad Year	Frequency	Count
1973-1979	2%	108
1980-1984	3%	161
1985-1989	5%	280
1990-1994	8%	469
1995-1999	11%	616
2000-2004	20%	1158
2005-2009	34%	1932
2010-2011	18%	1004

Gender	Frequency	Count
Female	**56%**	**3230**
Male	38%	2188
Not Disclosed	5%	308

State	Frequency	Count
FL	**58%**	**3147**
GA	4%	241
NJ	3%	143
NY	3%	143
VA	2%	117
TX	2%	113
CA	2%	113
NC	2%	109