

2014-2015 LAW STUDENT EXIT SURVEY

Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

Key Findings:

Law students who earned their degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year (AY):

- Indicated high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (88% very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their program (78% very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated less highly their satisfaction with the frequency of class offerings in their program (45% very satisfied or satisfied), received sufficient help with any personal or social issues (60% very satisfied or satisfied), and the quality of academic advising in their program (65% very satisfied or satisfied).

Overall, 82% of AY 2014-2015 law degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Eighty 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, 50 AY 2014-2015 law degree earners responded to the law student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 78.1%)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 2015 law degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”² was:
 - 88% for the overall quality of academic instruction
 - 73% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
 - 67% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
 - 88% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
 - 71% for the availability of financial support for law students
 - 68% for social life on campus

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

“Attending UMass School of Law was a great experience. The part that I enjoyed the most was the fact that I did not feel like I was just a student, I felt like I was part of a family while attending. The faculty, and the LEC always did their best to be there for me.”

“I feel that this experience has prepared me to be a great lawyer.”

“I think UMass is a great place for non-traditional students to obtain an affordable legal education.”

CAMPUS SERVICES

- 84% of AY 2015 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 2015 (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

- 80% of AY 2015 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.
- 71% of AY 2015 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 78% of AY 2015 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, 45% and 65%, respectively, were “very satisfied” or “satisfied.”



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

“My professors have encouraged and cultivated my abilities from day one. I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given and proud to be a future alumni of UMass Law.”

“I liked the smaller evening/weekend classes and that many professors are current or former prosecutors, judges, and attorneys in the real world and not just academics.”

“The Immigration clinic was the best part of my law school career.”

“The students, professors, and staff at the law school made for an excellent and enriching experience.”

STUDENT LIFE

- 60% of AY 2015 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues.
- 60% of AY 2015 law degree earners participated in student clubs/organizations.
- 50% of AY 2015 law degree earners had an interest in attending campus events or activities.

OVERALL RATING

- 82% of AY 2015 law degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 80% of AY 2015 law degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass School of Law - Dartmouth to future law students.

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