



Graduate Leaver Survey Summary

Introduction:

This study was conducted to record and measure the experiences of students who have not reenrolled at Kapi'olani Community College (the College) during the academic year 2014-2015. These students include those who have graduated, transferred or dropped out of college entirely. This study was conducted to see how the college initiatives have improved, and to identify any deficiencies/obstacles students experienced during their time at the College. This survey also served as a means for students to have their voices heard on how to address any issues that they may have encountered. Overall, there was increased participation from the 2013-2014 to 2014-2015 graduate leaver survey of 72 participants. Additionally, there was an overall positive experience reported by graduate leavers in the 2014-2015 cohort as compared to the 2013-2014 cohort.

The 2014-2015 Graduate Leavers Survey showed more student participation as compared to the 2013-2014 Graduate Leavers Survey with an increase in positive responses to the overall college educational experience. Student retention and graduation is a major goal for the college and its "55 by 25" initiative. The college's Strategic Outcome 1 can be measured by this survey and it has helped to identify areas that have led to the successful transfer of students to a UH 4-year campus as well as increase degree completion). The study also helped identify any barriers which prevent the persistence of students to continue in their higher educational goals so they can be addressed.

Methodology:

Survey questions were identical to those of the Graduate Leavers Survey which was conducted in the 2013-2014 academic year. Surveys were distributed through Survey Monkey to University of Hawaii’s email address. Students were given a period of 3 months to complete the study. Weekly reminders were sent to graduate leavers every week (for those who have either left the study incomplete or have not participated) during the first half of the survey period. During the second half of the survey period, a reminder was sent to graduate leavers who did not participate in the study and to those who left the study incomplete.

Once collected, the surveys were analyzed. Open ended questions were placed into one of three categories: positive, negative responses and neutral responses (neutral responses may also include those which were both positive and negative in nature simultaneously).

Survey answers collected from the 2014-2015 study were compared to the 2013-2014 Graduate Leavers Survey.

Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of your academic experience at Kapi'olani Community College?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Excellent	48.6%	18	43.6%	96	+78
Good	32.4%	12	45.0%	99	+87
Fair	7	7	9.6%	21	+14
Poor	0	0	1.8%	4	+4
Answered question	100%	30	100%	220	+190

Q2: How would you rate the quality of academic programs at Kapi'olani Community College?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ in response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Better than expected	48.6%	18	54.1%	119	+101
About what Expected	43.2%	16	42.7%	94	+78
Worse than Expected	8.1%	3	3.2%	7	4
Answered questions	100%	37	100%	220	+183

Q3: How satisfied were you with the academic preparation you received?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Very Satisfied	35.1%	13	34.5%	76	+63
Satisfied	51.4%	19	57.7%	127	+108
Dissatisfied	10.8%	4	6.4%	14	+10
Very dissatisfied	2.7%	1	1.4%	3	+2
Answered question	100%	37	100%	220	+183

Q4: How would you rate the quality of your degree or certificate from Kapi'olani Community College?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response Percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Above average	48.6%	18	44.9%	97	+79
Average	48.6%	18	50.9 %	110	+92
Below average	2.7%	1	4.2 %	9	+8
Total: (Answered+ Skipped)	0	37	100%	216	+179

Q5: Did you achieve your educational objective at Kapi'olani Community College?					
Answer Options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count (+: increase in 2014-2015)
Yes, Fully	75.7%	28	55.9%	123	+95
Yes, Partially	21.6%	8	39.5%	87	+79
No	2.7%	1	4.6%	10	+9
Answered questions	100%	37	100%	220	+183

Q6: Are you pursuing additional education?					
Answer Options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response Count 2013-2014	Response Percent 2014-2015	Response Count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Yes	56.8%	21	82.2%	180	+159
No	43.2%	16	17.8%	39	+23
Answered question	100%	37	100%	219	+182

Q7: What is your current employment status?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Employed full time	43.2%	16	33.3%	73	+57
Employed part-time	29.7%	11	42.0%	92	+81
Unemployed by choice	8.1%	3	11.0%	24	+21
Unemployed seeking work	13.5%	5	11.9 %	26	+21
Full time homemaker/caregiver	5.4%	2	1.8%	4	+2
Answered question	100%	37	100%	219	+182

Q8: Is your job related to the education and training you received?					
Answer Options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Closely Related	84.6%	22	51.8 %	85	+63
Indirectly related	11.5%	3	26.2%	43	+40
Not at all related	3.9%	1	22.0%	36	+35
Answered question	100%	26	100	164	+138

Q9: How well did the education and training you received prepare you for your current job?					
Answer options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Well prepared	42.3%	11	32.9 %	53	+42
Moderately Well Prepared	42.3%	11	41.0%	66	+55
Adequately prepared	15.4%	4	23.6%	38	+34
Poorly prepared	0%	0	2.5 %	4	+4
Answered question	100%	26	100%	161	+135

Q10: Are you a graduate from Kapi'olani Community College?					
Answer Options	Response percent 2013-2014	Response count 2013-2014	Response percent 2014-2015	Response Count 2014-2015	Δ response count from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015
Yes	97.1%	34	67.6%	140	+106
No	2.9%	1	32.4%	67	+66
Answered question	95%	35	100%	207	+172

Question 11 asks students who graduated from KCC to list important factors that got them through KCC. The top 5 responses for students reported are as follows:

- 1) Positive interactions with faculty.
- 2) Self-motivation.
- 3) Experiences with counselors/advisors.
- 4) Programs of study/structure of programs
- 5) Classmates got them to graduation.

Question 12 is the second half of the follow up to question 10 and asks students who reported not graduating from KCC what prevented them from re-enrolling. The top 4 answers from students are as follows:

- 1) Transferred to other Community colleges, 4-year institutions or medical professional schools.
- 2) Still enrolled.
- 3) Financial reasons for not re-enrolling.
- 4) Personal reasons.

When students were asked about the things that they found most beneficial the top 5 responses are as follows:

- 1) The Various programs offered at KCC.
- 2) Faculty/Instructors
- 3) Learning/Tutoring environments i.e. S.T.E.M Center, Library etc.
- 4) Sense of community especially bridging ties between local communities and international students
- 5) Small Class sizes.

Graduate leavers were also asked about what obstacles they encountered while attending KCC. The top 5 responses are as follows

- 1) No barriers encountered was reported by 17 students
- 2) Curriculum
- 3) Faculty and Instructors
- 4) Personal Issues
- 5) Counselor/Advisor miscommunication/Advising services

When graduate leaver students were asked “what could be done to enhance the educational experience at KCC?” 20 students reported that nothing should be done. The remaining answers were ranked and the top 5 remaining answers are ranked as follows:

- 1) More curriculum/course offerings
- 2) Better/mandatory advising
- 3) Improve curriculum being taught to students and should be relevant to current job markets
- 4) Make a smoother transition process from KCC to 4-year UH campuses (accept more credits from KCC)
- 5) Better faculty/instructor support.

When graduates were asked what the most important thing that KCC could do to support students graduating the top 5 answers were as follows:

- 1) Mandatory advising
- 2) Improve rapport between faculty/staff/administration and students
- 3) Nothing, completely satisfied with the KCC experience
- 4) More scholarships, more scholarship notifications, more Financial aid
- 5) Job placements post-graduation

External Licensing Exams:

The data for external licensing exams were collected from the various health programs. These programs have demonstrated a very high pass percentage of 95.3% as a whole. The results of the external licensing exams by program can be seen in the table below.

Program Name	Number Sitting for Exam	Number Passed
	2014-2015	2014-2015
Medical Laboratory technician	13	13
Occupational Therapy Assistant	10	12
Physical Therapist Assistant	15	14
Respiratory Therapist	13	13
Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (AND)	39	39

Associate Degree in Nursing Transition	15	13
Practical Nursing (PN)	17	17
Emergency Medical Technician	63	55
Mobile Intensive Care Technician	5	5

Summary of responses:

One thing of note that was brought up by a few graduate leavers was that they encountered problems after attending commencement. Students were informed that they were missing requirements after they had attended commencement and had to take courses afterwards to be awarded their official degrees. Students also mention that they would like a process where advisors would check credits before applying for graduation. What students were describing was something very similar to a “Golden-Rod form” [2]. UHM requires that all seniors intending to graduate fill this form out the 1 academic year prior to graduation is a measure UHM uses to reduce incidents like these.

Students also seemed to show interest in improving hours of operation of study facilities such as the S.T.E.M. center, library, or even the cafeteria as a place to study. Several students have mentioned that they are in favor of the library operating very similarly to Sinclair library at UHM (24 hours Monday-Friday during the academic year and open half days on Saturday and Sunday).

References:

- [1] Kapi’olani CC: Aligning Strategic Directions & Outcomes (power point slides). Retrieved from <http://ofie.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/kapiolani-community-college-strategic-plan-2008-2015/>
- [2] College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Worksheet-Major Requirements Goldenrod Form. <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/advising/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Goldenrod.pdf>