

Report for Campus Community

Graduating Senior Survey: May 2009



**Prepared by
Office of Institutional Research and Planning**

June 2009

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: General

Number of Respondents 942

Question 1: What are your plans for your first year after graduation?

Graduate school	131	14%
Both work and graduate school	166	18%
Work and then go to graduate school	178	19%
I have a professional job	48	5%
Peace Corps//other govt. sponsored	10	1%
Non-governmental	6	1%
Self-Employed	12	1%
Seeking an internship	37	4%
Seeking employment, no job offers yet	213	23%
Not seeking employment	7	1%
I have not started planning	14	1%
I am unsure of what I will	62	7%
Other	58	6%

Question 63: Did you graduate within four years or less from the time you first enrolled at SUNY New Paltz?

Yes	734	78%
No	202	21%

Question 64: What following circumstances extended your time to graduation (check all that apply)?

Availability of courses to fulfill major requirements	60	30%
Availability of courses to fulfill General Education requirements	23	11%
Loss of credits while transferring	28	14%
Change of major	31	15%
Work concerns	50	25%
Health concerns	66	33%
Financial difficulties	38	19%
Family concerns	22	11%
Other	24	12%

Question 57: If you could start over again would you choose to attend SUNY New Paltz?

Definitely yes	430	46%
Probably yes	370	39%
Probably no	106	11%
Definitely no	28	3%

Question 58: If you could start over again would you choose the same major or field of study?

Definitely yes	418	44%
Probably yes	328	35%
Probably no	144	15%
Definitely no	37	4%

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Question 59: How would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at SUNY New	347 (37%)	464 (49%)	112 (12%)	13 (1%)
Question 60: How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at SUNY New Paltz?	176 (19%)	358 (38%)	285 (30%)	118 (13%)

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: Graduate School

Number of Respondents 942
 Number of Respondents attending graduate school within first year after graduation: 297 32%

Question 2: What kind of graduate degree will you pursue?

M.A. or M.S.	202	68%
MSED	34	11%
MBA	15	5%
Law	6	2%
MD	5	2%
Ph.D.	11	4%
Other	24	8%

Question 3: Where do you intend to go to Graduate School?

SUNY Albany	20	7%
SUNY Stony Brook	6	2%
SUNY New Paltz	82	28%
Other SUNY school	10	3%
Hunter College (CUNY)	15	5%
Queens College (CUNY)	9	3%
Other CUNY school	7	2%
Marist College	4	1%
Columbia University	7	2%
Other private school	45	15%
Other	92	31%

Question 5: How important are each of the following items in considering a graduate school?

	Very Important		Important		Not Very Important		Not At All Important	
Quality of the program	257	87%	39	13%	1	0%	0	0%
Proximity to home	92	31%	130	44%	41	14%	31	10%
Convenience	121	41%	119	40%	44	15%	8	3%
Availability of tuition assistance	166	56%	98	33%	22	7%	4	1%
Other	13	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Question 8: For each of the following statements, please indicate the level to which you agree or disagree

	Agree Strongly		Agree		Disagree		Disagree Strongly	
I think SUNY New Paltz offers high quality graduate programs	49	16%	192	65%	42	14%	3	1%
It is easy to find information about the graduate programs at SUNY New Paltz	61	21%	186	63%	33	11%	5	2%
I would recommend the graduate programs at SUNY New Paltz to others	52	18%	176	59%	43	14%	8	3%

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: Employment

Number of Respondents	942	
Number of Respondents that plan to work after graduation	617	65%

Question 10: Do you have a part-time or a full-time job?

Part Time	237	68%
Full Time	111	32%

Question 11: Is this position in your field of study at SUNY New Paltz

Yes	135	39%
No	216	62%

Question 14: Please check all the resources you used in finding this job or job offer.

Your faculty advisor	37	11%
Career Resource Center	32	9%
EOP	20	6%
Your department	47	14%
A family member	5	1%
An alumnus of SUNY New Paltz	136	39%
A professional or student club	8	2%
On-campus employer event or job fair	7	2%

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: Out of Class Experience

Number of Respondents	942				
In the last two years, did you participate	Number of Respondents		Percentage of Total Respondents		Mean (4 point scale)
Question 15: work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements?	387		41%		3.45
Question 16: fieldwork?	344		37%		3.34
Question 17: student teaching?	216		23%		3.57
Question 18: study abroad?	149		16%		3.52
Question 19: internship?	274		29%		3.45
Question 20: leadership role in a campus organization?	328		35%		3.55
Question 21: on-campus employment?	347		37%		2.97
To what degree has this provided you with a meaningful learning experience?	Greatly	Moderately	A little	Not at all	
Question 15: work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements?	240 62%	107 28%	25 6%	5 1%	
Question 16: fieldwork?	194 56%	98 28%	37 11%	5 1%	
Question 17: student teaching?	175 81%	17 8%	4 2%	13 6%	
Question 18: study abroad?	117 79%	11 7%	5 3%	14 9%	
Question 19: internship?	180 66%	56 20%	24 9%	10 4%	
Question 20: leadership role in a campus organization?	224 68%	73 22%	19 6%	10 3%	
Question 21: on-campus employment?	129 37%	119 34%	65 19%	28 8%	

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: Experiences in the Major by frequency

Number of Respondents	942							
How often did you:	Very Frequently or Frequently		Sometimes		Rarely or Never		Mean (5 point scale)	
Question 22: Work harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations?	608	65%	279	30%	52	6%	3.8	
Question 23: Work with faculty members on activities other than coursework?	213	23%	212	23%	506	54%	2.5	
Question 24: Review your major plan of study with a faculty member or your advisor?	440	47%	336	36%	163	17%	3.4	
Question 25: Prepare your schedule prior to meeting with your advisor?	838	89%	75	8%	22	2%	4.5	
Question 26: Meet with your advisor in advance of registration?	704	75%	145	15%	86	9%	4.0	
Question 27: Talk about career plans with a faculty member?	361	38%	314	33%	265	28%	3.2	
Question 28: Talk about career plans with your academic advisor?	303	32%	275	29%	354	38%	2.9	
Question 29: Talk about career plans with someone from the Career Resource Center?	121	13%	188	20%	628	67%	2.1	
Question30: Collaborate with other students on class assignments?	621	66%	245	26%	70	7%	3.9	

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: Experiences in the Major by satisfaction

How satisfied were you with the:	<u>Very Satisfied or Satisfied</u>		<u>Very Dissatisfied or Dissatisfied</u>		<u>Mean (4 point scale)</u>
Question 31: availability of courses in your major?	767	81%	174	18%	2.92
Question 32: variety of courses to choose from?	691	73%	241	26%	2.84
Question 33: quality of instruction?	825	88%	110	12%	3.10
Question 34: quality of faculty as scholars/researchers?	838	89%	70	7%	3.20
Question 35: availability of internship/co-op/fieldwork opportunities?	438	46%	220	23%	2.76
Question 36: Job search assistance?	339	36%	192	20%	2.68
Question 37: Services of the Career Resource Center?	441	47%	80	8%	3.05
Question 38: college help in finding part-time jobs?	135	14%	115	12%	2.48
Question 39: availability of opportunities to engage in research with faculty?	316	34%	115	12%	2.83
Question 40: the Academic Advising Center?	284	30%	115	12%	2.72
Question 41: academic advising in your major?	654	69%	245	26%	2.86
Question 42: availability of academic advising?	701	74%	166	18%	2.96
Question 43: availability of general education courses?	735	78%	143	15%	2.96

Spring 2009 Graduating Senior Survey: General Skills & Knowledge

How much has SUNY New Paltz contributed to your knowledge, skills and personal development in the following areas?

	<u>Very Large or Large Contribution</u>		<u>Moderate or Small Contribution</u>		<u>No Contribution</u>		<u>Mean (5 point scale)</u>
Question 44: acquiring a general education?	695	74%	225	24%	3	0%	4.02
Question 45: acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills?	537	57%	346	37%	26	3%	3.65
Question 46: writing clearly and effectively?	568	60%	341	36%	18	2%	3.72
Question 47: speaking clearly and effectively	583	62%	315	33%	27	3%	3.72
Question 48: thinking critically and analytically	711	75%	208	22%	8	1%	4.03
Question 49: analyzing quantitative problems?	557	59%	317	34%	19	2%	3.71
Question 50: using computing and information technology?	467	50%	394	42%	44	5%	3.45
Question 51: working effectively with other?	607	64%	294	31%	22	2%	3.80
Question 52: learning effectively on your own?	698	74%	203	22%	22	2%	4.01
Question 53: understanding yourself?	682	72%	204	22%	34	4%	3.97
Question 54: understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?	565	60%	281	30%	56	6%	3.71
Question 55: solving complex, real-world problems?	562	60%	311	33%	40	4%	3.67
Question 56: contributing to the welfare of your community?	457	49%	344	37%	65	7%	3.47