



Looking Back . . . Moving Forward

Coppin's 2007 Graduating Class Assesses their Educational Experience

An institution's graduates are its best friends, its most perceptive critics, and its most tangible product. Our graduates know us best and, perhaps, are best equipped to provide the institution with an honest assessment of how we did in meeting their educational needs as students.

In May 2007, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) administered the Program-Completer and Graduating-Student survey to the bachelor's degree graduating class of 2007. Just over fifty-six percent of the graduates responded, and the 193 completed questionnaires provided an excellent snapshot of the graduating class's activities, attitudes and experiences.

While all the survey respondents graduated in the same year, they entered the university at various times. Almost all the graduates (99.5%) have been at Coppin for more than six years. What follows are the significant findings.

- Preparing students for rewarding and productive careers is a central element of the University's mission. Fifty-four percent of the bachelor's degree graduating class of 2007 was gainfully and expeditiously employed. Twenty percent plan to continue working in the same job they had prior to completing their educational program, while 34% plan to work in a job they recently obtained. Of those who were employed, the majority (76%) held jobs that are directly or somewhat related to their area of study.
- Many of the students (68%) have plans to continue their education: Twenty-two percent plan to re-enroll at Coppin; 47% have already enrolled or plan to enroll at another college. Of those who plan to continue their education, 50% plan to earn Master's degrees, 6% plan to earn professional degrees, and 26% plan to earn doctoral degrees. About 75% of graduates chose to attend graduate school at educational institutions within the state.
- Overall, 80% of the graduates report being satisfied with the various educational support services provided, with the exception of parking, which accounted for 56% graduate dissatisfaction. Despite high levels of general satisfaction, the number of students who expressed they did not know about critical success services, or knew about them and chose not to utilize them, is significant.
- The most common services that graduates had no knowledge of, or were knowledgeable of, but chose not to utilize, were: academic advising (21%), guidance, counseling, and testing (44%), reading, writing, math, and study-skills improvement (34%), tutoring (52%), and career planning (51%).
- In terms of goal attainment, many (80%) expressed that they achieved their academic and career-preparation goals as a result of attending Coppin State University.