

2013-2014 LAW STUDENT EXIT SURVEY

Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

Key Findings:

Law students who earned their degrees during the 2013-2014 academic year (AY):

- Indicated high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (87% very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their program (87% very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated less highly their satisfaction with the frequency of class offerings in their program (34% very satisfied or satisfied) and the quality of academic advising in their program (53% very satisfied or satisfied).

Overall, 86% of AY 2013-2014 law degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Eighty-two percent strongly agreed or agreed that they would recommend UMass School of Law - Dartmouth to future law students.



THE SURVEY

As part of the online application for graduation, students are asked to complete an exit survey that asks about their satisfaction with their university experience and their participation in co-curricular activities. Overall, 76 AY 2013-2014 law degree earners responded to the law student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 96.2%)¹. This brief details the principal findings from the survey (note: responses are based on the number of students responding to the relevant survey items).

GENERAL SATISFACTION

- The percentage of AY 2014 law degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”² was:
 - 87% for the overall quality of academic instruction
 - 82% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
 - 76% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
 - 79% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
 - 70% for the availability of financial support for law students
 - 69% for social life on campus

What Law Students Had to Say About Their UMass Law Experience:

“I enjoyed my experience at UMass Law and thank the faculty and staff for all of their support and assistance over the years.”

“I am incredibly satisfied and proud to be a graduate off the first public law school in Massachusetts.”

“I would do it over again in a heart beat.”

CAMPUS SERVICES

- 72% of AY 2014 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed”³ that it was easy to get assistance when they had a problem or question that needed to be resolved.

^{1/} Response rate is approximate due to the inclusion of some students who had a degree confirm date outside of AY 2014 (about 9% of confirmed degree earners who took the survey).

^{2/} Satisfaction rating options were as follows: very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, neither dissatisfied nor satisfied, satisfied, and very satisfied.

^{3/} Agreement rating options were as follows: strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree nor agree, agree, strongly agree.

ACADEMICS

- 74% of AY 2014 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they felt like there was somewhere or someone they could turn to on campus if they were struggling academically.
- 74% of AY 2014 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 87% of AY 2014 law degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience in their program. Comparatively, regarding the frequency of class offerings and the quality of academic advising in their program, 34% and 53%, respectively, were “very satisfied” or “satisfied.”



What Law Students Had to Say About Their UMass Law Experience:

“Attending UMass Law was, hands down, the best decision I have ever made in my life. I wouldn't change a thing.”

“I strongly suggest that next year the law school should include the parking decal fee with the tuition and student fees.”

“I wish there was a little more variety in electives. For example, a prospective student can check off Admiralty and Maritime Law is an area of law they may be interested in practicing in; however, there are no electives in those subjects currently offered...”

“[As a commuter] the largest short coming ...was the course scheduling....Many required/core/foundation courses are offered in the morning, beginning at 9:00 am, while other core/foundation/elective courses are offered in the evening, ending at 9:00 pm of the same day.”

STUDENT LIFE

- 58% of AY 2014 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues.
- 75% of AY 2014 law degree earners participated in student clubs/organizations.
- 64% of AY 2014 law degree earners had an interest in attending campus events or activities.

OVERALL RATING

- 86% of AY 2014 law degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 82% of AY 2014 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass School of Law - Dartmouth to future law students.

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