

Essex County College
Office of Institutional Effectiveness,
Planning and Assessment

2024 Graduate Survey Executive Report

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Introduction:

The Essex County College (ECC) Graduate Survey is administered three times a year to recent graduates, by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Assessment (IEPA). Summer 2023 graduates were surveyed in October, 2023, Fall 2023 graduates in February, 2024, and Spring 2024 graduates in June, 2024. Data from all three graduating cohorts were combined for analysis. This year, the Office of IEPA revised the survey to collect data on student demographics and the students' perception on their attainment of learning outcomes. The main goal of the survey is to understand ECC graduates' experience at the school.

Methodology

This survey was distributed electronically via email using Qualtrics, to all students graduating in fiscal year 2024. The survey consists of multiple-choice questions, Likert scale questions, and an open-ended comment section. Graduates (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 only) were asked questions that aligned to ECC's General Education Goals and Competencies. Graduates (Spring 2024 only) were also asked questions that were aligned to the Program Learning Outcomes for their self-reported major. The data from these questions are designed to complement ECC's already existing assessment processes. Questions centered on learning outcomes are analyzed separately and shared with the Annual Assessment Team and the Academic Assessment Advisory Committee (AAAC). This report focuses on the graduates' experiences upon completion of their degree. In total, the survey was sent out to 982 graduates. Responses were received from 162 graduates, yielding a 16% response rate.

Results

The first Likert scale participants were asked to rate the services at ECC on a scale from 'Poor' to 'Excellent':

Table 1

| | Poor | | Below Average | | Average | | Above Average | | Excellent | | Total |
|------------------------|------|----|---------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| Overall ECC Experience | 2 | 1% | 4 | 3% | 31 | 21% | 41 | 27% | 72 | 48% | 150 |
| Academic advisement | 6 | 4% | 11 | 8% | 32 | 22% | 36 | 25% | 60 | 41% | 145 |
| Counseling | 5 | 4% | 5 | 4% | 34 | 25% | 31 | 23% | 60 | 44% | 135 |
| Career Services | 5 | 4% | 3 | 3% | 39 | 33% | 28 | 24% | 43 | 36% | 118 |
| Internship | 5 | 5% | 11 | 11% | 31 | 31% | 23 | 23% | 30 | 30% | 100 |
| Transfer Services | 6 | 5% | 8 | 7% | 29 | 24% | 31 | 26% | 47 | 39% | 121 |

The statement that had the highest rating was the ‘Overall ECC experience’ with 75% of participants rating it ‘Above Average’ or ‘Excellent’. The lowest ranked was the ‘Internship services’ with 16% of participants rating it ‘Below Average’ or ‘Poor’. This is supported by the comments since 36% of comments emphasized a positive experience at ECC and 19% requesting more internships and better career advising.

The survey asks: “Based on your experiences at Essex, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:” With a scale from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The statements and results are in the table below.

Table 2:

| | Strongly Disagree | | Disagree | | Agree | | Strongly Agree | | Total |
|--|-------------------|----|----------|-----|-------|-----|----------------|-----|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| If I were choosing a college again I would choose Essex County College. | 5 | 4% | 7 | 5% | 59 | 42% | 68 | 49% | 139 |
| If I were choosing a major again I would choose the same program from which I graduated. | 2 | 2% | 18 | 13% | 45 | 33% | 70 | 52% | 135 |
| Student Services met my expectations | 5 | 4% | 12 | 9% | 72 | 56% | 39 | 30% | 128 |
| Student clubs met my expectations. | 6 | 7% | 15 | 18% | 43 | 51% | 21 | 25% | 85 |
| There was adequate access to internet. | 9 | 7% | 14 | 10% | 66 | 49% | 46 | 34% | 135 |
| Facility maintenance met expectations | 2 | 2% | 8 | 6% | 71 | 56% | 46 | 36% | 127 |

The statement that participants disagreed with the most was ‘Student Clubs met my expectations’ with 26% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Participants most agreed with the statement ‘Facility maintenance met expectations’ with 92% of participants agreeing or strongly agreeing and the statement ‘If I were choosing a college again, I would choose Essex County College’ with 91% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

A simple qualitative analysis was done on the comments. Of the 162 respondents, only 22% left a comment. Of these comments, 36% emphasized a positive experience at ECC, 19% requested more help and information about internships and for their career, 11% had specific recommendations for their program and 11% requested better and more updated technology.

Conclusion

In conclusion, ECC graduates had an overall positive experience and the college met their expectations. There is room for improvement for internship opportunities, advising and student clubs. This survey will continue to be improved to best serve the assessment needs of ECC. Additionally, ECC has started the process of creating demographic dashboards for all further results to be further reviewed by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and the Office of IEPA.