



## Miami University Assessment

Assessment Brief #64  
December 9, 2011

# A Look Back at the 2010-2011 Graduates

### **Miami University Graduation Survey**

Miami University conducts a Graduation Survey that asks degree candidates about their experiences while attending Miami and their post-graduation plans. The majority of participants complete the survey during the two months immediately before graduation. The 2010-2011 Graduation Survey included 2,791 bachelor's degree recipients (76.5% response rate). Each of the five academic divisions was proportionally represented by survey participants.

### **Experiences at Miami University**

When asked to rate their entire educational experience at Miami, 95.1% of the students rated it as "Excellent" or "Good." A number of students participated in educationally beneficial activities while at Miami University. For example:

- 39.2% worked on an independent study project.
- 46.3% participated in an internship.
- 36.2% participated in a study abroad program.
- 31.7% worked with a faculty member on a research project. In addition, 10.1% of students presented at a regional or national conference while 9.9% authored or coauthored a publication.

Students also reported participating in a variety of co-curricular activities at Miami.

- 62.0% reported being an active participant in a student organization/club.
- 44.7% reported playing intramural or club sports.
- 56.2% did volunteer work as part of a student organization, club, or fraternity or sorority while 43.2% did volunteer work on their own.

Despite students' involvement in co-curricular activities, many also reported working while attending Miami: 49.4% worked part-time on campus, 30.1% worked part-time off-campus, and 7.7% worked full-time while attending classes.

### **Future Plans**

When asked about their plans for the next fall, 20.7% of participants planned to attend graduate school, 6.2% planned to attend professional school, and 2.9% planned to pursue additional undergraduate study.

The majority of students also planned to work after graduation; 53.9% planned to work full-time in their field of study, 15.1% planned to work full-time outside their field of study, and 9.5% planned to work part-time. Among students who had begun searching for employment, 50.6% had received at least one offer of employment by the time they completed the survey.

### **Upcoming Changes to the Graduation Survey**

The Graduation Survey currently asks students to identify faculty and staff members who made an impact on their learning and development at Miami. CELTUA uses this information to send letters of commendation to these individuals. We are pleased to note that many students provided very detailed explanations of how specific faculty and staff members affected their education and expressed immense gratitude to these individuals. The survey is being updated to include a similar item that asks students to identify any specific activities or experiences that made a positive impact on their learning and development.

Due to increasing requests for information about students' employment after graduation, additional questions about student's post-graduation employment are also being added to the survey.

We hope that these additions will allow departments, programs and offices at Miami to better serve our students' needs. Detailed results, including the results for recipients of a certificate, associate's degree, regional campus bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree, are available on the Office of Institutional Research website at [www.muohio.edu/oir/Surveys](http://www.muohio.edu/oir/Surveys).