

International Experience of Graduating Seniors, Spring 2001

Introduction

A telephone survey of Texas A&M seniors who planned to graduate in May of 2001 was conducted in the spring semester. A total of 980 completed surveys were obtained from all students who graduated in May of 2001. 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	470	48.0
M	510	52.0
Ethnicity	Count	%
Af. Am.	18	1.8
Hisp.	97	9.9
Nat. Am.	1	0.1
Asian/Pac. Is.	40	4.1
Anglo	808	82.4
Other	16	1.6
College	Count	%
AG	145	14.8
AR	41	4.2
BA	189	19.3
ED	22	2.2
EN	196	20.0
GE	15	1.5
LA	248	25.3
SC	61	6.2
VM	63	6.4

International Experience

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

Group	Count	%
No	744	76.1
Yes	234	23.9

Note. Two participants declined to answer this question.

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

Group	Count	%
internship or co-op	22	9.4
reciprocal exchange	6	2.6
study abroad	84	35.9
field trip	27	11.5
employment	33	14.1
non-academic program	58	24.8
other	60	25.6
total	290	123.9

Table 3. If "other," please explain:

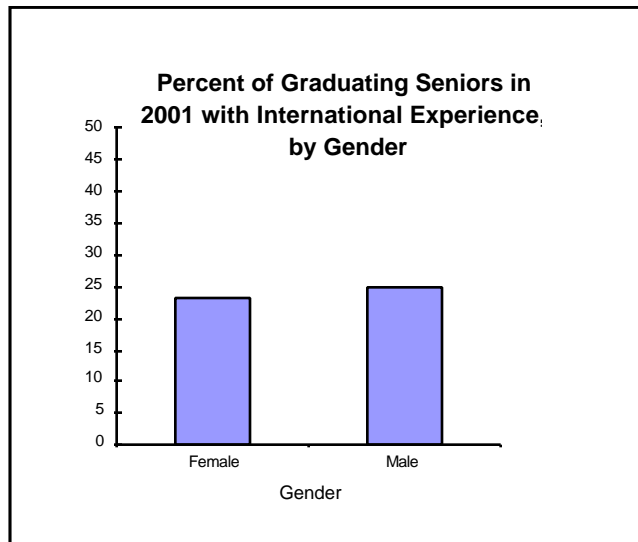
Group	Count	% of "other"
Missionary or volunteer work	15	25.0
Parent(s) in military	14	23.3
Parent(s) living or working outside the U.S.	12	20.0
Residence or foreign national	7	11.7
Military service	6	10.0
Education	2	3.3
Trip with band	2	3.3
Research	1	1.7
Trip with parent	1	1.7
total	60	100.0

Breakdown of international experience by gender

Table 4.

	F	M	total
No	361	383	744
row%	48.5	51.5	100
col%	77.0	75.2	76.1
Yes	108	126	234
row%	46.2	53.8	100
col%	23.0	24.8	23.9
total	469	509	978
row%	46.8	53.2	100
col%	100	100	100

Figure 1.

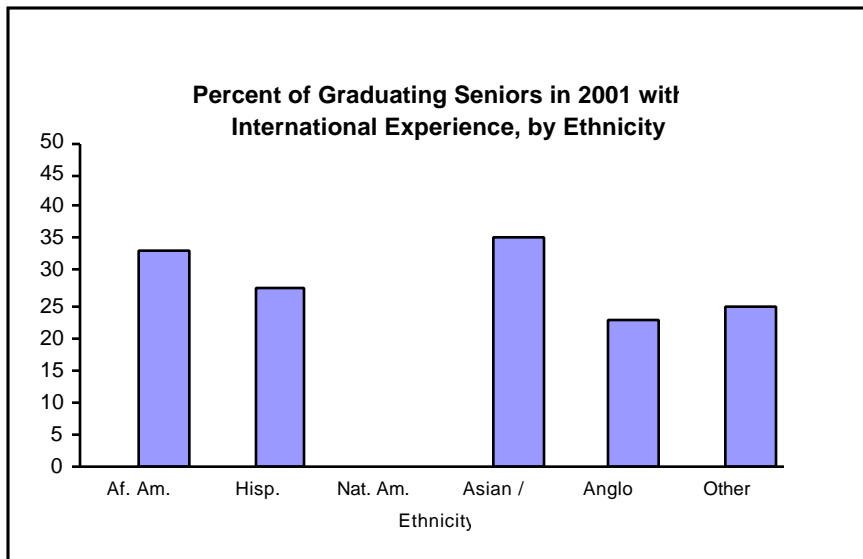


Break down of international experience by ethnicity

Table 5.

	Af. Am.	Hisp.	Nat. Am.	Asian / Pac. Is.	Anglo	Other	total
No	12	69	1	26	624	12	744
row%	1.6	9.3	0.1	3.5	83.9	1.6	100
col%	66.7	71.9	100.0	65.0	77.3	75.0	76.1
Yes	6	27	0	14	183	4	234
row%	2.6	11.5	0.0	6.0	78.2	1.7	100
col%	33.3	28.1	0.0	35.0	22.7	25.0	23.9
total	18	96	1	40	807	16	978
row%	1.8	9.8	0.1	4.1	82.5	1.6	100
col%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 2.

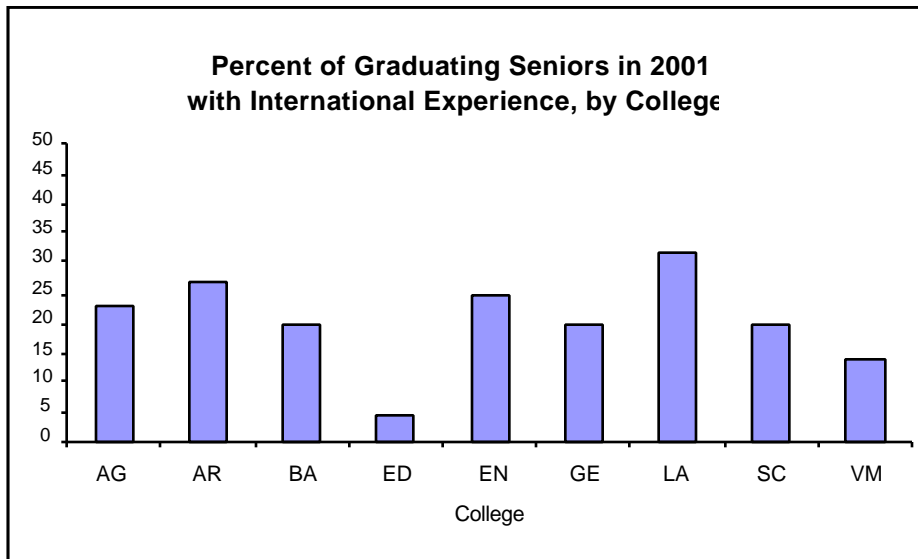


Break down of international experience by college:

Table 6.

	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM	total
No	111	30	151	21	147	12	170	48	54	744
row%	14.9	4.0	20.3	2.8	19.8	1.6	22.8	6.5	7.3	100
col %	77.1	73.2	79.9	95.5	75.0	80.0	68.5	80.0	85.7	76.1
Yes	33	11	38	1	49	3	78	12	9	234
row%	14.1	4.7	16.2	0.4	20.9	1.3	33.3	5.1	3.8	100
col%	22.9	26.8	20.1	4.5	25.0	20.0	31.5	20.0	14.3	23.9
total	144	41	189	22	196	15	248	60	63	978
row%	14.7	4.2	19.3	2.3	20.0	1.5	25.4	6.1	6.4	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 two 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
Acquiring knowledge and skills applicable to a specific job or type of work (i.e., vocational preparation.) *	59.9%	51.5%
Acquiring background and specialization for further education in a professional, scientific or scholarly field.	62.8%	62.7%
Gaining a broad general education about different fields of knowledge.	63.7%	58.4%
Gaining a range of information that may be relevant to a career. *	74.7%	67.4%
Developing an understanding and enjoyment of art, music and drama.	15.6%	18.9%
Broadening your acquaintance with and enjoyment of literature. *	17.9%	26.2%
Seeing the importance of history for understanding the present as well as the past. *	37.0%	45.9%
Gaining knowledge about other parts of the world and other people (Asia, Africa, South America, etc.) *	31.1%	44.6%
Writing clearly and effectively.	56.4%	55.8%
Presenting ideas and information effectively when speaking to others.	75.5%	72.1%
Using computers and other information technologies.	77.4%	74.2%
Becoming aware of different philosophies, cultures and ways of life.	39.0%	40.3%
Developing your own values and ethical standards.	71.1%	67.8%
Understanding yourself, your abilities, interests and personality.	81.0%	77.7%
Developing the ability to get along with different kinds of people.	77.4%	76.0%
Developing the ability to function as a member of a team.	84.4%	79.0%
Developing good health habits and physical fitness.	46.4%	48.5%
Understanding the nature of science and experimentation.	53.4%	51.1%
Understanding new developments in science and technology.	53.6%	48.5%
Becoming aware of the consequences (benefits, hazards, dangers) of new applications of science and technology.	42.4%	39.9%
Thinking analytically and logically.	81.2%	77.3%
Analyzing quantitative problems (understanding probabilities, proportions, etc.)	57.7%	52.8%
Putting ideas together, seeing relationships, similarities, and differences between ideas.	73.2%	76.0%
Learning on your own, pursuing ideas, and finding information you need.	84.1%	86.7%
Learning to adapt to change (new technologies, different jobs or personal circumstances, etc.)	74.3%	76.4%

Figure 4.

Reported Gains by Graduating Seniors Spring 2001, with and without International Experience

In thinking over your experiences in college up to now, please indicate to what extent you feel you have made progress in each of the following respects.

