

Graduate Student Quality of Life Survey

**Center for Survey Research
Stony Brook University**

**A Report Prepared for the
Graduate Student Organization
Faculty Student Association
The Graduate School
The President's Office**

May, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
SERVICES	2
HOUSING	2
INCOME	2
THE SPOT	2
OVERALL SATISFACTION.....	2
SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES	3
<i>Campus Dining Services.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Student Health Services and Student Health Insurance Office</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>SINC sites</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>University Bookstore, HSC Bookstore, Seawolves' Market place.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Parking and Bus services.....</i>	<i>4</i>
GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING.....	5
SATISFACTION.....	5
COST OF HOUSING.....	6
GRADUATE STUDENT INCOME	6
GRADUATE STUDENT INCOME.....	6
EXPENSES.....	7
GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE – THE SPOT.....	7
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	8
MANDATORY FEES	9
OVERALL REACTIONS TO STONY BROOK	9
METHODOLOGY	9
QUESTIONNAIRE	10
SAMPLE DESIGN AND RESPONSE RATES.....	10
GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS	11

Executive Summary

Overall, the areas of greatest dissatisfaction among Stony Brook graduate students are housing, stipend levels, and on-campus food services. In addition, students living on campus are the most dissatisfied overall. Since on-campus residents are largely international students, this results in greater levels of dissatisfaction among international than domestic students across several areas of life at Stony Brook.

Services

- A bare majority (51%) of graduate students eat at the campus dining services at least once a week and students who use the dining facilities give very mixed ratings to the quality, variety and price of the food; on-campus users of the dining services were somewhat less satisfied than off-campus users.
- There is general satisfaction with the Student Health Services (SHS) including the Infirmary, the Counseling Center and the Pharmacy, although women report somewhat lower levels of satisfaction than do men.
- There is moderate satisfaction with the west campus University Bookstore; there is greater satisfaction with the services provided by the HSC Bookstore.
- Just over 60% of all graduate students park on campus regularly and a majority have difficulty finding a parking space on a regular basis; parking problems are more frequent among on-campus students, roughly 50% of whom own a car (compared to 89% of off-campus students).

Housing

- Students living on campus are much less satisfied with their housing situation than students living off campus; the major complaint among on-campus residents is the condition of their room and poor maintenance. The majority of on campus residents are international students in the engineering and natural sciences, resulting in greater dissatisfaction with housing among those groups.

Income

- 64% of all students receive some form of funding and there is a widespread perception among graduate students that stipends are inadequate to meet a student's needs.
- Among students who receive a stipend, 58% of students in the social sciences and humanities, 34% of engineering students, and 29% of students in the natural sciences rated their income as not very or not at all adequate to meet their needs.
- Stipends are also seen as less adequate among students who live off campus.

The SPOT

- Overall, 51% of students had heard of the SPOT *and* knew where it was located.
- The SPOT is very under-utilized by students; of those who knew about it, 51% visit it about once a semester or less often, and 30% had never visited it.
- The SPOT received mediocre ratings from those who had visited it. The primary problems concern location and atmosphere. 59% of students who had visited it at least once found its atmosphere not very or not at all attractive and a third thought the biggest single improvement would be aesthetic. In addition, 34% found its location and 37% reported that parking was not very or not at all convenient.
- Most students reported that they would be likely to visit the SPOT if it offered cultural events, a coffee bar or tea room, or a full-time snack bar.
- The most popular activities engaged in by graduate students outside of work included working out and dining at a restaurant.

Overall Satisfaction

- Overall, graduate students are only moderately satisfied with their quality of life, with on-campus students expressing lower levels of satisfaction than students who live off-campus.
- When asked if they would re-enroll at Stony Brook, only 35% said that they definitely would. This response varied across disciplines with 51% of Health Science students saying they would compared to 29% of students in the Social Sciences and Humanities and 26% in Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Satisfaction with Services

Campus Dining Services

The campus dining services received mediocre ratings from graduate student users, although the services are used frequently by only about a half of all students. A bare majority (51%) of graduate students eat at the campus dining services at least once a week, roughly a quarter (26%) eat there a few times a semester or less, and 22% never eat there [Q13]. Not surprisingly, the campus dining services are used somewhat more frequently by on-campus residents; 61% eat there at least once a week compared to 43% of off-campus residents. Students who use the dining facilities give mixed ratings to the quality, variety and price of the food. Few students said they were very satisfied with the food quality (16%), although a majority were somewhat satisfied (51%), leaving 32% who were dissatisfied. On-campus users of the dining services were somewhat less satisfied than off-campus users; 40% reported being not very or not at all satisfied with food quality compared to 24% of off campus diners [Q15]. This is problematic given that on-campus residents are the most frequent users of the dining services among graduate students.

Evaluations of the variety of food served on campus were similarly mixed [Q16]. 17% of students who used the dining services were very satisfied with the food variety and an additional 44% were somewhat satisfied, but 37% were not very or not at all satisfied. Once again, levels of dissatisfaction were greatest among on-campus diners; 44% were dissatisfied with the variety of food compared to 30% of off-campus users. There was a widespread perception that the price of food was too expensive among students using the dining services. 34% of users thought prices were much too high and 41% thought they were somewhat too high; only 23% rated pricing as about right. There were relative differences between on and off-campus users, although both groups rated the food as too expensive. Nonetheless, 85% of on-campus diners thought the price of food was about right compared to 66% of off-campus users [Q19].

There was widespread satisfaction with the location of the dining services with 60% of student users rating the locations as very convenient [Q18]. Students also generally found the hours of operation convenient, although only 35% said the hours were very convenient and another 47% said they were somewhat convenient [Q17]. Somewhat fewer on-campus than off-campus residents rated the hours of operation as very convenient (27% vs. 43%).

Student Health Services and Student Health Insurance Office

There is general satisfaction with the Student Health Services (SHS) including the Infirmary, the Counseling Center or the Pharmacy, although women report somewhat lower levels of satisfaction than do men. A bare majority of students have used the services (58%) and most use the services once a semester on average [Q6]. Among users, 38% were very and 36% were somewhat satisfied with the health services, leaving just under a quarter (23%) who were not very or not at all satisfied [Q7]. Dissatisfaction was almost twice as high among female (32%) than male users (16%). The two major problems reported by those dissatisfied with services were a low quality of care including poor diagnosis and long waiting times [Q7a_r]. There was general satisfaction with the hours of operation of the SHS with 29% of users being very satisfied and another 48% being somewhat satisfied [Q8]. Students generally felt that that the \$90 graduate student infirmary fee was either much too high (29%) or somewhat too high (28%), although 40% felt it was about right. International students were more inclined than U.S. students to see the fee as much or somewhat too high (64% vs. 51%) [Q9].

Relatively few students have sought advice from the Health Insurance office (35%) [Q10]. The office was more heavily used by international (42%) than domestic students (28%) and is least heavily used by students in the health sciences (11%). Among those who sought advice, satisfaction levels were moderate with 36% very and 35% somewhat satisfied, leaving 30% not very or not at all satisfied [Q11].

SINC sites

Graduate students use the SINC sites with variable frequency. The sites are most important to engineering students, 46% of whom use a site at least once a week and only 23% of whom have never used one of them. Social science and humanities students are the next most frequent users with 43% using one of the sites at least weekly; they are followed by students in the natural sciences (34% are weekly users). Students in the health sciences are the least frequent users with fully 54% who have never used one of the sites. Moreover, students who live on campus are much more likely to use a site at least once a week (50%) than are students living off campus (28%) [Q4].

University Bookstore, HSC Bookstore, Seawolves' Market place

There is moderate satisfaction with the University Bookstore (UB). West campus students are more likely to have used the bookstore than health science students (75% vs. 54%) [Q1]. Among users, satisfaction with the quality of services is moderate with 30% of users reporting that they were very satisfied and an additional 56% saying they were somewhat satisfied. Very few users said they were dissatisfied. There is greater satisfaction with the services provided by the HSC Bookstore, which is used primarily by students in the Health Sciences. Among those who use the HSC Bookstore, a near majority (46%) are very satisfied, and 37% are somewhat satisfied [Q2]. Just over 50% (54%) of students have shopped at the Seawolves' Marketplace; this decreases to 14% of Health Science students. Among students who use the Seawolves' Marketplace, there is an even split between those who are very (41%) and somewhat satisfied (41%) [Q3].

Parking and Bus services

The Stony Brook bus service is used mainly by those students who live on campus. As expected, the majority of on-campus (84%) and only minority of off-campus residents (26%) have ever used the campus bus service. Among those who use the campus bus service, 44% of campus residents use it every day whereas only 17% of off-campus residents use the service daily [Q21].

Just under three-quarters of all graduate students own a car (72%) and of those about 85% park on campus. This means that just over 60% of all graduate students park on campus regularly. Finding a parking space is difficult, especially for students who live on campus. Of those who own a care and park on campus, 31% report daily problems in finding a parking space, and an additional 35% report having problems at least once a week. Parking problems are more frequent among on-campus students, roughly 50% of whom own a car (compared to 89% of off-campus students). Roughly 46% of on-campus residents (but only 23% of off-campus students) report daily problems in their efforts to find parking [Q66]. Table 1 summarizes levels of satisfaction with various campus services and housing.

Table 1

**General Satisfaction with University Services and Housing:
Service Users Only**

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not very/ not satisf.
Dining Services (78%)			
Food quality [Q15]	16	51	32
<i>On-campus residents</i>	(11)	(49)	(40)
<i>Off-campus residents</i>	(20)	(53)	(24)
Food variety [Q16]	17	44	37
Hours* [Q17]	35	47	15
Location* [Q18]	60	31	7
Health Services			
Infirmary Overall (58%) [Q7]	38	36	23
Infirmary hours [Q8]	29	48	16
Health Insurance Office (34%) [Q11]	36	35	30
Book Store / Store			
West campus (76%) [Q1]	30	56	11
Health Sciences (38%) [Q2]	46	37	6
SeaWolves Marketplace (54%) [Q3]	41	41	13
Housing			
Current Living Situation [Q60]	38	38	23
<i>On-campus residents</i>	(14)	(48)	(38)
<i>Off-campus residents</i>	(58)	(29)	(11)
Overall Quality of Life [Q80]	28	55	16
<i>On-campus residents</i>	(17)	(62)	(19)
<i>Off-campus residents</i>	(36)	(50)	(13)

Note: Entries are percentages. (%) in the first column indicates the percent of students who have ever used the service. * asked about convenience not satisfaction.

Graduate Student Housing

Satisfaction

Overall, students are generally satisfied with their housing situation, although there is markedly greater dissatisfaction among students living on than off campus. Overall, 38% of students were very satisfied with their housing situation and an additional 38% were somewhat satisfied. Among on-campus residents, however, only 14% were very and 48% were somewhat satisfied leaving 38% who were somewhat or very dissatisfied. Students who lived off campus were vastly more satisfied with their housing situation; a majority (58%) were very satisfied and an additional 29% were somewhat satisfied. The majority of on-campus residents are international students in the engineering and natural sciences. Thus, it is not surprising to find that these students express lower levels of satisfaction with their housing situation overall. But when international students and those in engineering and the natural sciences are broken down into those who live on and off campus, it is clear that dissatisfaction is localized among those who live on campus. For example, a sizeable minority (41%) of international students living off campus are very satisfied with their housing but many fewer international students living on campus feel the same way (12%). Similarly, a near majority of engineering students living off

campus are very satisfied (46%) with their housing while only a small percentage of on-campus engineering students report the same level of satisfaction (13%). [Q60].

Among the minority who were not very or not at all satisfied with their current housing situation (23% overall), the major problems included poor maintenance or condition of the accommodations (38%), problems with privacy or housemates (26%), followed by problems with high rent (12%) or a landlord (6%) [Q61, Q61a_r]. As noted, there were more dissatisfied students living on than off campus and their major complaint concerned the condition of their room or poor maintenance (47%); many fewer dissatisfied students living off campus had the same concern (13%). Dissatisfied students living off campus had a broad array of complaints that included difficulties with their landlord (17%), privacy problems (13%), and high rent (17%).

Students were presented with the prospect of renting an apartment in a new on-campus complex containing 4-6 bedroom apartments at a monthly rate of \$730 per room. Only a minority of students said they would be somewhat or very likely to rent a room in such a complex (17%). This ranged from a low of 14% in the natural sciences to a high of 24% in the health sciences [Q62]. And students living on campus were no more likely than students living off campus (18% and 17% respectively) to say they would be very or somewhat willing to rent a room in this new complex. This level of interest is roughly comparable to that found among graduate students interviewed as part of 2001 Graduate Housing survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research (although that study additionally included students in professional master's programs). In that earlier study, 21% of students living on campus said they would be willing to rent a room in a 4-bedroom apartment in a new campus complex for \$750 per month.

Cost of Housing

A sizeable minority of graduate students are dissatisfied with the amount of money they spend on rent each month; this dissatisfaction is found among students living both on and off campus, although levels of dissatisfaction are slightly higher among off campus residents. 43% of on-campus and 36% of off-campus residents feel that the amount they pay on rent is very high, while only 17% of participants find the amount they pay on rent about right [Q59]. Renting a room on-campus costs about \$430 per month, and the lowest priced on-campus housing is available at Chapin apartments where the median rent is \$325 per month. Renting a room in an apartment or house off-campus costs about \$480, while the median rent for off-campus housing is about \$600 per month. Including graduate students who rent houses increases the average off-campus housing cost to \$664 per month [Q58].

Graduate Student Income

Graduate Student Income

The level and existence of graduate student funding varies broadly by discipline and there is a widespread perception among many graduate students that stipends are inadequate to meet a student's need; this view is especially pronounced among students who live off campus and among those in the social sciences and humanities, disciplines in which students receive lower levels of funding on average.

Just under two-thirds of all graduate students receive funds from their departments in the form of a teaching assistantship (TA, 24%), research assistantship (RA, 24%), or graduate assistantship (GA, 6%); an additional 10% receive a scholarship or fellowship. That leaves roughly 25% who do not receive any funding [Q75]. But this varies tremendously by discipline. Almost all students in the natural sciences (96%) receive some form of assistance. At the other extreme, 90% of students in the health sciences received no funding. The majority of social science/humanities (74%) and engineering students (66%) received funds, although this was

lower than in the natural sciences. International students were also more likely to receive funding (81%) than American students (53%), reflecting differences in their field of study.

Funded students can be split roughly into two key groups: students who receive \$1,000 per month or less (37%), and those who receive \$1,100 to \$1,500 (38%) [Q76]. In addition there was a small group (8%) who received more than \$1,500 a month. ¹In addition to differences in the existence of funding across disciplines, there were also clear differences in the stipend amounts across discipline. Among students with funding, levels were lowest in the social sciences and humanities with a median monthly stipend of \$960, a minimum of \$300 and a maximum of \$1,600. This was followed by engineering (a median of \$1,100, from \$500-\$2,500) and the natural sciences (a median of \$1,300, from \$400 to \$3,700).

Overall, there is substantial dissatisfaction with the level of stipends. Just under 40% (39%) of students who are funded find their income not very or not at all adequate to meet their monthly expenses [Q78]. Once again, this perception varies by discipline. Among students who receive a stipend, 58% of students in the social sciences and humanities, 34% of engineering students, and 29% of students in the natural sciences rated their income as not very or not at all adequate to meet their needs. Stipends were more likely to be seen as inadequate by students living off (46%) than on campus (33%). Moreover, among students receiving a stipend there was a widespread perception among a sizeable minority of students in the social sciences and humanities (44%) and engineering (33%) that the allocation of stipends by their department was somewhat or very unfair. This view was shared by only handful of students in the natural sciences (13%).

Expenses

Car Insurance: Approximately 90% of off-campus residents and US students own a car, while this number drops to 50% among on-campus residents and international students [Q63]. For those students who own a car the average annual cost of car insurance is \$1,136. Just under a third (32%) pay between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per year, while 11% pay between \$1,800 and \$2,000 per year. [Q65]. This is a sizeable fraction of annual income for a student receiving a stipend of \$12,000 or less.

Graduate Student Lounge – The SPOT

The SPOT is not uniformly well recognized across campus. While over 80% of social science and humanities students, 79% of natural science students, and 69% of engineering students had heard of the SPOT, only 36% of students in the Health Sciences had heard of it [Q23]. And among those who have heard of the SPOT, only 81% of on-campus students and 70% of off-campus students could identify its location [Q24]. This means that overall, 51% of students had heard of the SPOT *and* knew where it was located.

Moreover, among students who had heard of the SPOT and knew its location, relatively few had visited with any regularity. Overall, between 1 and 2 % said they visited the SPOT at least once a week; 19% visited it more than once a semester. But that left 51% who visited it about once a semester or less often and 30% who have never visited it. The SPOT is clearly being under-utilized. International students (82%) are somewhat more likely than U.S. students (61%) to have patronized the SPOT at least once [Q25].

¹ Roughly 9% of graduate students received a scholarship, fellowship, TA, or an RA that did not provide them with current funds (e.g., they may have had a half position for which they received funds last semester); another 9% refused to list the amount they received.

Among the minority of students who had heard of the SPOT but had never visited it, 71% provided a reason why. The major reasons included family commitments, work and studying (29%), not being on campus on the weekends (27%), poor quality entertainment (15%), and an inconvenient location (12%) [Q26a_r]. Of these, the poor quality of entertainment and the problems with location are most troubling since they suggest that roughly 25% of students might have visited the SPOT if it did not suffer from location difficulties and a poor reputation among students who have never visited it.

Students who reported having visited the SPOT at least once were most likely to have visited the location between the hours of 9 and 11pm [Q27], and had either attended a GSO party (33%), a music performance (29%), or met with friends (19%) on their most recent visit [Q28]. The ratings of the SPOT were mediocre among those who had visited it. The primary problem concerns location and atmosphere. 59% of students who had visited it at least once found its atmosphere not very or not at all attractive [Q29] and a third thought the biggest single improvement would be aesthetic. In addition, 34% found its location and 37% reported that parking was not very or not at all convenient [Q33, Q34]. This concern with parking was most pronounced among off-campus residents (43% compared to 31% of on-campus residents) [Q34]. The SPOT received more positive evaluations for its prices and safety. 59% find its prices somewhat or very affordable [Q30], and 84% feel very or somewhat safe entering or leaving the location [Q31].

Overall, just under a half of all students (49%) regardless of whether or not they know about the SPOT or have visited it feel that subsidizing the SPOT is a very or somewhat important priority for the GSO. But that leaves 35% who think it is not very or not at all important; an additional 14% don't know [Q35].

These comments and rating reflect reactions to the current SPOT operation. There was also broad interest in cultural events tied to students' ethnic or cultural background. 59% of students said they would be somewhat or very likely to attend if these activities were offered. Interest was especially strong among Black and Hispanic (82%) and Asian (65%) students [Q40]. There was greater enthusiasm about instituting a coffee bar or tea room as part of the SPOT's operation. Over 55% of graduate students said they would be very or somewhat likely to visit the SPOT if it housed a coffee bar or tea room [Q37]. 51% of students said they would be very or somewhat likely to visit if the SPOT included a full-time snack bar and 46% said they would be very or somewhat likely to visit if it served mixed drinks [Q38, Q39]. Few students were interested in internet access; only 33% said that would make them very or somewhat likely to visit [Q36].

Most students would prefer to visit the SPOT in the early and late evenings. 31% would be most likely to go to the SPOT between 5-9pm, while another 31% would prefer going in the late evening (after 9pm). Only 2% would prefer to visit in the morning, 14% would go in mid-afternoon, and 6% would be most likely to go to the SPOT after midnight [Q42]. In addition, 32% would prefer to go to the SPOT during weekdays, 30% would prefer to go during weekends, and 24% said they would visit both during the week and on weekends [Q43].

Social Activities

Participants were asked to indicate how often they engage in various social activities during their spare time such as exercising, dining out, or attending a theater, cinema, or cultural event. Graduate students spend a good deal of their spare time working out. 63% of students work out at least once a week [Q50]. Graduate students also eat out quite often; 61% dine out at least once a week [Q44] and this is somewhat more common among off (67%) than on-campus residents (52%). 40% of students go to a café at least once a week [Q45] and 23% visit a bar,

although U.S. students go to a bar (32%) more often than do international students (12%), and off campus students (34%) visit bars more often than on-campus residents (10%) [Q46]. Participation in organized sports is the next most common activity with 20% participating at least once a week; this activity is more popular among international (27%) than U.S. students (15%) and among men (26%) than women (13%) [Q51]. 14% of students go to the movies at least once a week [Q47], 9% attend a sporting event [Q49], and 4% attend a concert [Q48]. More on-campus (38%) than off-campus (14%) residents report never attending a concert.

Mandatory Fees

Overall support of the mandatory semester fees paid by graduate students is mixed, with the technology fee seen as the least acceptable and the much cheaper GSO fee as most acceptable. There is least satisfaction with the \$100 Technology fee, especially among on-campus residents and international students. Overall, 36% of students said it was much too high and 34% said it was somewhat too high. 44% of on-campus residents found it much too high compared to 29% of off-campus residents [Q5]. The \$90 infirmary fee was somewhat better received, although a majority still thought it was too high (29% said much and 28% somewhat too high) [Q9]. Students also felt the \$40 transportation fee was too high (33% said much and 26% somewhat too high) [Q22]. The only fee not seen as too expensive is the \$20.50 GSO fee [Q12]. About 57% of students found the GSO fee “about right.” Not surprisingly, off campus residents were more likely than on-campus resident to rate the transportation fee as too high.

Overall Reactions to Stony Brook

Finally, graduate students evaluated their level of satisfaction with the quality of life at Stony Brook. Overall, graduate students are only moderately satisfied with their quality of life, with on-campus students expressing lower levels of satisfaction than students who live off-campus. A majority are satisfied, but most report being somewhat (55%) as opposed to very satisfied (28%). Specifically, 36% of off-campus students were very satisfied compared to only 17% of on-campus students. Interesting differences in satisfaction levels appear across disciplines, with Health Science students being the most satisfied, and students of Engineering and Applied Sciences being the least satisfied. While 46% of Health Science students reported being very satisfied, this number dropped to 28% for Natural Sciences, 23% for Social Sciences and Humanities, and 18% for Engineering and Applied Sciences [Q80]. Not surprisingly given that most international students live on campus, they were less satisfied than domestic students; 16% of international students reported being very satisfied compared to 37% of U.S. students.

When asked if they would re-enroll at Stony Brook, only 35% said that they definitely would. This response varied across disciplines with 51% of Health Science students saying they would compared to 29% of students in the Social Sciences and Humanities and 26% in Engineering and Applied Sciences. International and on-campus residents were less likely to say they would return to Stony Brook than American students or those living off campus [Q81].

Methodology

The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted telephone interviews with 375 Stony Brook University graduate students. Interviews were conducted between March 28, 2003 and April 16, 2003.

All interviewing was conducted using a CATI based system. Calls were made to students' local home telephone numbers between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. As a means of achieving the highest possible response rate, numbers were called a maximum of 22 times, and all initial

refusals were re-contacted up to two additional times by refusal converters. Interviews averaged approximately 15 minutes in length.

Questionnaire

The study was designed to assess graduate students’ satisfaction with their quality of life at Stony Brook as well as evaluate various resources and services offered to graduate students. The questionnaire included the evaluation of University services, fees, dining services, and campus bus services. The questionnaire also addressed respondents’ social activities, housing accommodations and general satisfaction with Departmental and University life.

Sample Design and Response Rates

The sample was drawn from a list of the current full-time West Campus and Health Science Center graduate students, excluding students in the School of Professional Development. A sample of 646 students was drawn from the total sample of 1500 records provided by the Office of the Registrar. Out of the original sample of 646 records, there were 134 numbers that did not reach a Stony Brook student but instead were disconnected, associated with a business or government office, or were wrong numbers. Of the remaining 512 valid numbers, a total of 375 graduate students completed the survey. This resulted in a response rate of 73%. The vast majority of non-respondents did not refuse but rather were difficult to reach. Of the 512 valid numbers, fewer than 5% refused and 22% could not be interviewed after 22 contact attempts because of answering machines, no answer at the number, a busy signal, or an appointment that could not be completed during the interviewing period. See Table 1 for a further breakdown of these numbers.

**Table 1
Final Telephone Disposition Codes**

Graduate Students	
<u>Valid Numbers</u>	N
	(% of valid)
Completes	375 (73.2%)
Refusals	24 (4.6%)
Non-contact	113 (22%)
Total Valid	512 (100%)
<u>Invalid Numbers</u>	N
	(% of invalid)
Fax or data line	2 (1.5%)
Disconnected, Non-working	43 (32.1%)
Wrong number	89 (66.4%)
Total Invalid	134 (100%)
Invalid out of Total	21%

Graduate Student Survey Participants

Survey participants were graduate students at Stony Brook University. About 37% are in their first year, 26% are in their second year, about 16% are in their third year, 9% are fourth year students, while over 12% are in the 5th year or higher [Q67]. The majority of students were American citizens (55%), although a sizeable minority were not. Students reflected broad ethnic and racial diversity: 45% identified themselves as White, and 39% as Asian. 10% of students identified themselves as either Black, Hispanic, Pacific Islander or Native American [Q73]. For purposes of analysis they are grouped together, but it is important to note that this is a small and diverse category, and care must be used in drawing any conclusions based upon this sample.

The bulk of students were drawn from the sciences and engineering (58%); a minority came from the social sciences and humanities (23%). There are slightly more men than women (56%) in the sample and the median age is 24 [Q69]. The majority (70%) of participants are single, although just over a quarter (28%) are married [Q70]. Overall, 10% are parents [Q71] and of those parents, 38% live with one child, 20% live with two, 23% with three or more, and 18% report living without their children [Q72].

Graduate students are about equally split between on-campus and off-campus residents (45 vs. 55% respectively) [Q52]. However the two groups (on-campus and off-campus residents) are not homogeneous. International students make up the bulk of on-campus residents (79%), whereas the majority (84%) of off-campus residents are U.S. students. Additionally, on-campus residents are drawn mainly from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (56%) as well as Natural Sciences (28%), whereas off-campus students study a mixture of Social Sciences and Humanities (34%), Health Sciences (29%) and Natural Sciences (24%). Thus, on-campus graduate students are dominated by international students in the sciences and engineering, whereas off-campus graduate students are typically U.S. students and are obtaining degrees in a broad range of fields.

Student data obtained from the Office of the Registrar contained the students' field of study, which was merged for analysis into four categories: Social Sciences and Humanities, Natural Sciences, Health Sciences, and Engineering and Applied Sciences (see breakdown of discipline categories in Table 2). All other data was obtained through the participants' responses to the survey questions, including the student ethnicity, gender, whether they reside in campus housing or off-campus, and whether they are U.S. or international students.

Table 2: Discipline Categories of Departments

<i>Department</i>	<i>Discipline</i>
<i>Social Sciences:</i>	Anthropology Economics History Linguistics Multidisciplinary Studies Political Science Psychology Social Sciences Sociology
<i>Humanities:</i>	Africana Studies Art Comparative Studies English European Languages Hispanic Languages Journalism Music Philosophy Religious Studies Romance Languages Theatre Arts Women's Studies Writing Program
<i>Natural Sciences:</i>	Astronomy Biology Chemistry Ecology & Evolution Genetics Marine Sciences Mathematics Molecular & Cell Biology Neurobiology & Behavior Physics
<i>Engineering & Applied Sciences:</i>	Applied Mathematics and Statistics Biomedical Engineering

Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Materials Science & Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Health Sciences

School of Dental Medicine
School of Health Technology &
Management
School of Medicine
School of Nursing
School of Social Welfare

Harriman School

Harriman School of Management
Technology Management
