

UWSP Alumni Outcomes Survey, 2005

This report is based on a UW System survey of UW undergraduate alumni who graduated during the years 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03. The ACT Alumni Outcomes Survey was mailed to a sample of 1012 UWSP alumni summer 2005—182 surveys were returned.

Background Information

- 49.2% of the respondents are under the age of 27; 27-34, 38.1%; 35-45, 5.5%; over age 45, 7.2%
- 96.1% are white; African American, .6%; Native American, .6%; Asian American, .1.7%
- 75.1% female
- 75.6% are employed full-time
- 11.7% are continuing their education either full- or part-time
- 98.9% have a Bachelor's degree and 6.1% have a Master's degree from UWSP
- 12.6% have majors in agriculture; business, 8.8%; education, 17.6%; health sciences, 8.2%; sciences, 11.5%; social sciences, 20.3%
- 27.6% reported they had no student loan debt. 19.3% indicated their largest student loan debt was less than \$10,000; \$10,001-\$20,000, 30.4%; \$20,001 or more, 22.7%.
- 41.2% had an overall GPA of A- to A; B to A-, 43.4%; B- to B, 11.5%
- 45.3% did not attempt to transfer any credits to UWSP. 20.4% transferred 1-15 credits; 16-30, 9.9%; 31-60, 14.9%; over 60, 6.6%
- 62.2% report their current job is highly related to their most recent degree; slightly to moderately related, 26.8%; not at all related, 11.0%
- 18.9% report their experiences at UWSP prepared them exceptionally well for their current job; more than adequately, 27.4%; adequately, 43.3%; less than adequately, 4.9%; very poorly, 3.0%; not at all 3.0%
- 19.9% report an annual income/salary of less than \$20,000; \$20,000-\$29,999, 24.7%; \$30,000-\$49,999, 45.7%; \$50,000 or more, 9.9%

Impact of College Experiences

Respondents were provided with “a list of abilities or skills one might expect to develop while pursuing a postsecondary education” and asked to “indicate the impact of your experiences at this school on your attainment of each skill.” The response categories are major, moderate, minor, or no impact.

Impact of College Experiences on Development of Abilities and Skills

(percent indicating a major or moderate impact)

1. Working cooperatively in groups; working as a team member	90
2. Recognizing and using effective verbal communication skills	86
3. Accessing and using a variety of information sources	93
4. Recognizing and using effective written communication skills	87
5. Defining and solving problems	87
6. Making and exercising a lifelong commitment to learning	81
7. Analyzing and drawing conclusions from various types of data	78
8. Thinking objectively about beliefs, attitudes, and values	85
9. Developing original ideas and/or products	79
10. Getting along with people whose attitudes and opinions are different from mine	83
11. Developing and using effective leadership skills	72
12. Understanding the interaction of human beings and the environment	79
13. Getting along with people from various cultures, races, backgrounds, etc.	73
14. Living my personal and professional life according to my own standard/ethic	71
15. Understanding and appreciating cultural and ethnic differences between people	69
16. Understanding and appreciating art, music, literature, etc.	56
17. Learning about existing and emerging career options	54
18. Appreciating and exercising my rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen	61
19. Understanding international issues (political, economic. etc.)	51

UWSP alumni generally indicate their experience at UWSP had a moderate or major impact on their skill development. Respondents report their experience at UWSP had the most impact on working cooperatively in groups; recognizing and using effective verbal and written communication skills; accessing and using a variety of information sources; defining and solving problems; thinking objectively about belief, attitudes, and values; and, getting along with people whose attitudes and opinions are different from theirs. They report less impact on understanding and appreciating the arts; learning about career options; and, understanding international issues. UWSP alumni indicate their experience at UWSP had a greater impact on eleven of the nineteen abilities and skills than alumni from other four year public institutions.

Educational Experiences

Alumni were asked to rate or express their agreement or satisfaction with a variety of items “in light of your overall experiences at this college.”

Rating of College on Selected Factors

(percent rating the item 4 or 5)

1. Quality academic programs (low = 1; high = 5)	88
2. Opportunities for student involvement in campus activities (few = 1; many = 5)	83
3. Opportunities for student/faculty interaction (few = 1; many = 5)	74
4. Sense of individual belonging on this campus (weak = 1; strong = 5)	67
5. Computer system, services, equipment, labs, etc. (limited = 1; extensive = 5)	77
6. Number of cultural/fine arts/speaker programs (few = 1; many = 5)	55
7. Flexibility of degree requirements (rigid = 1; flexible = 5)	44
8. Cultural/ethnic diversity in student body (little = 1; much = 5)	39
9. Cost for attendance (low = 5; high = 1. This item is reverse scored)	43

UWSP alumni are most positive about the quality of academic programs and opportunities for student involvement. They are less positive about the flexibility of degree requirements, diversity, and cost for attendance. The ratings of UWSP alumni were more positive on seven of the nine factors than alumni from other four year public institutions.

Satisfaction with Selected Aspects of College

	% Very Satisfied/ Satisfied	% Neutral	% Very Dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied
1. General condition of buildings and grounds	86	11	4
2. Class size relative to the type of course	92	6	2
3. Overall quality of instruction	89	7	5
4. Variety of course offered	86	10	4
5. Quality of the program in my major/field	85	5	11
6. Variety of instructional approaches used in the classroom	77	16	7
7. Preparation for further academic study	70	20	10
8. Transfer of course credits from other colleges to this college	73	16	11
9. Concern for me as an individual	68	25	8
10. Campus acceptance of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation	71	26	4
11. College response to older/nontraditional students	70	26	4
12. Campus response to needs of physically challenged	44	41	15
13. Multicultural content of courses	53	39	8

UWSP alumni are generally satisfied with these aspects of college. They are most satisfied with the general condition of buildings and grounds; class size; quality of instruction; variety of courses; and, quality of programs. They are less satisfied with the multicultural content of courses (39% are neutral) and the campus response to the needs of physically challenged individuals (41% are neutral). UWSP alumni were more satisfied on ten of the thirteen aspects of college than alumni from other four year public institutions.

Agreement with Selected Statements about College

	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	% Neutral	% Strongly Disagree/ Disagree
1. There was a sense of personal safety/security on the campus	91	7	2
2. Academic success was encouraged and supported at this school	87	11	2
3. Most faculty were readily available to students outside of class time	80	15	5
4. Overall, the school had an intellectually stimulating atmosphere	85	10	4
5. The campus was, generally, free from harassment (e.g., sexual, racial, etc.)	76	21	3
6. Overall, there was a campus atmosphere of ethnic, political, and religious understanding and acceptance	73	23	4
7. I encountered few course scheduling or course availability problems	63	12	24
8. The General Education or core requirements at this school were a valuable component of my education	60	25	15
9. Administrators at the campus respected and were responsive to student input	61	35	4
10. The financial aid available to me was adequate for my needs	63	28	9
11. School policies and practices provided adequate and appropriate support for victims of harassment, crime, etc.	39	58	3

UWSP alumni generally agree with these statements about college. They expressed their highest level of agreement with a sense of personal safety on campus; encouragement and support of academic success; intellectually stimulating atmosphere; and, the availability of faculty outside the classroom. They are less likely to agree that school policies and practices provided adequate and appropriate support for victims of harassment, crime, etc. (58% are neutral). UWSP alumni expressed higher levels of agreement on all of the statements than alumni from other four year public institutions.

Satisfaction with Student Services/Programs

	% Very Satisfied/ Satisfied	% Neutral	% Very Dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied
1. Library services and materials	92	4	3
2. Health and wellness programs/services for students	82	13	4
3. Registration procedures	73	15	11
4. Academic advising	73	12	15
5. Academic support services (e.g. tutoring, study skills)	70	26	3
6. Financial aid counseling and related services	57	31	12
7. Orientation to and instruction in use of campus computer system	71	20	9
8. Career planning and placement services	52	24	24
9. Personal counseling services	47	44	9

UWSP alumni are generally satisfied with student services/programs. They tend to be more satisfied with library services and materials and health and wellness programs/services. They tend to be less satisfied with financial aid counseling (31% are neutral), career planning and placement services; and, personal counseling (44% are neutral). UWSP alumni expressed higher levels of

satisfaction with eight of the nine services/programs than alumni from other four year public institutions.

Overall Opinion of UWSP

Would Attend UWSP Again

(percent indicating each choice)

If you could begin again, would you attend this school?	
Definitely yes	59
Probably yes	32
Uncertain	4
Probably no	4
Definitely no	1

The vast majority of UWSP alumni would attend UWSP if they could begin again. Ninety-one percent of UWSP alumni would definitely or probably attend UWSP if they could begin again compared to 83% of alumni from other four year public institutions.

Overall Rating of UWSP

(percent indicating each choice)

Overall, how would you rate this school (for the time during which you were attending it)?	
Excellent	55
Good	40
Average	5
Poor	0

Alumni assign a very high overall rating to UWSP. Ninety-five percent of UWSP alumni rated UWSP as good to excellent compared to 89% of alumni from other four year public institutions.

Would Recommend UWSP to Friend

(percent indicating each choice)

Would you recommend this school to a friend or acquaintance who asked your opinion?	
Yes, without reservation	79
Yes, with some reservation	20
No	1

Alumni are highly likely to recommend UWSP to a friend or acquaintance. Seventy-nine percent of UWSP alumni would recommend UWSP to a friend or acquaintance without reservation compared to 65% of alumni from other four year public institutions.