

Report for Campus Community

Graduating Senior Survey: 2008



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

June 2009

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: General

Number of Respondents 856

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

Graduate school	230	27%
Professional job or job offer	96	11%
Government-sponsored volunteer service	11	1%
Non-government sponsored volunteer work	6	1%
Seeking employment but no job offers	322	38%
Not seeking employment	5	1%
Have no plans yet	50	6%
Other	58	7%

Question 15: Did you graduate within four years or less from the time you first enrolled at SUNY New Paltz?

Yes	537	63%
No	230	27%

Question 16: If no, did any of the following circumstances extend your time to graduation?

Availability of courses to fulfill major requirements	63	27%
Availability of courses to fulfill General Education requirements	30	13%
Loss of credits while transferring	35	15%
Change of major	78	34%
Work concerns	29	13%
Health concerns	25	11%
Financial difficulties	20	9%
Family concerns	31	13%
Other	66	29%

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

Definitely yes	374	44%
Probably yes	284	33%
Probably no	57	7%
Definitely no	30	4%

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

Definitely yes	359	42%
Probably yes	256	30%
Probably no	104	12%
Definitely no	22	3%

Question 59: How would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at SUNY New Paltz?

Excellent	156	18%
Good	326	38%
Fair	171	20%
Poor	92	11%

Question 60: How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at SUNY New Paltz?

Excellent	247	29%
Good	397	46%
Fair	81	9%
Poor	19	2%

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: Graduate School

Number of Respondents	856	
Number of Respondents attending graduate school	230	27%

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

Master's degree	175	76%
Terminal master's degree	5	2%
Post master's certificate	1	0%
First professional degree	9	4%
Doctorate degree	17	7%
Other	18	8%

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

SUNY Albany	15	7%
SUNY Binghamton	2	1%
SUNY Buffalo	2	1%
SUNY Stony Brook	5	2%
SUNY Geneseo	0	0%
SUNY Oneonta	0	0%
SUNY New Paltz	76	33%
CUNY Hunter	7	3%
Other SUNY school	4	2%
Other CUNY school	12	5%
Marist College	3	1%
Other private school	46	20%
Other	51	22%

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	194	84%	30	13%	0	0%	0	0%
Proximity to home	87	38%	91	40%	36	16%	10	4%
Convenience	93	40%	87	38%	38	17%	5	2%
Availability of tuition assistance	126	55%	68	30%	19	8%	4	2%

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	50	22%	144	63%	20	9%	3	1%
It is easy to find information about the graduate programs at SUNY New Paltz	51	22%	136	59%	24	10%	4	2%
I would recommend the graduate programs at SUNY New Paltz to others	45	20%	136	59%	29	13%	5	2%

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: Employment

Number of Respondents	856	
Number of Respondents with a job or job offer	96	11%

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

Part Time	23	24%
Full Time	68	71%

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

Yes	64	67%
No	27	28%

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

Your faculty advisor	4	4%
Career Resource Center	13	14%
EOP	0	0%
Your department	8	8%
A family member	17	18%
An alumnus of SUNY New Paltz	5	5%
A professional or student club	5	5%
On-campus employer event or job fair	7	7%

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: Out of Class Experience

Number of Respondents 856

In the last two years, did you participate in:	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Respondents</u>	<u>Mean (4 point scale)</u>
Question 17: work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements?	132	15%	3.15
Question 18: fieldwork?	322	38%	3.17
Question 19: student teaching?	211	25%	3.45
Question 20: study abroad?	107	13%	3.37
Question 21: internship?	190	22%	3.24
Question 22: leadership role in a campus organization?	228	27%	3.35
Question 23: on-campus employment?	281	33%	2.93

To what degree has this provided you with a meaningful learning experience?

	<u>Greatly</u>	<u>Moderately</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>
Question 17: work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements?	78 59%	22 17%	15 11%	8 6%
Question 18: fieldwork?	170 53%	96 30%	23 7%	6 2%
Question 19: student teaching?	166 79%	16 8%	4 2%	9 4%
Question 20: study abroad?	83 78%	6 6%	0 0%	11 10%
Question 21: internship?	118 62%	37 19%	12 6%	8 4%
Question 22: leadership role in a campus organization?	147 64%	43 19%	19 8%	9 4%
Question 23: on-campus employment?	111 40%	88 31%	44 16%	26 9%

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: Experiences in the Major

by frequency

Number of Respondents 856

How often did you:	<u>Very Frequently or Frequently</u>		<u>Sometimes</u>		<u>Rarely or Never</u>		<u>Mean (5 point scale)</u>
Question 24: work harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations?	523	61%	193	23%	36	4%	3.91
Question 25: work with faculty members on activities other than coursework?	136	16%	160	19%	446	52%	2.31
Question 26: review your major plan of study with a faculty member or your advisor?	383	45%	231	27%	134	16%	3.49
Question 27: prepare your schedule prior to meeting with your advisor?	663	77%	57	7%	27	3%	4.44
Question 28: meet with your advisor in advance of registration?	591	38%	99	12%	59	7%	4.12
Question 29: talk about career plans with a faculty member or your advisor?	301	16%	226	26%	221	26%	3.18
Question 30: work with other students on projects during class?	449	23%	210	25%	92	11%	3.72
Question 31: work with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments?	433	24%	215	25%	102	12%	3.69

2008 May and December 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 32: availability of courses in your major?	602	70%	150	18%	2.93
Question 33: variety of courses to choose from?	573	67%	177	21%	2.85
Question 34: quality of instruction?	675	79%	73	9%	3.13
Question 35: quality of faculty as scholars/researchers?	664	78%	61	7%	3.19
Question 36: availability of internship/co-op/fieldwork opportunities?	364	43%	170	20%	2.75
Question 37: job placement services?	188	22%	181	21%	2.44
Question 38: college help in finding part-time jobs?	161	19%	167	20%	2.38
Question 39: availability of opportunities to engage in research with faculty?	233	27%	95	11%	2.76
Question 40: the Academic Advising Center?	248	29%	96	11%	2.75
Question 41: academic advising in your major?	528	62%	192	22%	2.81
Question 42: availability of academic advising?	536	63%	156	18%	2.86
Question 43: availability of general education courses?	593	69%	92	11%	2.98

2008 May and December Graduating Senior Survey: General Skills and 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?	524	61%	197	23%	3	0%	3.95
Question 45: acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills?	418	49%	273	32%	19	2%	3.65
Question 46: writing clearly and effectively?	456	53%	257	30%	21	2%	3.73
Question 47: speaking clearly and effectively	445	52%	251	29%	35	4%	3.67
Question 48: thinking critically and analytically	533	62%	194	23%	9	1%	3.95
Question 49: analyzing quantitative problems?	429	50%	247	29%	19	2%	3.70
Question 50: using computing and information technology?	396	46%	293	34%	32	4%	3.52
Question 51: working effectively with other?	466	54%	242	28%	21	2%	3.77
Question 52: learning effectively on your own?	549	64%	174	4%	13	2%	3.99
Question 53: understanding yourself?	517	60%	187	22%	29	3%	3.90
Question 54: understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?	451	53%	220	26%	35	4%	3.74
Question 55: solving complex, real-world problems?	410	48%	282	33%	33	4%	3.58
Question 56: contributing to the welfare of your community?	331	39%	297	35%	47	5%	3.41