



AUBURN

MONTGOMERY

**2011-2012
Graduation Survey Results**



October 2012
Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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Executive Summary

Seniors and graduate students are asked to respond to a graduation survey at the end of the semester that they are registered for graduation. In the 2011-2012 academic year (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters), 226 (20.1%) students completed the survey. Of these, a majority (60.2%) were undergraduate students. Business students were over-represented in the sample while Nursing undergraduate and Science graduate students were under-represented.

The majority of undergraduates surveyed began as transfer students, ranging from 55.6% for the school of Business to 87.5% for the School of Nursing. Based on these results, 62.0% of all graduating classes during the survey period started as transfer students. Further exploration of these results could reveal differences in satisfaction levels between first time freshmen and transfers.

While results of the graduation survey should be generalized to the total population with caution, there are several positive points. Of the Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) undergraduate students who anticipated working full-time after graduation, the percentage securing employment at or near the time of graduation hovered around 50.0% for most schools. The School of Business showed the highest percentage of students securing employment at 57.1% percent. The lowest percentage of secured employment was in the School of Education (6.7%) and could be an artifact of certification issues. This could be an area of future exploration.

Almost 60.0% of undergraduates were interested in further education, either in graduate or undergraduate programs, with a fourth of this group already securing acceptance into graduate or professional schools. This means that 15.0% of all seniors, including those who did and did not express interest in graduate education, were accepted into graduate school at the time of graduation. Overall, undergraduate respondents reported being satisfied with how well their undergraduate experiences helped them acquire wide-ranging competencies, such as a broad general education in different fields of knowledge and an ability to think analytically. Of the competencies listed, approximately 80.0% said that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied. Also, almost 90.0% of all AUM graduating seniors were satisfied that their undergraduate experiences challenged them to do their best.

Both undergraduate and graduate program graduates reported being satisfied with their instruction and most experiences that they had in their major. At least 85.0% of undergraduates surveyed were either somewhat or very satisfied that their major field experiences helped them to develop an ability write effectively and to effectively communicate orally. There might be an opportunity for AUM to bolster career advising services in the major field, since fewer undergraduates (48.4% - 90.0%) and graduates (33.3% - 77.1%) reported satisfaction with this component of their experience.

Over 75.0% of undergraduate respondents said that they were either somewhat or very satisfied with their overall experiences at AUM, such as the accessibility of faculty in general, the extent to which campus was free of discrimination, and that the financial investment of attending AUM was worthwhile. Over one-third of graduate level respondents were satisfied with these overall AUM experiences.

When students were asked if they would start over at AUM if they had to do it again, at least two-thirds of the respondents agreed that they would. In the School of Nursing, 90.0% of undergraduate students agreed that they would start over at AUM. When asked if they would recommend AUM to others, over four-fifths of undergraduate respondents and almost 90.0% of graduate students agreed that they would.

Introduction

At the end of each semester, undergraduate and graduate students who have registered for graduation are asked about their post-graduation plans and their experiences in their major and at AUM, in general. In this report, results are aggregated for the academic year (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) and disaggregated by the degree they anticipated receiving. Undergraduate degree-seekers were asked additional questions about their transfer status and their undergraduate experiences.

In 2011-2012, 226 graduating students responded to the survey for a response rate of 20.1%. Of these, 136 (60.2%) were undergraduate students and 90 (39.8%) were graduate students.

| | AUM (N=226) | Business (n=67) | Education (n=57) | Liberal Arts (n=35) | Nursing (n=10) | Sciences (n=54) |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Undergraduate | 136 (60.2%) | 41 (61.2%) | 19 (33.3%) | 29 (82.9%) | 10 (100.0%) | 37 (68.5%) |
| Graduate | *90 (39.8%) | 26 (38.8%) | 38 (66.7%) | 6 (17.1%) | 0 (0.0%) | 17 (31.5%) |

*Three graduate students did not indicate their school.

All schools were represented at the undergraduate level; all schools except for Nursing (whose students are reported by Auburn University) were represented at the graduate level. Business was slightly over-represented and Nursing under-represented among undergraduate responses. Business was over-represented and Sciences under-represented among graduate responses.

| | | Business | Education | Liberal Arts | Nursing | Sciences |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Undergraduate | Enrollment | 24.3% | 13.5% | 17.2% | 14.5% | 27.2% |
| | Survey Response | 30.1% | 14.0% | 21.3% | 7.4% | 27.2% |
| Graduate | Enrollment | 17.4% | 43.4% | 8.3% | 0.0% | 27.7% |
| | Survey Response | 29.9% | 43.7% | 6.9% | 0.0% | 19.5% |

Undergraduate Results

Transfer Status

Of the graduating seniors who answered the survey, most (61.8 %) transferred to AUM after attending another school. This was especially true of students in the School of Nursing. Students who graduated from the School of Business were more likely than those from other schools to start and complete their coursework at AUM (44.4%).

| | AUM (n=123) | Business (n=36) | Education (n=18) | Liberal Arts (n=28) | Nursing (n=8) | Sciences (n=33) |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Started and Completed all Coursework at AUM | 38.2% | 44.4% | 38.9% | 39.3% | 12.5% | 36.4% |
| Transferred to AUM | 61.8% | 55.6% | 61.1% | 60.7% | 87.5% | 63.6% |

Post-graduation Plans

Undergraduate students were asked if they planned on obtaining further education or gaining employment after graduation. A majority of students in each school anticipated working full-time after graduation.

| | AUM (n=136) | Business (n=41) | Education (n=19) | Liberal Arts (n=29) | Nursing (n=10) | Sciences (n=37) |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Full-time Employment | 55.9% | 58.5% | 42.1% | 55.2% | 80.0% | 54.0% |
| Part-time Employment | 1.5% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 3.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Graduate/Professional School | 21.3% | 17.1% | 26.3% | 31.0% | 10.0% | 18.9% |
| Full-time Employment and Additional Education (Unspecified Type) | 1.5% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 3.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Full-time Employment and Additional Undergraduate Education | 1.5% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.7% |
| Full-time Employment and Graduate/Professional School | 16.2% | 14.6% | 31.6% | 6.9% | 10.0% | 18.9% |
| Other | 2.2% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5.4% |

Of the undergraduate students who anticipated being employed full-time after graduation, approximately 50.0% of students from all schools already secured positions (with the exception of graduates from the School of Education with 6.7% having secured positions). Others had been offered positions that they had not yet accepted. Of the students who anticipated attending graduate school, 25.0% were offered admission in programs prior to graduation.

| Employment | AUM (n=115) | Business (n=35) | Education (n=15) | Liberal Arts (n=22) | Nursing (n=9) | Sciences (n=34) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Secured Employment | 49.6% | 57.1% | 6.7% | 54.6% | 55.6% | 55.9% |
| <i>Related to Degree</i> | 64.3% | 75.0% | 100.0% | 41.7% | 80.0% | 61.1% |
| <i>Not Related to Degree</i> | 35.7% | 25.0% | 0.0% | 58.3% | 20.0% | 38.9% |
| Offered Employment (Not Accepted) | 1.7% | 2.9% | 6.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Graduate or Professional School | (n=80) | (n=24) | (n=14) | (n=17) | (n=4) | (n=21) |
| Offered Admission to Graduate Program | 25.0% | 25.0% | 28.6% | 29.4% | 25.0% | 19.1% |

A majority of graduating seniors expressed satisfaction that the university assisted them prepare for their post-graduation goals. Similarly, a majority of graduating seniors were satisfied that their overall experiences at AUM prepared them for their post-graduate goals.

| University Assistance Helped Prepare for Post-Graduate Goals | AUM (n=83) | Business (n=25) | Education (n=13) | Liberal Arts (n=14) | Nursing (n=10) | Sciences (n=21) |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied | 74.7% | 68.0% | 84.6% | 78.6% | 80.0% | 71.4% |
| Overall Experiences at AUM Helped Prepare for Post-Graduate Goals | (n=111) | (n=35) | (n=17) | (n=22) | (n=9) | (n=28) |
| Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied | 84.7% | 80.0% | 82.4% | 90.9% | 88.9% | 85.7% |

General Undergraduate Experiences

Graduating seniors were asked how well their general undergraduate experiences at AUM helped them acquire broad competencies. Most respondents reported that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied.

| Based on what you know now, how satisfied are you that your general undergraduate experiences at AUM helped you to: | AUM (n≈116) | Business (n≈36) | Education (n≈17) | Liberal Arts (n≈24) | Nursing (n≈8) | Sciences (n≈31) |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Acquire new skills and knowledge on own | 96.1% | 97.6% | 94.4% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 91.4% |
| Understand international perspectives | 89.1% | 96.9% | 92.3% | 90.5% | 87.5% | 77.8% |
| Have and awareness of societal issues in today's world | 91.7% | 87.9% | 92.9% | 95.2% | 100.0% | 90.3% |
| Gain a broad general education in different fields of knowledge | 95.2% | 94.9% | 88.9% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 93.9% |
| Develop an appreciation of the arts | 92.6% | 92.6% | 92.9% | 95.7% | 83.3% | 92.0% |
| Use information technology to enhance your intellectual or professional pursuits | 87.2% | 86.8% | 94.1% | 87.0% | 88.9% | 83.3% |
| Develop interpersonal skills | 94.7% | 97.2% | 88.2% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 90.0% |
| Develop an ability to think analytically | 96.0% | 97.4% | 94.7% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 90.9% |
| Challenged you to do your best | 87.7% | 89.8% | 89.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 82.9% |

Major Field Experiences

Seniors responded to a series of questions about their experiences in their major. For all items, the majority of students reported that they were satisfied with their experiences (either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied).

| Based on what you know now, how satisfied are you that your experiences in your major field at AUM: | AUM (n≈123) | Business (n≈34) | Education (n≈17) | Liberal Arts (n≈27) | Nursing (n≈10) | Sciences (n≈35) |
|---|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Helped develop an ability to write effectively | 93.2% | 93.3% | 94.1% | 96.3% | 100.0% | 88.2% |
| Helped develop an ability to effectively communicate orally | 93.3% | 94.1% | 93.8% | 96.4% | 100.0% | 87.5% |
| Provided a well-integrated set of courses | 88.7% | 92.3% | 88.9% | 86.2% | 100.0% | 83.8% |
| Provided high-quality instruction | 89.2% | 94.6% | 83.3% | 92.9% | 90.0% | 83.8% |
| Provided high-quality program advising | 80.5% | 81.1% | 76.5% | 82.1% | 90.0% | 77.8% |
| Provided high-quality career advising | 65.4% | 65.5% | 80.0% | 70.0% | 88.9% | 48.4% |
| Provided opportunity for communication between faculty and students regarding needs and concerns | 88.1% | 91.4% | 88.2% | 88.9% | 100.0% | 81.1% |

Overall AUM Experiences

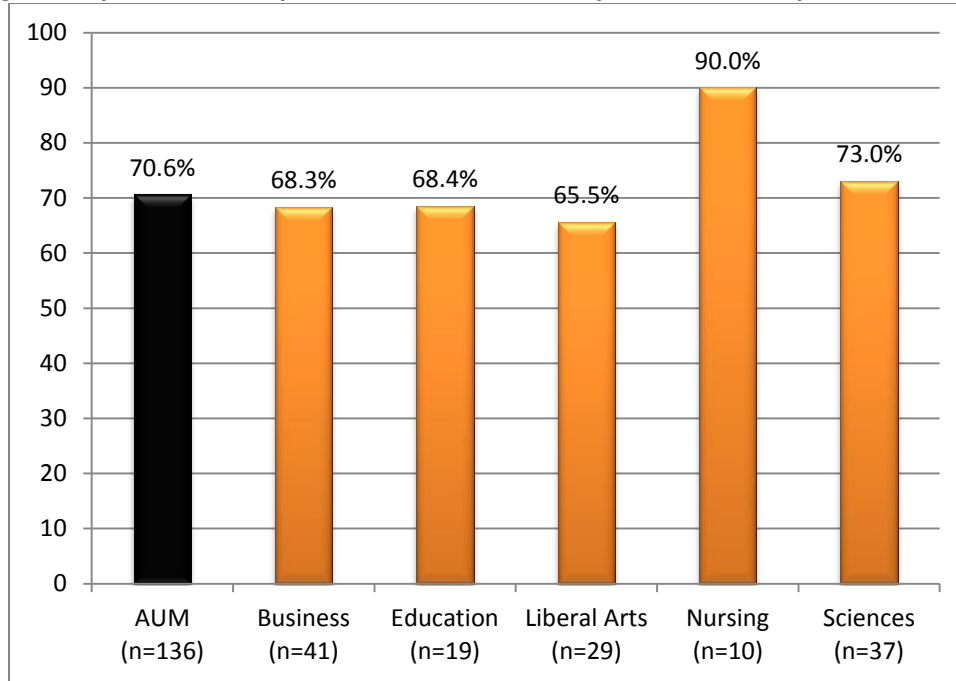
Seniors anticipating graduation were asked to rate their satisfaction with their overall experiences at AUM. Students expressed a high degree of satisfaction (somewhat satisfied or very satisfied) with these experiences.

| Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, please indicate your satisfaction with the following: | AUM (n≈126) | Business (n≈39) | Education (n≈18) | Liberal Arts (n≈25) | Nursing (n≈9) | Sciences (n≈34) |
|---|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| The accessibility of faculty in general | 88.6% | 87.5% | 79.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 83.3% |
| The extent to which the campus environment was free of discrimination | 87.6% | 94.9% | 84.2% | 87.5% | 100.0% | 78.1% |
| Your level of satisfaction with your overall program | 90.2% | 97.6% | 88.9% | 92.6% | 100.0% | 78.4% |
| Your level of satisfaction with AUM, in general | 88.1% | 92.1% | 88.9% | 88.5% | 90.0% | 81.8% |
| That the financial investment was worthwhile | 85.8% | 89.9% | 88.2% | 87.0% | 100.0% | 76.5% |

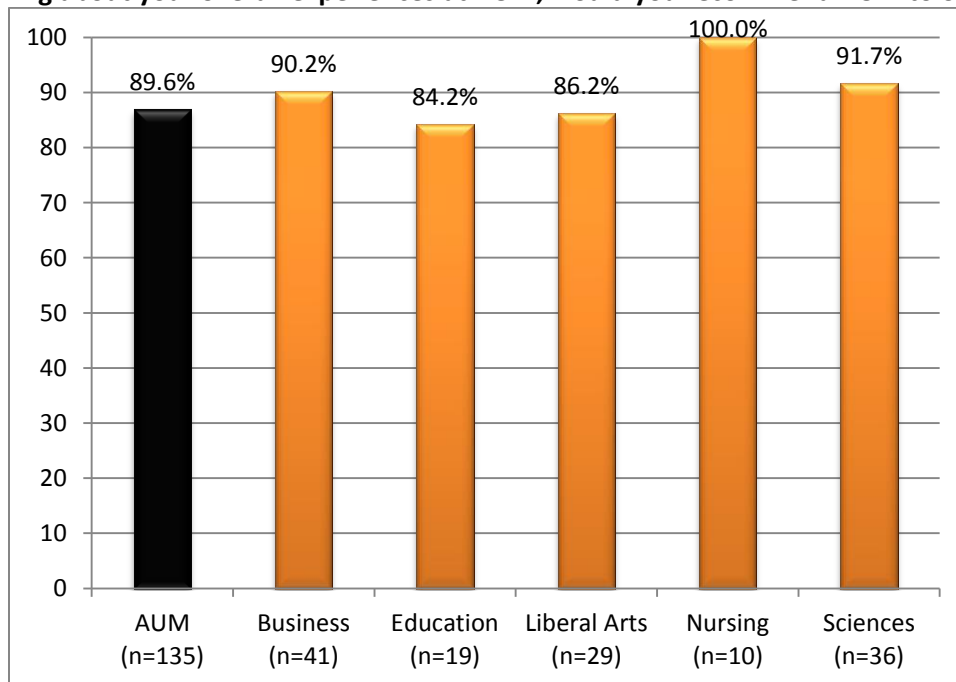
AUM Sentiment

Graduating seniors were asked two questions to determine their sentiment for AUM. One asked if students would attend AUM again if they had to do it again. Almost two-thirds or more of the respondents in all schools said they would. The second question asked if students would recommend AUM to others. Over four-fifths of the respondents in each school agreed that they would recommend AUM.

Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, would you start over if you had to do it again?



Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, would you recommend AUM to others?



Graduate Results

Post-graduation Plans

Graduate students were asked if they planned on obtaining further education or gaining employment after graduation. Over three-fourths of the respondents in each school anticipated working full-time after graduation.

| | AUM (N=90) | Business (n=26) | Education (n=38) | Liberal Arts | Nursing (n=0) | Sciences (n=17) |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Full-time Employment | 81.1% | 88.5% | 86.8% | 50.0% | | 70.6% |
| Additional Graduate/Professional School | 12.2% | 7.7% | 7.9% | 16.7% | | 23.5% |
| Full-time Employment <i>and</i> Additional Graduate/Professional School | 6.7% | 3.9% | 5.3% | 33.3% | | 5.9% |

Of the students who anticipated being employed full-time after graduation, most had already secured positions (with the exception of graduates from the School of Education). Of the students who anticipated attending graduate school, many were offered admission in programs prior to graduation.

| Employment | AUM (n=85) | Business (n=25) | Education (n=37) | Liberal Arts (n=5) | Nursing (n=0) | Sciences (n=16) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Secured Employment | 63.5% | 68.0% | 48.7% | 80.0% | | 81.3% |
| <i>Related to Degree</i> | 81.5% | 64.7% | 100.0% | 75.0% | | 84.6% |
| <i>Not Related to Degree</i> | 18.5% | 35.3% | 0.0% | 25.0% | | 15.4% |
| Offered Employment (Not Accepted) | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| Graduate or Professional School | (n=34) | (n=5) | (n=14) | (n=3) | (n=0) | (n=11) |
| Offered Admission to Graduate Program | 17.7% | 20.0% | 21.4% | 0.0% | | 18.2% |

For all schools except Liberal Arts, a majority of graduate level students graduating expressed satisfaction that the university as well as their overall experiences at AUM assisted them prepare for their post-graduation goals.

| University Assistance Helped Prepare for Post-Graduate Goals | AUM (n=65) | Business (n=14) | Education (n=30) | Liberal Arts (n=6) | Nursing (n=0) | Sciences (n=13) |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied | 73.9% | 78.6% | 80.0% | 33.3% | | 76.9% |
| Overall Experiences at AUM Helped Prepare for Post-Graduate Goals | (n=75) | (n=16) | (n=35) | (n=6) | (n=0) | (n=15) |
| Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied | 80.0% | 93.8% | 82.9% | 50.0% | | 73.3% |

Major Field Experiences

Graduate students responded to a series of questions about their experiences in their major. For most items, the majority of students reported that they were satisfied with their experiences (either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied).

| Based on what you know now, how satisfied are you that your experiences in your major field at AUM: | AUM (n≈82) | Business (n≈23) | Education (n≈35) | Liberal Arts (n≈5) | Nursing (n≈0) | Sciences (n≈16) |
|---|------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Helped develop an ability to write effectively | 88.9% | 91.3% | 87.9% | 83.3% | | 87.5% |
| Helped develop an ability to effectively communicate orally | 89.0% | 91.7% | 88.2% | 80.0% | | 87.5% |
| Provided a well-integrated set of courses | 85.4% | 96.2% | 81.1% | 66.7% | | 82.4% |
| Provided high-quality instruction | 89.8% | 92.3% | 88.9% | 83.3% | | 88.2% |
| Provided high-quality program advising | 79.8% | 79.2% | 77.8% | 66.7% | | 87.5% |
| Provided high-quality career advising | 71.2% | 64.7% | 77.1% | 33.3% | | 70.0% |
| Provided opportunity for communication between faculty and students regarding needs and concerns | 89.3% | 100.0% | 86.5% | 66.7% | | 88.2% |

Overall AUM Experiences

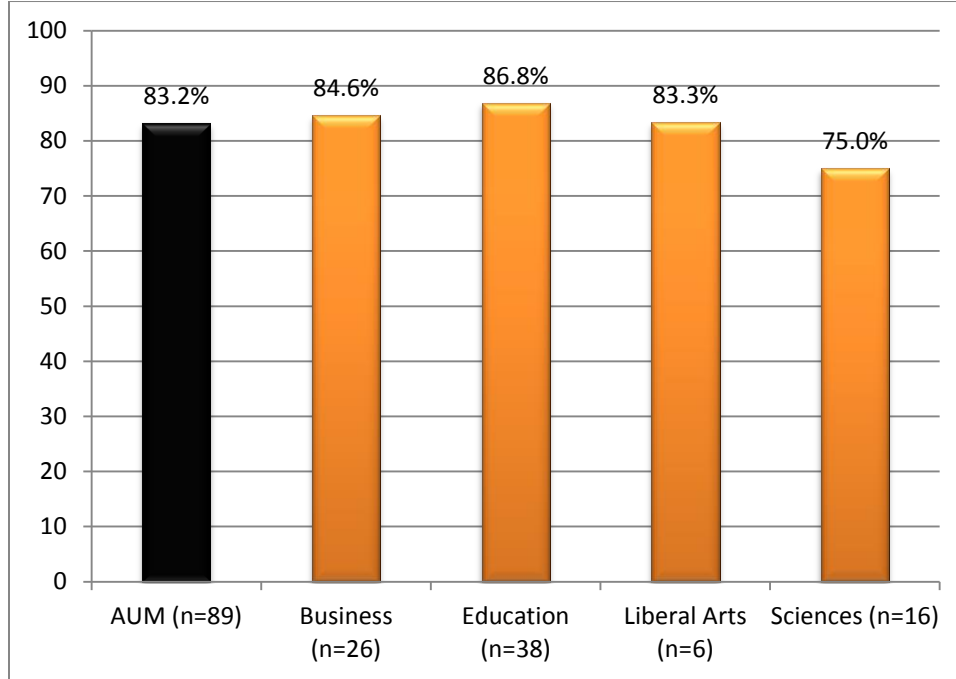
Graduate students were asked to rate their satisfaction with their overall experiences at AUM. They expressed a high degree of satisfaction (somewhat satisfied or very satisfied) with these experiences.

| Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, please indicate your satisfaction with the following: | AUM (n≈85) | Business (n≈23) | Education (n≈37) | Liberal Arts (n≈6) | Nursing (n≈0) | Sciences (n≈16) |
|---|------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| The accessibility of faculty in general | 93.6% | 100.0% | 86.8% | 83.3% | | 88.4% |
| The extent to which the campus environment was free of discrimination | 87.5% | 100.0% | 91.7% | 100.0% | | 87.5% |
| Your level of satisfaction with your overall program | 88.8% | 96.0% | 86.8% | 66.7% | | 81.3% |
| Your level of satisfaction with AUM, in general | 84.5% | 92.3% | 91.9% | 66.7% | | 82.4% |
| That the financial investment was worthwhile | 90.9% | 90.9% | 83.8% | 66.7% | | 87.5% |

AUM Sentiment

Graduate students were asked two questions to determine their sentiment for AUM. One asked if students would attend AUM if they had to do it again. Over three-fourths of the respondents in all schools said they would. The second question asked if students would recommend AUM to others. Almost all of the respondents in each school agreed that they would recommend AUM.

Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, would you start over if you had to do it again?



Thinking about your overall experiences at AUM, would you recommend AUM to others?

