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Oklahoma State University

University Assessment and Testing

2021 OSU Alumni Survey

Survey Report – Art

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 – Art

	OSU Degree Received:		
	2015	**2019**	**Total**
Number of graduates (*n*)	41	51	92
Number of survey respondents (*n*)	13	7	20
Response rate	31.7	13.7	21.7

	2015		2019	
1. Since graduating from OSU, how would you describe your activity? (This item was "mark all that apply")				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Not engaged in paid employment, nor enrolled in graduate or professional school	1	6.3	0	0.0
Enrolled in graduate or professional school	3	18.8	1	14.3
Employed full-time or part-time	8	50.0	5	71.4
Both employed (other than graduate assistant) and continuing my education	1	6.3	0	0.0
Self-employed	3	18.8	1	14.3

	2015		2019	
2. Whether or not you are currently employed, in what area is your principal occupation?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
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	0	0.0	0	0.0
Business or Management	2	15.4	1	14.3
Finance or Accounting	0	0.0	0	0.0
Education, Training, or Library	2	15.4	2	28.6
Legal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Writing, Journalism, or Design	2	15.4	1	14.3
Public Service, Policy, or Politics	0	0.0	0	0.0
Public Relations, Marketing, or Sales	2	15.4	2	28.6
Architecture	0	0.0	0	0.0
Art, Performing, or Athletics	4	30.8	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)	1	7.7	1	14.3

Continuing Education

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

	2015		2019	
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")				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Graduate Certificate	0	0.0	0	0.0
Master's	4	100.0	0	0.0
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)	0	0.0	1	100.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

4. What was the name of your graduate or professional school?		
	2015	2019
Savannah College of Art and Design	0	1
Toulouse Graduate School	1	0
University of Leiden	1	0
Washington University	1	0
Western Governors University	1	0

	2015		2019	
5. How well did your OSU program prepare you for graduate or professional education program?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Very well	3	75.0	0	0.0
Adequately	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not very well	1	25.0	1	100.0
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	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Very connected	2	15.4	0	0.0
Moderately connected	2	15.4	1	14.3
Somewhat connected	4	30.8	5	71.4
Not very connected	5	38.5	1	14.3

7. Are you regularly in touch with people you met at OSU? (This item was "mark all that apply")	2015		2019	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Yes, with my advisor(s)	0	0.0	0	0.0
Yes, with professors or staff	3	16.7	0	0.0
Yes, with members of my team, club, or sorority/fraternity	2	11.1	0	0.0
Yes, with classmates/friends I met at OSU	12	66.7	5	71.4
No	1	5.6	2	28.6

8. How much has your overall quality of life been enhanced by your Oklahoma State University experience?	2015		2019	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Very Much	6	46.2	2	28.6
Somewhat	6	46.2	2	28.6
Little	1	7.7	2	28.6
None	0	0.0	1	14.3

9. In the past twelve months, how often have you participated in unpaid volunteer work?	2015		2019	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
More than once a week	0	0.0	0	0.0
About once a week	0	0.0	0	0.0
About once a month	1	7.7	0	0.0
Every few months	3	23.1	0	0.0
Once or twice in the past year	2	15.4	4	57.1
Not at all	7	53.8	3	42.9

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	
	n	%	*n*	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	1	7.7	0	0.0
Keep about the same	5	38.5	1	14.3
Increase somewhat	3	23.1	1	14.3
Increase a great deal	4	30.8	3	42.9
I don't know	0	0.0	2	28.6

10b. Exploring alternative values, perspectives, and beliefs from around the world	2015		2019	
	n	%	*n*	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	7	53.8	4	57.1
Increase somewhat	2	15.4	0	0.0
Increase a great deal	4	30.8	2	28.6
I don't know	0	0.0	1	14.3

10c. Improving written and oral communication skills	2015		2019	
	n	%	*n*	%
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	1	14.3
Keep about the same	6	46.2	0	0.0
Increase somewhat	3	23.1	1	14.3
Increase a great deal	4	30.8	5	71.4
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
10d. Improving ability to think critically (analytically and logically)				
	n	**%**	*n*	**%**
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
Keep about the same	3	23.1	0	0.0
Increase somewhat	3	23.1	3	42.9
Increase a great deal	7	53.8	4	57.1
I don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
10e. Ability to interact positively with people who are different from you				
	n	**%**	*n*	**%**
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	1	7.7	0	0.0
Keep about the same	4	30.8	1	14.3
Increase somewhat	3	23.1	0	0.0
Increase a great deal	5	38.5	5	71.4
I don't know	0	0.0	1	14.3

	2015		2019	
10f. Developing good health habits and physical fitness				
	n	**%**	*n*	**%**
Reduce a great deal	0	0.0	0	0.0
Reduce somewhat	1	7.7	0	0.0
Keep about the same	6	46.2	2	28.6
Increase somewhat	2	15.4	0	0.0
Increase a great deal	4	30.8	4	57.1
I don't know	0	0.0	1	14.3

Academic Satisfaction

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

11a. The quality of teaching at OSU	2015 n	2015 %	2019 n	2019 %
Very Satisfied	3	23.1	1	14.3
Satisfied	7	53.8	1	14.3
Neutral	2	15.4	2	28.6
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	14.3
Very Dissatisfied	1	7.7	2	28.6
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11b. Availability of courses needed for your degree program	2015 n	2015 %	2019 n	2019 %
Very Satisfied	3	23.1	0	0.0
Satisfied	6	46.2	1	14.3
Neutral	2	15.4	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	1	7.7	5	71.4
Very Dissatisfied	1	7.7	1	14.3
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

11c. OSU academic facilities (e.g. classrooms, labs, buildings, etc.)	2015 n	2015 %	2019 n	2019 %
Very Satisfied	3	23.1	0	0.0
Satisfied	8	61.5	2	28.6
Neutral	1	7.7	3	42.9
Dissatisfied	1	7.7	1	14.3
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	14.3
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
11d. OSU academic advising				
	_n_	_%_	_n_	_%_
Very Satisfied	2	15.4	0	0.0
Satisfied	5	38.5	4	57.1
Neutral	5	38.5	1	14.3
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	14.3
Very Dissatisfied	1	7.7	1	14.3
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
11e. Preparation to handle non-career related goals (e.g. family, finances, etc.)				
	_n_	_%_	_n_	_%_
Very Satisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Satisfied	3	23.1	1	14.3
Neutral	5	38.5	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	1	7.7	1	14.3
Very Dissatisfied	4	30.8	4	57.1
Not applicable	0	0.0	1	14.3

	2015		2019	
11f. Availability of internship/practicum experiences				
	_n_	_%_	_n_	_%_
Very Satisfied	2	15.4	0	0.0
Satisfied	1	7.7	2	33.3
Neutral	5	38.5	0	0.0
Dissatisfied	1	7.7	1	16.7
Very Dissatisfied	3	23.1	3	50.0
Not applicable	1	7.7	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
11g. Overall education at OSU				
	_n_	_%_	_n_	_%_
Very Satisfied	2	15.4	0	0.0
Satisfied	8	61.5	3	42.9
Neutral	1	7.7	2	28.6
Dissatisfied	2	15.4	1	14.3
Very Dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	14.3
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
12. If you could start over, would you still choose to attend Oklahoma State University?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Definitely yes	4	30.8	0	0.0
Probably yes	4	30.8	3	42.9
Uncertain	2	15.4	2	28.6
Probably no	2	15.4	1	14.3
Definitely no	1	7.7	1	14.3

Career Reflection

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

	2015		2019	
13. How closely is your job related to your field of study?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Not related	3	30.0	1	16.7
Somewhat related	2	20.0	1	16.7
Directly related	5	50.0	4	66.7

	2015		2019	
14. How well did OSU prepare you for meaningful employment?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Very well	2	20.0	1	16.7
Adequately	6	60.0	1	16.7
Not very well	1	10.0	3	50.0
Not at all	1	10.0	1	16.7
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	0	0.0

	2015		2019	
15. Overall, how satisfied are you with your career?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Very Satisfied	4	40.0	2	33.3
Satisfied	3	30.0	2	33.3
Neutral	2	20.0	2	33.3
Dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Very Dissatisfied	1	10.0	0	0.0

Current Job or Career

	2015		2019	
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)?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Full-time	9	100.0	5	83.3
Part-time	0	0.0	1	16.7

	2015		2019	
17. How long did it take to find your first employment after graduating from OSU?				
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Employed by graduation	3	33.3	2	33.3
3 months after graduation	4	44.4	1	16.7
6 months after graduation	0	0.0	1	16.7
9 months after graduation	0	0.0	1	16.7
1 year after graduation	1	11.1	0	0.0
over 1 year after graduation	1	11.1	1	16.7

18. What is your official job title?		
	2015	2019
Art Director	1	0
Art teacher	0	1
Artist	1	0
assistant	0	1
Creative Director	1	0
Digital Illustrator	1	0
Digital Media & Graphics Specialist	0	1
Experience designer (UI/UX designer)	0	1
Head of sales and management	1	0
Marketing Creative Designer	0	1
Self employed	0	1
Service Advisor	1	0
Technical Writer	1	0
UX/UI Designer	1	0

19. What is the name of your current employer? Please include full name (no abbreviations).[1]
Department of Defense Education Activity
Elliott Electric Supply
Epic Charter Schools
Equilibria
Fanatics, INC
Furniture company
Gitwit
InterWorks
Myself
osu
Porsche Oklahoma City
Self-Employed
Smirk New Media

20. Which of the following best describes your employer?	2015		2019	
	n	%	*n*	%
A corporation, partnership, or private business	6	66.7	2	33.3
Military	0	0.0	1	16.7
Other governmental entity	0	0.0	0	0.0
Charity or other nonprofit entity	0	0.0	0	0.0
Educational institution	0	0.0	2	33.3
Other	3	33.3	0	0.0
Prefer not to answer	0	0.0	1	16.7

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

	2015		2019	
21. Does your job require: (This item was "mark all that apply")	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Technology skills	5	13.2	2	9.1
Conducting research	2	5.3	1	4.5
Extensive training	3	7.9	1	4.5
Math skills	0	0.0	0	0.0
Problem solving/analytic reasoning	5	13.2	3	13.6
Speaking to a group	4	10.5	2	9.1
Use of specialized machinery	1	2.6	1	4.5
Use of specialized software	4	10.5	4	18.2
Working with a diverse group of people	8	21.1	6	27.3
Writing reports, memos, papers, publications, etc.	6	15.8	2	9.1

	2015		2019	
22. What is your approximate total annual salary (including bonuses), before taxes?	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Less than $15,000	1	11.1	1	16.7
$15,000 but less than $25,000	1	11.1	1	16.7
$25,000 but less than $35,000	2	22.2	0	0.0
$35,000 but less than $45,000	1	11.1	1	16.7
$45,000 but less than $55,000	1	11.1	3	50.0
$55,000 but less than $65,000	1	11.1	0	0.0
$65,000 but less than $75,000	1	11.1	0	0.0
$75,000 but less than $100,000	1	11.1	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	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*
Stillwater	11	100.0	7	100.0
Tulsa	0	0.0	0	0.0
Equally Stillwater or Tulsa	0	0.0	0	0.0
Online	0	0.0	0	0.0

24. In which country do you currently reside?	2015	2019
India	1	0
United States of America	7	6

24a. In which state do you currently reside?	2015	2019
IL	1	0
MO	1	0
NV	1	0
NC	0	1
ND	0	1
OK	1	0
OK-OKC	1	2
OK-STW	0	1
OK-TUL	2	1

Overall

25. What could OSU have done to better serve you?
Actually explain my program to me. I was a transfer student with no idea what I was doing or how the program worked. Communication was awful, and unfortunately XXXX, who is a lovely human, is a very disorganized advisor. Very disappointing college experience.
Graphic design Program: - Emphasize more soft skills that you need in real-life work. - Encourage more collaboration - Have more focus on real-world problems that you will be solving - Push more problem solving - The program is a little manipulating (teach out of fear) - The program pushed this grinding culture and staying up late to finish your project and all of that. I don't think this is something we should be teaching. This creates an expectation that the real world is full of all-nighters and grinding out work. I think we should have boundaries in work and in school. No one should be expected to do that. It literally shortens your life expectancy.   Overall I liked the program and it has helped me a lot in my career but I feel like there could have been more to help with real-life work. Like dealing with clients, running meetings, presenting designs, and so on. I also work in a lot of UX/UI design, product design and I didn't learn much from OSU on that.
Had better professors or better response to complaints against them. I legitimately have ptsd episodes from how hard I was worked and the level of exhaustion I experienced.
Have professors keep their emotions in check. Worked with me about what kind of job I wanted. Not removed the program I was going into the year I got approved, halfway through my degree.
I did not feel connected with my advisors, at all. I felt like they were guessing with what classes would be best, and there were surprises at the end that I didn't have enough hours. I ended up walking in May, but still took a May class and summer course to complete my degree.
I will start by saying that my experiences with courses outside of the graphic design department were overall positive. Within the graphic design department however, is a very different story. The graphic design department has little structure or organization, and what little exists is not benefitting its students whatsoever, and that is putting it mildly. When students cannot feel safe or trusting within the walls of the graphic design classrooms they cannot learn, let alone continue the education they are paying thousands of dollars to pursue. There needs to either be a review process for current staff or a deep vetting of professors before they are brought into this department, because the current professors spent years verbally abusing and emotionally manipulating their students rather than educating them, leading to multiple of them having mental, physical, and/or emotional health issues. At the very least, a classroom should be a safe space for students to come together and feel free to explore new ideas, which is something I rarely felt in my years at OSU. If I can give one recommendation it is that this department needs, dare I say desperately needs, to be restructured. The new structure should include more tech-driven design applications, as this is the way the world is moving, rather than just focusing on print design. There also needs to be clear communication, realistic expectations (that are clearly stated from the beginning of each project), and constructive (and I cannot stress this enough) feedback rather than the constant tearing down of students. Bullying and student torture (i.e. encouraging the lack of basic human functions like sleeping and eating so that projects can be completed) should not be normalized within your departments. Your students' well-being should always come first, because they are more than just the tasks they complete, they are people. Education is such a powerful tool and the pursuit of it should not be punished or wasted.
I wish there would have been classes directed specifically towards creative marketing and advertising within either the Marketing Dept. or Art Dept. rather than just the conceptual ideals put forward by the Art Dept.
Longer studio times
More emphasis on art theory and not just image and dates in art history. More opportunities to learn artistic technologies (I learned none and they are very important for any career in art- even fine art and painting). More focus on how to talk about your work in more of an existential sense.
More flexibility in BFA degree plan, studio internship opportunities, and studio job opportunities.
Spend more time teaching us how to run own business/do taxes/and technological advancements. It should be mandatory for art students to take computer science classes to learn basic skills as how to use a camera, photoshop and indesign, etc.
Tuition was increased. Parking is inadequate. Predatory professors are not dealt with.

26. What additional information would you like OSU to know?

A (what seems to be former) professor had an outburst at me because I did not understand the class/assignment. I came into the class TO LEARN because I had no skills in the subject. He never gave any explanations, just what he called "Baby steps", which was nothing, and only critiqued without giving alternate ways of thinking about the subject. When I brought in my project for peer review, he had an outburst about how I was not a graphic designer and I needed to leave his class (rather than telling me what it is I could be doing better, or teaching anything at all). After class he brought me to his office. I can't remember how the conversation started, but I tried to explain to him that I could not understand the topic. To me "It was like Math. Some people can pick it up very easily, but I struggle despite there being rules for it". Apparently he took that as an insult to him, and screamed at me about how it was his favorite class and I needed to leave. I went to the business school and saw an advisor about changing my major. When the advisor asked why, and I told her, she encouraged me to keep on with the degree. I kept with it, but the professor was always humiliating me. I still think about it a lot. His class was absolutely worthless to me, and I struggled in the related classes because he would not teach. Luckily, the other two professors were very kind and would try to find ways to help me understand the topic I struggled with. I'm still no good at that specific topic, but I was made significantly better with their help.

BFA in art needs to have a required business class. Can't run a business without at least knowing the basics. Have the degrees with other art and design intros overlap. The basics of studio and design need to be taught to all art students. These fields overlap in real life so they need to do the same in college.

Check on the graphic design students. That program quite frankly broke many of us. We were spoken down to, expected to not hold jobs when we HAD to to survive, expected to lose sleep. It was terrible.

College prices are high. More needs to happen to help make this affordable. Maybe push scholarships more or at least make an effort to inform the public of options. It's crazy to ask 18yr old kids to take out loans for thousands of dollars without teaching them about finances. I worked 3 jobs while in school and still had a ton of student loans when I graduated. I didn't qualify for any scholarships and it was hard to learn more about scholarship opportunities. Just do more.   There are also a lot of programs and opportunities I didn't take because of money. There should be more to help student financially

I do believe that the quality of an educational experience has a lot to do with what the learner puts into it. OSU provided adequate resources to learn, grow, and develop. I am most thankful for the professors who had and maintained a high bar for quality of both craftsmanship and concept. I feel like I learned the most from my apprenticeships, both through and apart from OSU. Those relationships provided a reality and depth to the career I was pursuing and also greatly impacted my personal development.

I was bullied by one of the professors there and at my exit interview with the dean I mentioned it and they had admitted that they had heard about it but thought it would cause more drama to intervene. So instead of solving a problem or helping a student they decided not to anger the oversensitive professor. The arts program is the arts & sciences ugly sister, no one cares about the program or how it's run.

The art studio professors were amazing! I could not have asked for better!

There are many areas in which OSU excels, graphic design is just not one of them. I will say that on a positive note, XXXXX (XXXXX) and XXXXX (XXXXX) were both exceptional professors whose lessons and teaching methods taught me so much. They gave me hope that professors could genuinely care about their students' understanding of the information and overall well-being. They created learning environments that were sustainable and encouraged collaboration and growth. These are the kind of professors that every department needs! My advice: hire more people like them.