

2005 Senior Survey Highlights

Major Findings

- 91% of seniors are highly satisfied with their overall education at KU. Historically, the average has been 78%
- 92% of seniors would attend KU over again. Historically, the average has been 88%
- Satisfaction with many academic experiences is the highest ever.

Response Rate

	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
Overall Response Rate	43.2%	46.8%	52.5%	46.3%	46.9%	43.6%	53.0%

Notable Findings

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5
 very unsatisfactory unsatisfactory neutral satisfactory very satisfactory

Academic Experiences

	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
The number of courses offered in my major fields	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
The intellectual challenge offered by the courses in my major fields	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2
The integration of courses in my major fields	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Overall quality of instruction in my major fields	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.2
Ease of meeting with my instructors (other than my advisor)	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Overall education at this institution	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.2

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5
 very dissatisfied dissatisfied neutral satisfied very satisfied

Facilities, Services, and Programs

Many mean satisfaction ratings of University Housing were the highest ever.

	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
Campus recreational/intramural programs	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.5	4.2
University residence hall/scholarship hall facilities	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.7
Programs sponsored by university residence/scholarship halls	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.6
Food services provided by university residence/scholarship halls	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.6
KU Memorial Unions food services	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	4.0

Notes: The rating scales were modified in 2005 by fully anchoring each numerical rating with a descriptor, whereas the scales were previously only anchored at the extremes.

The Senior Survey was conducted online in 2005, departing from the traditional paper surveys, used since 1977.

2005 Senior Survey Highlights

Advising

Beginning in 2005, respondents rated freshman/sophomore and upper division advising separately, identifying a clear discrepancy between the two.

	Mean	Percent Rating a 4 or 5
Rated Satisfaction with Freshman/Sophomore Advising	2.9	31%
Rated Helpfulness of Freshman/Sophomore Advising	3.1	44%
Rated Satisfaction with Upper Division Advising	3.7	61%

Progress Toward and Importance of Academic Goals

Several ratings of progress toward academic goals have fallen, notably with a corresponding drop in the rated importance of these goals:

Progress

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5
none below average average above average considerable

	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
Ability to understand and use concepts and principles	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Understanding of a particular field of knowledge	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3
Preparation for employment	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7

Importance

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5
very unimportant unimportant neutral important very important

	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
Ability to understand and use concepts and principles	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3
Understanding of a particular field of knowledge	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.5
Preparation for employment	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.4

Postgraduation Outlook: Job vs. Additional Study

	Percent						
	1977	1982	1987	1992	1996	2000	2005
Secured a job prior to graduation	22.9	22.8	24.3	18.9	20.2	28.5	23.7
Still looking for job during spring before graduation	30.8	34.4	34.5	34.6	34.5	25.8	30.4
Had applied for another degree program	32.8	25.2	25.8	30.4	26.7	30.3	32.9

Background

The Senior Survey has been conducted seven times since 1977, at 4- or 5-year intervals: 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2005. The original survey was developed as part of a project undertaken at the six Board of Regents institutions by the Council of Institutional Research Officers. The impetus for the survey was to obtain a baseline measure on the level of student satisfaction with the university experience with a deliberate timetable for reassessment.