Survey Instrument: Senior Survey

Owner(s): Vice Provost for Education; Vice President for Institutional Affairs

Sponsor(s): Council of Undergraduate Deans

Study Population: All Undergraduate Students Graduating in Spring

Invited Participants: All Undergraduate Students Graduating in Spring

Invitation Signatory: Provost and Vice Provost for Education

Administration:
The Senior Survey is administered via the web every two years. The survey opens for approximately one month in the later part of the Spring semester.

Brief Description:
Every two years, the COFHE Senior Survey is administered to graduating seniors in the latter half of the Spring semester. This survey collects information about a broad range of topics related to the collegiate experience. Students are asked to provide information about their campus involvement over the span of their collegiate careers, and how their knowledge, skills, and abilities changed as a result of attending Penn. The survey provides an opportunity for participants to register feedback about their satisfaction with Penn services as well as their impression of the quality of campus life. Lastly, participants are asked to provide information about their post-graduation plans with respect to future education and employment plans.

Participating institutions may append additional questions, either independently, or collaboratively with other COFHE institutions. At Penn, the survey includes a set of questions related to the culture and climate of the institution.

Relationship to Other Instruments:
Several questions on the Senior Survey also appear on the Survey of New Students (SNS) and CIRP Freshman survey that Penn students take in the few weeks before matriculating. Additionally, some of these same questions are included on the Alumni Survey that graduates take five to ten years after completing an undergraduate degree at Penn. This question repetition allows for a comparison between anticipated and actual behavior.

Institutional questions about culture and climate appended to the Senior Survey are also included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. This allows for comparisons between undergraduate and graduate responses as well as between faculty and students.

Data gathered by the Senior Survey can also be linked to additional information contained in the data warehouse, allowing for further analysis.

Survey Results:
Each Senior Survey administration results in an institutional summary report. Intra-institutional comparisons are made possible through the creation of individual reports for each of the undergraduate schools. Summaries by gender, minority status, and international status are also generated. Departmental results are available upon request.

Participation in the Senior Survey allows Penn to compare its population to those of peer COFHE institutions.

Distribution Plan:
A top level institutional summary, which provides basic frequency counts for each survey item and some comparison with peer institutions, is available by the Fall semester following the Senior Survey administration. This summary is accessible to the Penn community via the IR&A website.

Detailed reports are shared with the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost. Deans of the Undergraduate Schools receive school-specific results. Results are also shared with the Council of Undergraduate Deans and its workgroup. As appropriate, results are shared with faculty committees, administrators, and student leaders dedicated to issues related to undergraduate education.