



2016-17 Senior Survey Results



**UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHWESTERN**
ST. PAUL

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the University of Northwestern (UNW) Senior Survey administered to graduating seniors in December 2016 and May of 2017 as part of the pre-commencement procedures. The survey was completed by 356 (81.6%) students of the graduating classes using an online format .

Data is also provided to show comparison with previous senior classes where available.

Items for the survey were selected by the Assessment Steering Committee with input from a variety of campus offices and committees.

SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC LIFE

Faculty in Major

Seniors were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to faculty in their major field.

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 1. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
Are interested in the welfare of students	3.51	55.4	41.3	2.3	1.0
Are role models of Christian maturity	3.46	49.4	47.8	2.3	0.5
Are professionally competent	3.50	53.5	44.2	1.5	0.8
Are available and accessible	3.37	42.3	52.8	4.6	0.3
Have high, clearly stated expectations for students	3.40	43.2	54.0	2.6	0.3
Evaluate fairly and appropriately	3.33	39.8	53.4	6.3	0.5
Use teaching methods that promote learning	3.36	41.4	54.0	3.9	0.8
Prepare carefully for their courses	3.30	36.9	57.4	4.6	1.0
Are knowledgeable academic advisors	3.38	45.8	48.1	4.6	1.5

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 2. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Faculty are interested in the welfare of students	96.7	98.7	98.5	98.6	97.9
Faculty are available and accessible	95.1	95.7	98.3	96.8	97.4
Faculty are role models of Christian maturity	97.2	97.5	98.0	97.7	99.0
Faculty are professionally competent	97.7	98.0	97.7	98.9	97.7
Faculty evaluate fairly and appropriately	93.2	95.8	97.4	96.3	96.1
Faculty prepare carefully for their courses	94.3	94.7	97.3	98.2	96.4
Faculty have high, clearly stated expectations	97.2	95.5	95.9	96.5	95.3
Faculty use teaching methods that promote learning	95.4	95.7	95.8	97.1	96.9
Faculty are knowledgeable academic advisors	93.9	93.2	94.8	96.0	93.8

SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC LIFE

Academic Major

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 3. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
My major encourages critical thinking	3.47	50.5	46.6	2.6	0.3
Is relevant and appropriate for preparation in my field	3.37	42.4	53.2	3.6	0.8
My major integrates biblical perspectives	3.39	43.4	51.9	4.7	0.0
My major is academically demanding	3.37	42.7	51.4	5.7	0.3

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 4. Percentage who selected “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”

	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009
My major encourages critical thinking	97.1	98.3	96.8	97.3	98.6
Is relevant and appropriate for preparation in my field	95.6	94.7	96.8	95.7	96.4
My major integrates biblical perspectives	95.3	97.4	96.8	96.4	96.7
My major is academically demanding	94.1	95.0	93.8	94.1	96.1

Overall Academic Experience

Table 5. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
Instruction in your major field	3.51	42.3	39.9	11.3	6.2	0.3
Overall quality of instruction	3.39	33.1	50.8	12.3	3.8	0.0
Overall UNW experience	3.37	30.1	51.7	13.6	4.6	0.0

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 6. Percentage who selected “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” excluding “Can't Rate”

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Instruction in your major field	82.2	83.1	87.2	87.6	87.0
Overall quality of instruction	83.9	89.9	89.8	89.1	89.0
Overall UNW experience	81.8	87.2	83.3	88.1	87.0

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Student Life Services

Seniors were asked to rate their satisfaction with student services and community life.

Very Satisfied = 4, Satisfied = 3, Neutral = 2, Dissatisfied = 1, Can't Rate = 0 (not included in Mean Score)

Table 7. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
Attitudes of staff towards students	3.54	46.4	40.2	10.3	3.1	0.0
Registrar's office services	3.39	34.0	53.5	9.7	2.3	0.5
Library services	3.42	35.5	49.9	11.6	1.3	1.8
Campus health services	3.36	23.9	41.6	12.9	3.9	17.7
Counseling services	3.39	19.4	29.8	15.3	3.1	32.4
Academic advising	3.34	25.4	48.2	17.9	8.2	0.3
Sense of community on campus	3.26	18.4	52.9	18.4	9.2	1.0
Leadership opportunities	3.25	15.9	48.2	24.1	3.3	8.5
Student housing facilities	3.21	14.0	53.4	17.9	6.5	8.3
Career services	3.25	15.1	45.9	22.3	7.7	9.0
Services for students with disabilities	3.31	9.5	21.1	17.0	3.3	49.1
Service/volunteer opportunities	3.23	14.1	46.3	27.2	4.6	7.7
Opportunities for study abroad	3.23	13.0	27.6	17.9	2.6	38.9
Food service	3.19	12.1	50.6	24.4	11.8	1.0
Rules for governing student conduct	3.17	9.0	44.1	27.2	19.0	0.8
Services for commuting students	3.16	5.7	28.8	32.6	11.8	21.1

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 8. Percentage who selected "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied", excluding "Can't rate"

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Attitudes of staff towards students	86.6	89.1	89.2	92.6	89.8
Library services	86.9	89.3	89.0	88.4	89.1
Registrar's Office services	87.9	85.6	87.8	90.4	86.9
Academic advising	73.8	76.5	72.7	75.4	78.3
Sense of community on campus	72.0	78.4	70.1	78.2	81.8
Student housing facilities	73.4	74.7	73.6	71.2	68.5
Service/volunteer opportunities	65.5	68.7	69.9	72.6	73.7
Leadership opportunities	70.0	77.9	72.4	75.8	71.3
Career services	67.0	71.4	69.7	75.2	67.1
Campus health services	79.7	78.8	77.0	75.5	75.4
Food service	63.3	68.7	59.0	61.2	59.0
Rules governing student conduct	53.4	62.5	52.5	58.9	60.5
Counseling services	72.7	71.6	72.7	66.4	69.0
Opportunities for study abroad	66.5	69.4	61.6	57.9	56.8
Services for commuting students	43.6	40.6	41.9	50.0	38.3
Services for students with disabilities	60.1	68.7	61.3	67.0	58.2

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Campus Spiritual Life

Very Satisfied = 4, Satisfied = 3, Neutral = 2, Dissatisfied = 1, Can't Rate = 0

Table 9. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Very Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
UNW-sponsored missions experiences	3.28	11.1	28.6	19.3	1.8	39.2
Campus spiritual climate	3.15	9.5	53.2	24.8	11.5	1.0
Other spiritual life experiences on campus	3.15	7.2	40.4	34.4	10.8	7.2
Chapel experiences	3.15	6.4	35.0	30.2	27.4	1.0

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 10. Percentage who selected "Very Satisfied or Satisfied", excluding "Can't rate"

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
UNW-sponsored missions experiences	65.3	67.5	64.9	71.6	65.0
Campus spiritual climate	63.3	77.6	68.4	71.9	75.7
Other spiritual life experiences on campus	51.2	64.3	64.4	69.4	68.4
Chapel experiences	41.9	62.6	65.8	71.3	66.1

Faith Commitment

Strongly Agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Table 11. Mean Score and percentage who selected each option.

	Mean Score	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW	3.37	49.2	40.5	8.2	2.1
UNW was a good spiritual fit for me	3.23	40.8	44.6	11.0	3.6
I am committed to a local church	3.06	38.0	34.4	23.3	4.4
I financially support a Christian ministry/church regularly	2.57	18.7	32.8	35.6	12.8

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 12. Percentage who selected "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
My relationship with God grew during my time at UNW	89.7	91.5	94.1	95.7	94.5
UNW was a good spiritual fit for me	85.4	91.2	87.3	93.6	90.8
I am committed to a local church	72.4	76.8	74.0	77.2	77.7
I financially support a Christian ministry/church regularly	51.5	58.7	58.6	58.7	60.6

SATISFACTION WITH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Spiritual Life Activities

Seniors were asked how frequently they engaged in spiritual life activities.

Table 13. Percentage who selected each option.

	Frequently	Occasionally	Not at All
Attend a local church	65.7	27.3	7.0
Met in an accountability relationship with faculty or staff	13.6	24.4	62.1
Asked for prayer for a specific need in my life	40.9	46.5	12.5
Engaged in daily personal prayer	57.6	33.7	8.7
Maintained daily, personal devotions	28.1	51.2	20.7
Shared my faith with another person	21.3	56.1	22.6
Engaged in a small group for Bible Study or prayer	34.5	37.6	28.0
Met in an accountability relationship with another student	23.4	33.9	42.7
Attended worship/praise events other than UNW chapel	26.2	36.4	37.4

ATTAINMENT OF UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

University Outcomes

Very Much = 5, Much = 4, Average = 3, Little = 2, None = 1

Table 14. Mean score & percentage who selected each option - UNW influence on attaining the outcome..

	Mean	% Very Much	% Much	% Average	% Little	% None
Becoming competent in my major	4.12	34.0	45.8	18.4	1.8	0.0
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.08	32.8	47.2	16.4	2.8	0.8
Cultivating the practice of life-long learning	4.10	34.4	44.6	17.9	2.8	0.3
Developing a Christian worldview	4.10	36.1	43.5	16.6	2.6	1.3
Acquiring knowledge of the Bible and Christian doctrines	4.13	33.3	50.0	13.6	2.3	0.8
Learning to think critically and reason well	4.08	29.0	52.1	17.2	1.3	0.5
Speaking clearly and effectively	4.04	28.6	51.9	15.3	2.8	1.3
Developing ability to work with other people	4.03	30.4	47.3	18.4	2.3	1.5
Realizing my individual aptitudes, talents and gifts	3.99	29.7	44.6	20.8	4.9	0.0
Developing a maturing personal faith in Jesus Christ	4.02	34.1	41.5	18.5	4.4	1.5
Acquiring the skills and knowledge to pursue a career	4.10	31.3	49.6	17.1	2.1	0.0
Expressing ideas clearly in writing	4.00	26.9	51.4	17.6	3.3	0.8
Being open to having my ideas challenged	4.00	27.1	51.2	17.6	2.8	1.3
Developing problem-solving skills	4.02	25.3	55.8	15.1	2.8	1.0
Developing openness to new ideas	3.94	28.4	45.0	20.7	4.3	1.5
Listening in order to understand others' perspectives	4.03	28.0	51.2	17.5	2.1	1.3
Developing the ability to efficiently and effectively perform research	4.00	26.8	49.2	21.9	1.5	0.5
Developing leadership skills	3.95	27.9	47.3	18.7	4.1	2.0
Respecting cultural and ethnic differences	3.72	21.3	42.7	26.0	7.2	2.8
Locating and using information resources in print and non-print formats	4.04	26.7	53.2	17.5	2.1	0.5
Developing a concern for non-believers	3.73	25.1	37.2	26.4	8.5	2.8
Acquiring knowledge of social institutions and human behavior	3.79	22.6	40.5	31.3	4.4	1.3
Developing the ability to use Bible study methodologies effectively	3.73	21.2	41.9	27.6	6.9	2.3
Knowledge of people from difference races/cultures	3.72	21.3	42.7	26.0	7.2	2.8
Developing an appreciation for the arts	3.70	23.8	35.8	28.9	9.2	2.3
Learning to effectively use technology	3.86	21.3	50.5	22.3	4.4	1.5
Developing effective job-seeking skills	4.10	31.3	49.6	17.1	2.1	0.0
Developing a desire to read literature, attend plays, and listen to authors read and discuss their works	3.70	23.8	35.8	28.9	9.2	2.3
Developing principles and practices for maintaining physical health	3.48	17.7	32.8	33.1	12.8	3.6
Applying scientific knowledge	3.52	18.5	34.4	31.3	12.1	3.8
Acquiring knowledge of the historical roots of western civilization	3.42	14.1	33.2	37.1	11.5	4.1
Applying mathematical principles	3.36	12.9	33.8	35.3	12.1	5.9

ATTAINMENT OF UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Comparison with Previous Years

Table 15. Mean scores compared with previous years.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Becoming competent in my major	4.12	4.20	4.30	4.25	4.19
Cultivating the practice of life-long learning	4.10	4.22	4.26	4.24	4.16
Relating the Christian faith to my major field	4.08	4.32	4.26	4.28	4.22
Developing a Christian worldview	4.10	4.31	4.24	4.29	4.31
Acquiring knowledge of the Bible and Christian doctrines	4.13	4.25	4.21	4.27	4.25
Learning to think critically and reason well	4.08	4.13	4.21	4.15	4.12
Speaking clearly and effectively	4.04	4.16	4.20	4.17	4.13
Developing ability to work with other people	4.03	4.21	4.17	4.18	4.11
Realizing my individual aptitudes, talents, and gifts	3.99	4.18	4.16	4.13	4.03
Developing a maturing personal faith in Jesus Christ	4.02	4.20	4.15	4.21	4.22
Acquiring the skills and knowledge to pursue a career	4.10	4.18	4.15	4.13	4.08
Expressing ideas clearly in writing	4.00	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.09
Being open to having my ideas challenged	4.00	4.05	NA	NA	NA
Developing a concern for non-believers	3.73	4.05	3.96	3.90	3.83
Developing problem-solving skills	4.02	4.10	4.11	4.07	4.01
Developing openness to new ideas	3.94	4.09	4.10	4.03	3.99
Listening in order to understand others' perspectives	4.03	4.10	4.10	NA	NA
Developing ability to efficiently and effectively perform research	4.00	4.03	4.05	4.08	4.02
Developing leadership skills	3.95	3.97	4.01	3.94	3.93
Locating/using information resources in print and non-print formats	4.04	3.92	3.98	3.96	3.93
Respecting cultural and ethnic differences	3.72	3.94	3.98	3.84	3.88
Acquiring knowledge of social institutions and human behavior	3.79	3.82	3.86	3.77	3.73
Knowledge of people from different races/cultures	3.72	3.81	3.83	3.66	3.85
Developing an appreciation for the arts	3.70	3.79	3.83	3.77	3.69
Developing the ability to use Bible study methodologies effectively	3.73	3.80	3.85	NA	NA
Learning to effectively use technology	3.86	3.82	3.82	3.79	3.81
Developing effective job-seeking skills	4.10	3.69	3.74	3.63	3.65
Developing principles and practices for maintaining physical health	3.48	3.49	3.63	3.50	3.46
Applying scientific knowledge	3.52	3.64	3.61	3.49	3.48
Acquiring knowledge of the historical roots of western civilization	3.42	3.36	3.56	3.52	3.52
Developing desire to read literature, attend and discuss the arts	3.70	3.62	3.64	NA	NA
Applying mathematical principles	3.36	3.28	3.40	3.33	3.37

PARTICIPATION WHILE ATTENDING UNW

Events Since Entering UNW

Seniors were asked to indicate whether they had participated in events or activities while at UNW.

Table 16. Percentage who responded positively to the item.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2012
Participate in volunteer/service activities	74.6	83.4	83.9	80.3	83.5
Invited to a faculty members home	74.2	78.3	78.9	79.8	80.6
Have a part-time job off-campus	63.9	71.6	70.7	66.0	69.8
Have a part-time job on-campus	67.3	66.8	67.2	63.2	64.0
Utilize the Center for Career Development	59.5	62.4	65.6	67.0	60.9
Utilize the UNW Health Services	66.0	66.8	63.2	60.4	61.2
Participate in an internship for UNW credit	63.7	61.0	59.1	56.5	54.3
Help recruit new students to UNW	50.7	53.1	54.1	56.6	56.7
Get involved in a local off-campus ministry	39.1	55.8	45.9	50.8	48.8
Utilize the UNW Counseling Center	46.0	37.5	42.4	37.8	34.6
Work at least 30 hrs/wk during the school year	35.7	32.0	33.7	30.7	30.4
Participate in an educational cross-cultural experience	23.2	31.2	33.3	29.8	36.0
Took Honors courses	24.6	27.0	21.7	24.0	25.7
Get engaged (previously get married or get engaged)	24.3	30.2	21.3	23.5	33.3
Participate in a UNW-sponsored missions trip	12.0	16.9	15.2	13.6	13.4
Apply for graduate school	19.1	14.1	13.8	15.7	12.6
Graduate with a credit card debt of \$3,000 or more	18.1	15.7	12.9	11.4	11.3
Get married	11.6	15.9	7.9	13.4	NA