

2023 Freshman Student Exit Survey

Prepared by

Office of Institutional Research & Assessment

 oira.aua.am

 oira@aua.am

March 2024

Contents

Methodology and Background	3
Instrument Design and Timeline	3
Description	4
Background information	5
Highlights of Survey Finding	6
Overall satisfaction	6
Answers to Open-Ended Questions (coded)	8

Methodology and Background

Instrument Design and Timeline

The American University of Armenia (AUA) conducted the 2023 Undergraduate Student Exit Survey from June 20 to July 4, 2023. Typically, this survey is conducted during April the same year. However, in 2023, due to unforeseen events led to a delay in conducting the survey, resulting in a lower response rate and data that may not be fully representative of the entire student population. Therefore, for the 2023 survey, only partial reporting is available, which includes the description of select questions and demographic information. Regrettably, the 2023 survey results will not be incorporated into the longitudinal reporting of the Freshman Student Exit Survey (for internal use only). The delay in conducting the survey and the resulting lower response rate have introduced potential biases and inconsistencies in the dataset, making it challenging to draw accurate and meaningful comparisons over time. While the 2023 survey may not have yielded a full set of results, the data collected still holds value in contributing to the ongoing assessment and improvement of the university's undergraduate programs.

The objectives of the survey were to gather information from freshman students about their first-year experience, academic environment, extracurricular activities, satisfaction with services provided at the university, and expectations for upcoming academic year, as well as to identify areas of possible improvements.

This report describes the methodology used for the survey.

The survey population included 476 freshman students.

An email was sent to all freshman students on June 4 highlighting the importance of the survey, encouraging participation and providing a direct link to the online survey. One reminder email was sent on July 27, 2023.

A total of 133 (27.9%) out of 476 freshman students participated in the survey. The results of 63 partially completed surveys were excluded from the analyses, **thus denoting a response rate of 14.7%**.

Sample, Procedures, Response Rate

Academic Program	Survey recipients	Survey respondents	Percent Completed (%)
Bachelor of Arts in Business (BAB)	168	23	13.7%
Bachelor of Arts in English and Communications (BAEC)	70	10	14.3%
Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Governance (BAPG)	32	7	21.9%
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)	110	15	13.6%
Bachelor of Science in Data Science (BSDS)	72	9	12.5%
Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences (BSES)	24	6	25.0%
Total	476	70	14.7%

Sex	Survey recipients	Survey respondents	Percent Completed (%)
Female	291	49	16.8%
Male	185	21	11.4%
Total	476	70	14.7%

Description

Upon completion of the on-line survey, data was analyzed in SPSS. Descriptive analysis includes frequencies, calculation of mean values and standard deviations for categorical variables with Likert scale type response options.

Background information

Response rate: 14.7%

Program of Respondents

	N	%
Bachelor of Arts in Business (BAB)	21	30.0%
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)	19	27.1%
Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences (BSES)	5	7.1%
Bachelor of Arts in English and Communications (BAEC)	10	14.3%
Bachelor of Science in Data Science (BSDS)	8	11.4%
Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Governance (BAPG)	7	10.0%
Total	70	100.0%

College of Respondents

	N	%
College of Business and Economics (CBE)	23	32.9%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS)	17	24.3%
College of Science and Engineering (CSE)	30	42.9%
Total	70	100.0%

Sex of Respondents

	N	%
Female	48	68.6%
Male	21	30.0%
Missing Values	1	1.4%
Total	70	100.0%

Age of Respondents

	Mean	St. dev.
What is your current age? (N=70)	18.8	0.7

Highlights of Survey Finding

Overall satisfaction

	Good/Excellent	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
How would you rate your overall educational experience during the current academic year? (N=70)	90.0 %	4.1	0.6

	Quite a bit/Very much	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
To what extent did your courses challenge you to do your best work during the current academic year? (N=70)	58.6 %	3.7	0.9

Experience difficulty with the followings:

	Yes	%
Paying tuition (N=70)	26	37.1%
Relating to faculty (N=69)	12	17.4%

Experience difficulty with the followings:

	Yes	%
Stress regarding your studies (N=70)	58	82.9%
Distraction from your studies due to social obligations (N=70)	29	41.4%
Family pressure to earn specific grades (N=70)	13	18.6%

The level of agreement with the following:

	Yes	%
Do you expect to graduate in four years? (N=70)	67	95.7%

Payment options for University education:

	Yes	%
AUA-provided or administered financial aid (N=29)	29	41.4%
Support from parents or relatives (N=59)	59	84.3%
Job (N=5)	5	7.1%
Loan (N=4)	4	5.7%
Other (N=1)	1	1.4%

The level of agreement with the following:

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
I would recommend AUA to prospective undergraduate students (N=70)	81.4%	4.1	0.8
If I could start all over again, I would want to attend AUA (N=70)	91.4%	4.3	0.8

Answers to Open-Ended Questions (coded)¹

What are the three things that you like most about AUA? (Open-ended, Responses coded)			
N	Response option	Count	%²
1	Overall atmosphere	60	85.7%
2	Curriculum	20	28.6%
3	Faculty	30	42.9%
4	Facilities	9	12.9%
5	Extra-curricular activities	16	22.9%
6	Faculty - Student Interaction	27	38.6%
7	Resources	27	38.6%
8	Other	6	8.6%
	Total	70	

What are the three most important things AUA could do to improve the quality of the graduate experience? (Open-ended, Responses coded)			
N	Response option	Count	%
1	Curriculum	29	41.4%
2	Facilities	15	21.4%
3	Faculty	16	22.9%
4	Support Services	15	21.4%
5	Extra-curricular activities	18	25.7%
6	Other	34	48.6%
	Total	70	

¹Codes were determined based on the previous years' surveys.

²The percent is calculated based on the total number of respondents.