

The 2007 Emory College Senior Survey: A Report of Findings Highlights of Findings

*Prepared by
Office of Institutional Research
Emory University*

Findings reported in this study are based on an analysis of survey results for the May 2007 graduating class at Emory College. The total number of respondents was 343, representing a response rate of 33 percent. Data was collected through an online survey between March 21 and April 27, 2007, and analyzed by the Office of Institutional Research.

Eighty-nine percent of respondents ranked their overall academic experience at least a 4 (on a scale of 1 to 5). As with findings from previous years, students were most satisfied with the overall academic experience (4.2) and least satisfied with their residential and social experience (3.6). Over the past five years, ratings have increased continuously for overall academic experience, extracurricular opportunities, and residential and social experiences.

Students continue to report high levels of satisfaction with the quality of instruction (88%) and course content (85%) in the major. Compared to 2006, ratings have increased for availability of advisor, value of information provided by the advisor, and the availability of courses.

In terms of satisfaction with GER requirements, seniors continue to report “exposure to areas of study outside major field(s)” and “taking an advanced seminar” as most meaningful educational experiences. The percentage of students who found the freshman seminar “meaningful” or “very meaningful” has increased from 59% in 2006 to 71% in 2007.

Seniors continue to report high levels of satisfaction with faculty. Ninety-nine percent feel that faculty have provided them with intellectual challenge and stimulation during their years at Emory either “occasionally” or “frequently;” 98 percent received prompt feedback about their academic work, and 94 percent report having had frequent or occasional conversations with faculty outside the classroom.

As in past years, the services receiving the highest satisfaction rankings include library services (90%) and computer services (86%). Students were most dissatisfied with financial aid services and food services. Ratings for most services have remained relatively stable; the only clear trends point to an improvement in financial aid services, services for disabled students, and campus fife-sponsored social activities. Seniors reported the greatest decrease in satisfaction with campus safety.

In the past year, seniors’ satisfaction increased with athletics facilities, laboratory facilities, residential facilities, and the availability of student housing. Trend data show that satisfaction with parking facilities is declining.

In terms of satisfaction with community features, students were most satisfied with opportunities for personal involvement in campus activities/clubs/organizations (83%), lectures (82%), and recreational and intramural athletic opportunities (69%). Similar to findings from the past three years, seniors continue to be least satisfied with student government (35%).

On a scale of 1 to 7, the quality of relationships with faculty was the highest ranked (5.7) while interactions with administrative personnel in various areas of the university were given lower ratings (4.5- 5.5). As with findings from past years, students rated their relationships with faculty higher than their relationships with other students. Since last year, ratings of quality of relationships with administrative personnel have improved in all areas. The largest improvements in rankings can be observed for relationships with administrative staff in the B. Jones Building and administrative support in individual departments and programs.

Involvement in community services and academic organizations remains strong. Eighty-eight percent of the seniors said they had participated in community service or volunteer work while at Emory and 78 percent have participated in academic clubs or organizations. Forty-three percent of the respondents report that have worked on a research project with a faculty member.

Fifty-one percent of seniors indicated “employment” as their principal activity next fall. The trend data suggest a steady upward trend in the number of seniors employed in the fall semester (from 45% in 2003 to 51% in 2007). Forty-one percent reported they would continue their education at a graduate or professional school. Of those who indicated they would attend graduate or professional schools in the coming fall, most will be working toward medical degrees (27%), law degrees (20%), and master’s in arts and sciences (18%). Compared to past years, there is a sharp increase in seniors pursuing other degrees or certificates (from 11% last year to 18% in 2007).

Eighty three percent of respondents believe that Emory was the right choice. This is consistent with data from past graduating cohorts.

When asked whether they had ever considered transferring from Emory, 61 percent of seniors responded they have not considered a transfer. Thirty-four percent have considered a transfer but did not apply to another institution. Five percent have considered transferring from Emory and applied to other colleges or universities. Seniors who had considered transferring from Emory also reported low satisfaction with their financial aid package, their relationships with other students and faculty, their residential and social experience, and mutual respect and good will among students from different backgrounds.