

WSU Commencement Committee

Commencement Survey Results

April, 2016

Commencement Survey 2016

Spring 2016 the Commencement Committee released a ten question survey with space for comments to collect opinions from Students, Faculty, and Staff regarding Commencement and how to possibly improve the experience.

This presentation includes the quantitative results of that survey. Qualitative results will be analyzed Summer of 2016 and discussed with the stakeholders Fall of 2016.

Q1:I would participate in graduation as...

Response	n	Percent
Faculty / Staff	303	36.8%
Students	510	62.0%
No Response	10	1.2%
Total	823	100.0%

Q2: Which of the following would increase the chance of you attending Commencement? (check all that apply)

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Individual Recognition	22	4.78%	213	21.52%	237	16.23%
Significant Door Prizes	11	2.39%	87	8.79%	98	6.71%
College Specific Reception Afterwards	115	25.00%	216	21.82%	331	22.67%
Shuttles to parking and Main Campus	64	13.91%	108	10.91%	175	11.99%
Shorter Ceremony	190	41.30%	328	33.13%	523	35.82%
Other	58	12.61%	38	3.84%	96	6.58%

Q2: Which of the following would increase the chance of you attending Commencement? (check all that apply)

	Faculty / Staff	Students	Combined
Mean (Responses per Respondent)	1.52	1.94	1.77
1st Choice	Shorter Ceremony	Shorter Ceremony	Shorter Ceremony
2nd Choice	College Specific Reception	College Specific Reception	College Specific Reception
3rd Choice	Shuttle Bus	Individual Recognition	Individual Recognition

Q3: Is attending Commencement an important part of graduating with a degree from WSU?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Yes	251	84.80%	414	81.50%	673	82.68%
No	45	15.20%	94	18.50%	141	17.32%
Total	296	100.00%	508	100.00%	814	100.00%

Q4:As a student, what is the most important part of Commencement (check all that apply)

	n	Percent
Faculty recognition of my accomplishments	171	14.49%
Walking across the stage	267	22.63%
Hearing your name called	281	23.81%
Having your friends and family see you graduate	422	35.76%
other	39	3.31%

Q5:As a faculty or staff, what is the most important part of Commencement (check all that apply)

	n	Percent
Seeing my students graduate	221	40.40%
Being recognized as faculty in procession / recession	47	8.59%
The tradition	154	28.15%
Meeting students and their families after Commencement	101	18.46%
other	24	4.39%

Q4 & Q5: What is the most important part of Commencement? (check all that apply)

	Faculty / Staff	Students
Mean (Responses per Respondent)	1.52	1.94
1st Choice	Seeing my Students Graduate	Having your Friends and Family See you Graduate
2nd Choice	The Tradition	Hearing your Name Called
3rd Choice	Meeting Students and their Families after Commencement	Walking Across the Stage

Q6: What are the greatest impediments to you attending Commencement?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Length of Ceremony	182	35.00%	339	40.70%	527	38.64%
Parking / Traffic Flow	149	28.65%	226	27.13%	379	27.79%
Timing of Commencement (date held, start time, etc.)	57	10.96%	99	11.88%	156	11.44%
Preference for a more intimate ceremony	76	14.62%	119	14.29%	196	14.37%
Other	56	10.77%	50	6.00%	106	7.77%

Q6: What are the greatest impediments to you attending Commencement?

	Faculty / Staff	Students	Combined
Mean (Responses per Respondent)	1.72	1.63	1.66
1st Choice	Length of Ceremony	Length of Ceremony	Length of Ceremony
2nd Choice	Parking/ Traffic Flow	Parking/ Traffic Flow	Parking/ Traffic Flow
3rd Choice	Preference for a more intimate ceremony	Preference for a more intimate ceremony	Preference for a more intimate ceremony

Q7: What is your impression of how long the Commencement Ceremony lasts?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Less than 1 hour	2	0.67%	4	0.79%	7	0.86%
1.0-1.5 hours	34	11.37%	67	13.29%	103	12.67%
2.0-2.5 hours	168	56.19%	238	47.22%	409	50.31%
3.0-3.5 hours	86	28.76%	154	30.56%	244	30.01%
4.0+ hours	9	3.01%	41	8.13%	50	6.15%

Q8: How long would you prefer the Commencement Ceremony to last?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Less than 1 hour	38	12.75%	63	12.40%	106	13.01%
1.0-1.5 hours	200	67.11%	337	66.34%	540	66.26%
2.0-2.5 hours	57	19.13%	99	19.49%	157	19.26%
3.0-3.5 hours	3	1.01%	7	1.38%	10	1.23%
4.0+ hours	0	0.00%	2	0.39%	2	0.25%

Q9: If you were to split the Commencement Ceremony, how would you do it?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Two Ceremonies (Grad/Undergrad)	105	35.23%	247	49.30%	359	44.38%
Two Ceremonies (By College Group)	38	12.75%	59	11.78%	98	12.11%
Individual College Ceremonies w / larger University Ceremony	71	23.83%	66	13.17%	138	17.06%
Individual College Ceremonies Only	64	21.48%	120	23.95%	184	22.74%
Other	20	6.71%	9	1.80%	30	3.71%

Q10: If Commencement was to be split, how long would you expect the new shorter Ceremony to last?

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Less than 1 hour	80	26.94%	137	27.13%	220	27.09%
1.0-1.5 hours	199	67.00%	322	63.76%	528	65.02%
2.0-2.5 hours	17	5.72%	44	8.71%	61	7.51%
3.0-3.5 hours	0	0.00%	1	0.20%	1	0.12%
4.0+ hours	1	0.34%	1	0.20%	2	0.25%

Q7, Q8, Q10: Weighted Mean \pm Weighted Standard Deviation of Commencement Ceremony duration (in hours)

	Faculty / Staff	Students	Combined
Q7: "Think"	2.72 \pm 0.71	2.82 \pm 0.83	2.78 \pm 0.79
Q8: "Want"	1.58 \pm 0.60	1.61 \pm 0.63	1.59 \pm 0.62
Q10: "Expect"	1.30 \pm 0.56	1.33 \pm 0.60	1.31 \pm 0.58

Q11: If the Commencement Ceremony is changed, what element(s) would you miss the most if they were removed (Check all that apply)

	Faculty / Staff		Students		Combined	
Shaking hands with the President	86	17.13%	219	20.68%	308	19.53%
Hearing your name called individually	122	24.30%	371	35.03%	498	31.58%
Honorary Degree Recipient / Keynote Speaker	43	8.57%	64	6.04%	108	6.85%
Seeing everyone graduate together	68	13.55%	124	11.71%	194	12.30%
Graduate with friends from other Colleges	64	12.75%	168	15.86%	235	14.90%
Processional / Recessional	86	17.13%	99	9.35%	187	11.86%
Other	33	6.57%	14	1.32%	47	2.98%

Q11: If the Commencement Ceremony is changed, what element(s) would you miss the most if they were removed (Check all that apply)

	Faculty / Staff	Students	Combined
1st Choice	Hearing Name Called Individually	Hearing Name Called Individually	Hearing Name Called Individually
2nd Choice	Processional / Recessional	Shaking Hands with the President	Shaking Hands with the President
3rd Choice	Shaking Hands with the President	Graduating with Friends from other Colleges	Graduating with Friends from other Colleges