



America's Brightest **ORANGE**

Oklahoma State University

University Assessment and Testing

2021 OSU Alumni Survey

Survey Report – Elementary Education

The OSU Alumni Survey is a survey designed to collect information about OSU graduated students. More specifically, it is designed to collect information on their career, educational achievements, and their experience with OSU. This information will be used to improve academic programs and student experiences at OSU for generations to come. This survey targeted alumni of undergraduate and graduate programs who received their degree in 2015 and/or 2019. The survey was administered online by OSU-University Assessment and Testing (UAT) in March 2021 through May 2021. Departments may request additional information by contacting UAT (assessment@okstate.edu).

Survey Questions

Respondents were asked up to 26 institutional level items. Institutional level items were given to all OSU alumni and the items consisted of six topics: continuing education, well-being and community, demographic information, academic satisfaction, career reflection, and current job or career information.

Target Population / Response Rate – Elementary Education

	OSU Degree Received:		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of graduates (<i>n</i>)	122	90	212
Number of survey respondents (<i>n</i>)	19	14	33
Response rate	15.6	15.6	15.6

1. Since graduating from OSU, how would you describe your activity? (This item was "mark all that apply")	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Not engaged in paid employment, nor enrolled in graduate or professional school	0	0.0	0	0.0
Enrolled in graduate or professional school	3	13.0	0	0.0
Employed full-time or part-time	15	65.2	12	85.7
Both employed (other than graduate assistant) and continuing my education	5	21.7	2	14.3
Self-employed	0	0.0	0	0.0

2. Whether or not you are currently employed, in what area is your principal occupation?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Engineering	0	0.0	0	0.0
Computer Science, Programming or Technology	0	0.0	0	0.0
Science, Social Science, or Mathematics	0	0.0	0	0.0
Health or Mental Health	1	5.3	0	0.0
Business or Management	1	5.3	0	0.0
Finance or Accounting	0	0.0	0	0.0
Education, Training, or Library	17	89.5	14	100.0
Legal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Writing, Journalism, or Design	0	0.0	0	0.0
Public Service, Policy, or Politics	0	0.0	0	0.0
Public Relations, Marketing, or Sales	0	0.0	0	0.0
Architecture	0	0.0	0	0.0
Art, Performing, or Athletics	0	0.0	0	0.0
Participating in a volunteer or service program	0	0.0	0	0.0
Serving in the U.S. military	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other occupational area (INSERT FIELD)	0	0.0	0	0.0



Continuing Education

Participants who indicated they were continuing their education responded to the following items.

	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
3. What graduate or professional degree are you pursuing or, if you completed a degree, what degree did you complete? (This item was "mark all that apply")				
Graduate Certificate	2	25.0	0	0.0
Master's	5	62.5	1	100.0
Doctoral	0	0.0	0	0.0
Medical (includes nursing, osteopathy, dental, vet, and more)	0	0.0	0	0.0
Law	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other (INSERT FIELD)	1	12.5	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015	2019
	4. What was the name of your graduate or professional school?	
Kansas State	1	0
National Louis University	1	0
Oklahoma State	1	0
Oklahoma State University	2	0
Teaching Learning and Leadership	0	1
University of Central Oklahoma	1	0

	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
5. How well did your OSU program prepare you for graduate or professional education program?				
Very well	5	71.4	1	100.0
Adequately	2	28.6	0	0.0
Not very well	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not at all	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0



Well-being & Community

6. How connected do you feel to OSU?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very connected	4	21.1	4	30.8
Moderately connected	7	36.8	4	30.8
Somewhat connected	7	36.8	4	30.8
Not very connected	1	5.3	1	7.7

7. Are you regularly in touch with people you met at OSU? (This item was "mark all that apply")	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Yes, with my advisor(s)	0	0.0	1	5.6
Yes, with professors or staff	4	13.3	3	16.7
Yes, with members of my team, club, or sorority/fraternity	8	26.7	1	5.6
Yes, with classmates/friends I met at OSU	16	53.3	12	66.7
No	2	6.7	1	5.6

8. How much has your overall quality of life been enhanced by your Oklahoma State University experience?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Much	16	84.2	10	76.9
Somewhat	3	15.8	2	15.4
Little	0	0.0	0	0.0
None	0	0.0	1	7.7

9. In the past twelve months, how often have you participated in unpaid volunteer work?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
More than once a week	1	5.3	0	0.0
About once a week	0	0.0	2	15.4
About once a month	1	5.3	0	0.0
Every few months	2	10.5	2	15.4
Once or twice in the past year	8	42.1	6	46.2
Not at all	7	36.8	3	23.1



10. How would you change the emphasis OSU placed on these aspects of education and college life?

10a. Making ethical and thoughtful decisions	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	9	47.4	8	61.5
Increase somewhat	6	31.6	2	15.4
Increase a great deal	2	10.5	3	23.1
I don't know	2	10.5	0	0.0

10b. Exploring alternative values, perspectives, and beliefs from around the world	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	5	26.3	6	46.2
Increase somewhat	9	47.4	3	23.1
Increase a great deal	4	21.1	4	30.8
I don't know	1	5.3	0	0.0

10c. Improving written and oral communication skills	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	10	50.0	7	53.8
Increase somewhat	7	35.0	3	23.1
Increase a great deal	3	15.0	3	23.1
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0



10d. Improving ability to think critically (analytically and logically)	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	6	31.6	6	46.2
Increase somewhat	10	52.6	4	30.8
Increase a great deal	3	15.8	3	23.1
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0

10e. Ability to interact positively with people who are different from you	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	9	47.4	4	30.8
Increase somewhat	4	21.1	4	30.8
Increase a great deal	6	31.6	5	38.5
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0

10f. Developing good health habits and physical fitness	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	1	7.7
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	1	7.7
Keep about the same	9	56.3	6	46.2
Increase somewhat	4	25.0	4	30.8
Increase a great deal	3	18.8	1	7.7
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0



Academic Satisfaction

11. Please rate your degree of satisfaction with each of the following items:

11a. The quality of teaching at OSU	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	8	42.1	8	66.7
Satisfied	11	57.9	4	33.3
Neutral	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11b. Availability of courses needed for your degree program	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	9	47.4	10	83.3
Satisfied	10	52.6	1	8.3
Neutral	0	0.0	1	8.3
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11c. OSU academic facilities (e.g. classrooms, labs, buildings, etc.)	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	8	42.1	6	50.0
Satisfied	11	57.9	4	33.3
Neutral	0	0.0	2	16.7
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0



11d. OSU academic advising	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	8	42.1	5	41.7
Satisfied	6	31.6	5	41.7
Neutral	4	21.1	2	16.7
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	1	5.3	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11e. Preparation to handle non-career related goals (e.g. family, finances, etc.)	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	3	15.8	0	0.0
Satisfied	2	10.5	7	58.3
Neutral	8	42.1	4	33.3
Dissatisfied	4	21.1	1	8.3
Very Dissatisfied	2	10.5	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11f. Availability of internship/practicum experiences	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	10	52.6	6	50.0
Satisfied	6	31.6	4	33.3
Neutral	2	10.5	2	16.7
Dissatisfied	1	5.3	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11g. Overall education at OSU	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	13	68.4	10	83.3
Satisfied	6	31.6	1	8.3
Neutral	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	8.3
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0



12. If you could start over, would you still choose to attend Oklahoma State University?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Definitely yes	16	84.2	9	75.0
Probably yes	3	15.8	2	16.7
Uncertain	0	0.0	1	8.3
Probably no	0	0.0	0	0.0
Definitely no	0	0.0	0	0.0

Career Reflection

Participants who indicated they were employed responded to the following items.

13. How closely is your job related to your field of study?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Not related	1	5.6	0	0.0
Somewhat related	3	16.7	0	0.0
Directly related	14	77.8	11	100.0

14. How well did OSU prepare you for meaningful employment?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very well	11	61.1	9	81.8
Adequately	7	38.9	2	18.2
Not very well	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not at all	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

15. Overall, how satisfied are you with your career?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Very Satisfied	12	66.7	8	72.7
Satisfied	5	27.8	2	18.2
Neutral	1	5.6	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	9.1



Current Job or Career

16. Are you employed full-time (on average 30 hours or more per week) or part-time (on average less than 30 hours per week)?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Full-time	17	94.4	10	90.1
Part-time	1	5.6	1	9.1

17. How long did it take to find your first employment after graduating from OSU?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Employed by graduation	9	50.0	10	90.9
3 months after graduation	8	44.4	1	9.1
6 months after graduation	1	5.6	0	0.0
9 months after graduation	0	0.0	0	0.0
1 year after graduation	0	0.0	0	0.0
over 1 year after graduation	0	0.0	0	0.0

18. What is your official job title?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
1st grade teacher	0		1	
2nd grade teacher	1		2	
3rd Grade Teacher	1		0	
4th Grade Teacher	1		0	
6th Grade Science Teacher	0		1	
Behavior Specialist	1		0	
Educator	1		0	
Elementary School Teacher	2		2	
Middle School Teacher	1		0	
Middle School teacher and coach	0		1	
Physical Education Teacher	1		0	
Registered Nurse	1		0	
Special Admissions Coordinator	1		0	
Teacher	7		4	



19. What is the name of your current employer? Please include full name (no abbreviations). ¹
Broken arrow public schools
Chicago Public Schools
Collin College
Collinsville Public Schools
Connect Co-op
Coyle Public Schools
E.M. Trout Elementary School
Enid Public Schools
Frisco Independent School District
Jenks Public Schools
Lewisville Independent School District
Moore Public Schools
Mustang Public Schools
Oklahoma Heart Hospital
Owasso Public Schools
Ponca city public schools
St. John Catholic School
Stillwater Public Schools
True Velocity
Tulsa Public Schools
Walters Public Schools
Yale Public Schools

¹Current Employer is presented exactly as reported by survey respondents.



20. Which of the following best describes your employer?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
A corporation, partnership, or private business	1	5.6	0	0.0
Military	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other governmental entity	2	11.1	0	0.0
Charity or other nonprofit entity	0	0.0	0	0.0
Educational institution	14	77.8	11	100.0
Other	1	5.6	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

21. Does your job require: (This item was "mark all that apply")	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Technology skills	16	15.1	9	12.2
Conducting research	4	3.8	3	4.1
Extensive training	8	7.5	10	13.5
Math skills	13	12.3	9	12.2
Problem solving/analytic reasoning	13	12.3	10	13.5
Speaking to a group	14	13.2	10	13.5
Use of specialized machinery	2	1.9	1	1.4
Use of specialized software	7	6.6	5	6.8
Working with a diverse group of people	17	16.0	9	12.2
Writing reports, memos, papers, publications, etc.	12	11.3	8	10.8

22. What is your approximate total annual salary (including bonuses), before taxes?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Less than \$15,000	1	5.6	0	0.0
\$15,000 but less than \$25,000	0	0.0	1	9.1
\$25,000 but less than \$35,000	1	5.6	3	27.3
\$35,000 but less than \$45,000	9	50.0	7	63.6
\$45,000 but less than \$55,000	3	16.7	0	0.0
\$55,000 but less than \$65,000	3	16.7	0	0.0
\$65,000 but less than \$75,000	1	5.6	0	0.0
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$100,000 but less than \$125,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$125,000 but less than \$150,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Over \$150,000	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0



Demographics

23. Which OSU campus do you most identify with?	2015		2019	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Stillwater	17	89.5	8	72.7
Tulsa	1	5.3	1	9.1
Equally Stillwater or Tulsa	1	5.3	2	18.2
Online	0	0.0	0	0.0

24. In which country do you currently reside?	2015	2019
	United States of America	17

24a. In which state do you currently reside?	2015	2019
	IL	1
ME	1	0
OK*	7	4
OK-OKC	1	0
OK-STW	3	4
OK-TUL	0	3
TX	4	0

*1 respondent did not provide a valid Oklahoma zip code and were therefore added to the general Oklahoma count.



Overall

25. What could OSU have done to better serve you?
After graduation there could have been more connection. I have taught in Stillwater for 6 years and never been contacted by OSU
Better parking to get to classes.
Cannot think of anything at this time.
Having an emphasis on teaching small groups.
I did my student teaching overseas and we were left to our own devices with very little planning and resources provided by OSU. It was a bit of a disaster.
I feel OSU is already making positive changes since I left. Both my undergrad and masters programs got revamped right after I went through the programs to make them more meaningful and more orderly. I guess really the only flaw I see with OSU is the price of tuition being so high for students.
I know a year ago nobody saw COVID coming, but so far the only thing I wish I had known more about was making virtual lessons for my second grade class. I learned a lot in Ed Tech and using D2L but wish I knew more about Google classrooms and resources for teaching digitally. However, once again, I didn't even know I wanted or would ever need that. I'm sure it's taught now.
I love OSU with all my heart and I am extremely proud to be a Cowboy. The education college had very professional professors that I am really grateful for today. Looking back and having 5 years of teaching experience now, there would be a few things I would suggest for OSU. The first is not completing an online portfolio. When I was there, we had extreme stress placed on an online portfolio and I am certain no one actually used that. Schools didn't ask for it, and the work we did do within the portfolio is not something I would show future employers today. I even created my own portfolio filled with my work, passions, management, and other items that I have used in my classroom. Employers want to see experience in a portfolio, not college papers and theologies like the portfolio we completed at OSU; it was a lot of unnecessary stress. The second suggestion I would make is having different curriculum sets for each subject area class to showcase to students how to actually plan a lesson. This is something I felt completely unprepared for and is part of the reason I am obtaining my Master's in Curriculum Instruction. Having curriculum sets (teacher guide, one student book, etc.) would have been extremely helpful in preparing future teachers. The last suggestion I would make is to not require students to write pages and pages of lesson plans. All my lessons I have made have been extremely short and NOT AT ALL like the ones we had to do in college. I understand that there are reasons to require students to do the research and fully understand what they are teaching in a mock lesson plan, but requiring pages is not at all what they will use in a real teaching setting. I think OSU should make lesson planning as authentic as possible to what a real teaching setting would be like... and you can do that by providing real curriculum students can look at to make a mock lesson plan that is not pages long. I also think OSU could incorporate different ways to lesson plan such
I loved OSU and can't think of how I could have been better served. Maybe make sure WiFi is working on the BOB.
I think a course assisting students from rural school systems would have been helpful. A lot of students from rural schools were at the top of their class but never had to learn how to study or even take notes.
I think now with the climate of the world, more recognition in mental health awareness. OSU now has made this more prevalent in the last few years but this would have been helpful when I was in school.
I would have done a few things differently if I could go back and do things over, but I can't think of anything that was really on OSU that they could have done better.
I would have liked to have had a more realistic approach to teaching. I felt like how we learned was far too idealistic about how classroom teaching should be taught. It also seemed to only work in a high level school. I felt pretty unprepared when I started working in an actual classroom.
Provided more information about the benefits of additional courses ie minors and 4+1 options as well as more information and training about maintaining licensure and certifications.
Science of Reading class emphasis, more classroom management/trauma student training, more information about extra certifications in education (I.e Great Expectations, PBIS, etc.)
They were great! I would say they could have test prep classes for those who have to take multiple tests for certifications and such.



26. What additional information would you like OSU to know?
XXXXXX, XXXXX, and XXXXX were the BEST!
Go Pokes!
Great 6 years here.
I am incredibly thankful for my time attending OSU.
I have felt so prepared and so proud that I am a Cowboy Educator! I LOVED my time at OSU and I am currently obtaining my Master's degree in Curriculum Instruction. It is my dream to further my education in obtaining my PhD from OSU and eventually teaching at OSU in the future. Once a Cowboy, always a Cowboy!
I'll bleed orange for life! Go Pokes!
OSU was such a great experience and will always cherish every moment I had.
Still in Stillwater.

