

International Experience of Graduating Seniors, 2000

Introduction

A telephone survey of Texas A&M seniors who planned to graduate in 2000 (May, August or December) was conducted in each of the three semesters. A total of 1059 completed surveys were obtained from all students who graduated in those semesters. An attempt was made to reach each student three times on different days and times.

The survey was made up of questions in four areas: General satisfaction with quality of education at TAMU, International experience, Estimated gains in specific areas, and Plans for the future. The results of questions in international experience and gains are presented below.

Table 1. Demographics of Respondents

Gender	Count	%
F	739	45.958
M	869	54.042
Ethnicity	Count	%
Af. Am.	51	3.172
Hisp.	147	9.142
Nat. Am.	7	0.435
Asian/Pac. Is.	47	2.923
Anglo	1344	83.582
Other	12	0.746
College	Count	%
AG	302	18.781
AR	76	4.726
BA	353	21.953
ED	93	5.784
EN	254	15.796
GE	30	1.866
LA	359	22.326
SC	61	3.794
VM	80	4.975

International Experience

Table 2. Have you lived or traveled outside the United States for reasons that were not strictly recreational?

Group	Count	%
No	823	77.715
Yes	236	22.285

Table 2. If "yes," Which of the following describe your foreign experiences?

Group	Count	%
study abroad	89	35.9
other	64	25.8
non-academic program	34	13.7
employment	28	11.3
internship or co-op	18	7.3
field trip	12	4.8
reciprocal exchange	3	1.2
total	248	

Table 3. If "other," please explain:

Group	Count	% of "other"
Lived and worked in other country	23	35.9
Mission or volunteer work	14	21.9
Military service	9	14.1
Education	7	10.9
Visit family and friends	4	6.3
Foreign national	3	4.7
Cultural or athletic tour	3	4.7
Nothing specified	1	1.6
total	64	

Breakdown of international experience by gender

Table 4.

	F	M	total
No	394	429	823
row%	47.9	52.1	100
col%	79.4	76.2	77.7
Yes	102	134	236
row%	43.2	56.8	100
col%	20.6	23.8	22.3
total	496	563	1059
row%	46.8	53.2	100
col%	100	100	100

Figure 1.

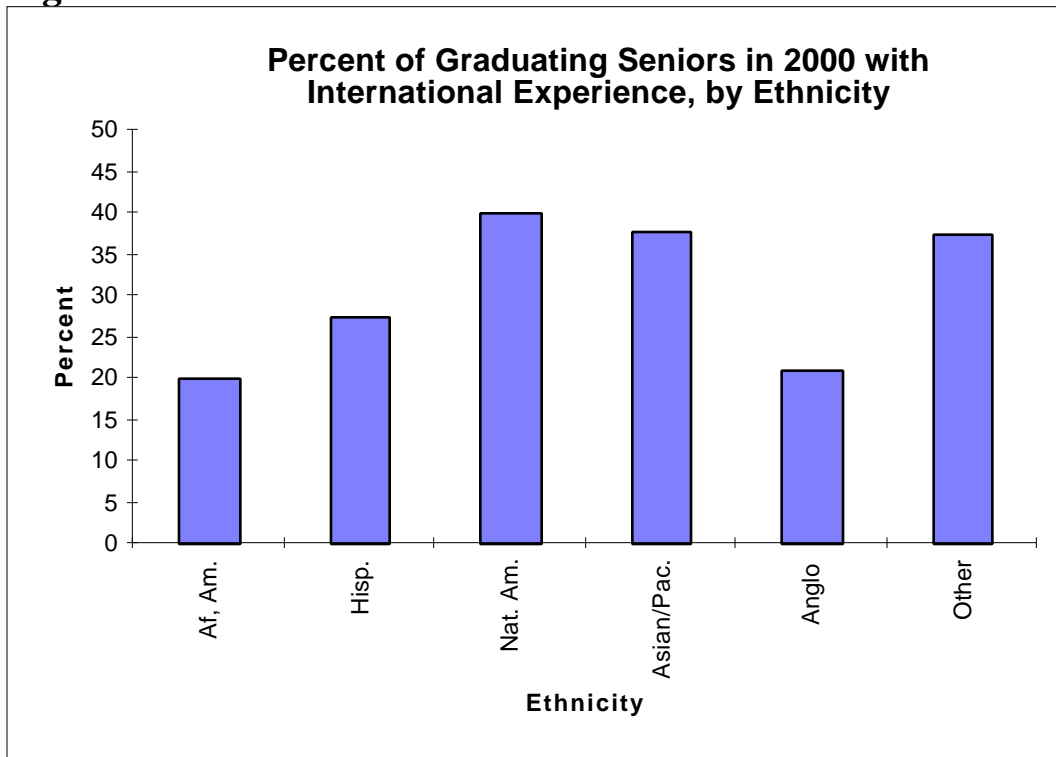


Break down of international experience by ethnicity

Table 5.

	Af. Am.	Hisp.	Nat. Am.	Asian Pac. Is.	Anglo	Other	total
No	24	69	3	18	704	5	823
row%	2.92	8.38	0.365	2.19	85.5	0.608	100
col%	80	72.6	60	62.1	78.9	62.5	77.7
Yes	6	26	2	11	188	3	236
row%	2.54	11.0	0.847	4.66	79.7	1.27	100
col%	20	27.4	40	37.9	21.1	37.5	22.3
total	30	95	5	29	892	8	1059
row%	2.83	8.97	0.472	2.74	84.2	0.755	100
col%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 2.

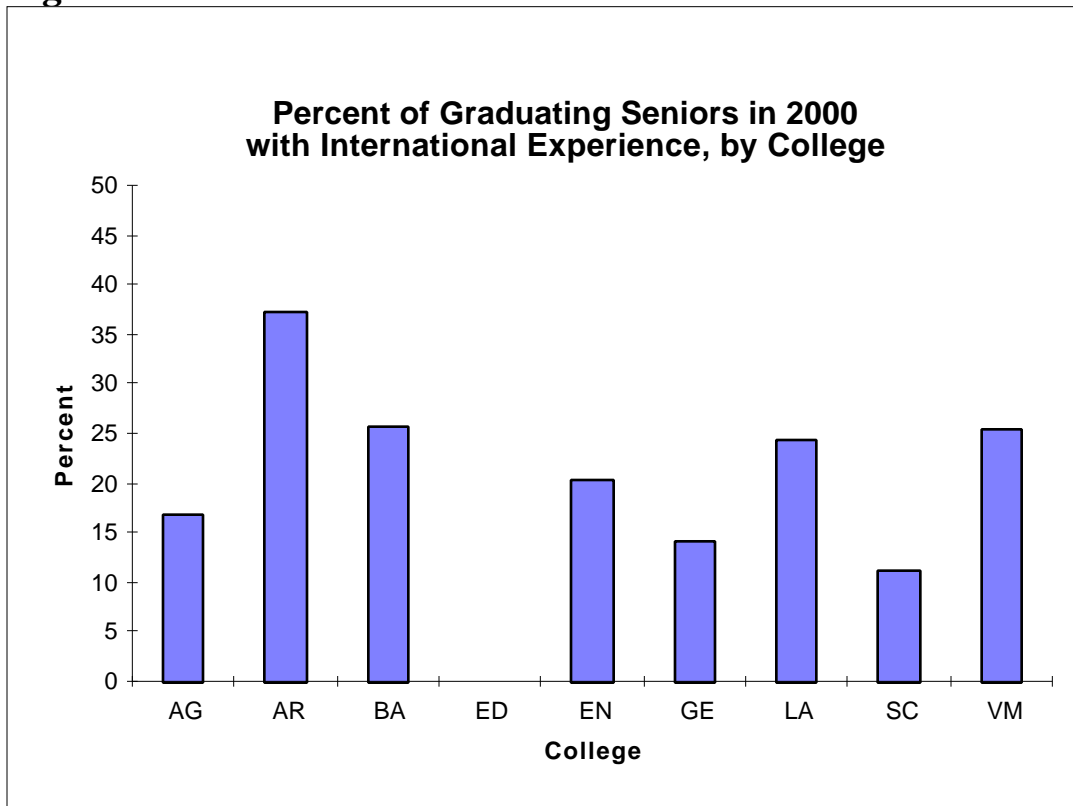


Break down of international experience by college:

Table 6.

	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM	total
No	176	30	182	14	136	18	198	31	38	823
row%	21.4	3.65	22.1	1.70	16.5	2.19	24.1	3.77	4.62	100
col %	83.0	62.5	74.3	100	79.5	85.7	75.6	88.6	74.5	77.7
Yes	36	18	63	0	35	3	64	4	13	236
row%	15.3	7.63	26.7	0	14.8	1.27	27.1	1.69	5.51	100
col%	17.0	37.5	25.7	0	20.5	14.3	24.4	11.4	25.5	22.3
total	212	48	245	14	171	21	262	35	51	1059
row%	20.0	4.53	23.1	1.32	16.1	1.98	24.7	3.31	4.82	100
col%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 3.



Effect on gains of living or traveling outside of The United States.

Students were asked how much they had gained in each of twenty-five academic areas.

The academic areas are presented in Table 7 along with the percent responding "very much" or "quite a bit." The data are broken down by response to the question, "Have you lived or traveled outside the United States for reasons that were not strictly recreational?" In three areas, a significantly greater proportion of students who answered "yes" reported gaining "very much" or "quite a bit." In four areas, those with no international experience reported significantly greater gains. Those areas are indicated with a "*" in Table 7 and Figure 4 below.

Table 7. Reported gains by international experience.

	International Experience	
	No	Yes
Learning on your own, pursuing ideas, and finding information you need.	86%	88%
Developing the ability to get along with different kinds of people.	81%	82%
Using computers and other information technologies.	83%	80%
Understanding yourself, your abilities, interests and personality.	83%	78%
Developing the ability to function as a member of a team.*	84%	78%
Thinking analytically and logically.	83%	78%
Putting ideas together, seeing relationships, similarities, and differences between ideas.	79%	78%
Presenting ideas and information effectively when speaking to others.	78%	76%
Gaining a range of information that may be relevant to a career.	77%	74%
Learning to adapt to change (new technologies, different jobs or personal circumstances, etc.)*	81%	74%
Gaining a broad general education about different fields of knowledge.	64%	68%
Developing your own values and ethical standards.*	74%	67%
Acquiring background and specialization for further education in a professional, scientific or scholarly field.	63%	65%
Acquiring knowledge and skills applicable to a specific job or type of work (i.e., vocational preparation.)	66%	61%
Writing clearly and effectively.	63%	59%
Analyzing quantitative problems (understanding	62%	56%

probabilities, proportions, etc.)		
Developing good health habits and physical fitness.	52%	55%
Understanding new developments in science and technology.	57%	53%
Becoming aware of different philosophies, cultures and ways of life.*	38%	50%
Gaining knowledge about other parts of the world and other people (Asia, Africa, South America, etc.)*	35%	48%
Seeing the importance of history for understanding the present as well as the past.	41%	47%
Understanding the nature of science and experimentation.	52%	46%
Becoming aware of the consequences (benefits, hazards, dangers) of new applications of science and technology.*	50%	42%
Broadening your acquaintance with and enjoyment of literature.	21%	24%
Developing an understanding and enjoyment of art, music and drama.*	17%	23%

Figure 4.

