

2010-2011 UMFK Graduate Survey – Summary

- 98 students responded to the survey, 49% of the 195 students who graduated in 2010-2011.
- The largest group of respondents majored in nursing; the next largest group was the business management and secondary education.
- The lowest Global Learning Outcome score was in Language Proficiency; the highest scores were given to having “knowledge to become a lifelong learner” and “knowledge to be a success”.
- Graduates gave an overall mean rating of 4.2 (on a 5 point scale) to aspects of their General Learning Outcomes, and consistently ranked Global Learning Outcomes at a rating of “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”.
- Students evaluating the UMFK Academic Environment gave particularly high ratings to class size and student/teacher ratio; lower rates were reported on course variety, course availability, and general education curriculum.
- The library is the highest rated among Services and Programs; advising, information technology registration, were also highly rated.
- Noticeably lower ratings were given to “traditional” student services, such as dining services, cost of attendance, residential life, and graduate school preparation.
- The lowest rated service was dining services, which had a rating than the previous year.
- Our graduates generally tell us that they have achieved our desired learning outcomes, but assessment of the academic environment has declined slightly as compared to previous years.
- Students appear most satisfied about their experience with registration, advising, and information services, and less satisfied with their experiences in areas such as housing and food services.

2010-2011 UMFK Graduate Survey

This survey was designed to assess the overall experience of graduating students while they were at UMFK, along with their future plans, whether for further education or on the job market. The survey questionnaire was fielded by the Office of Institutional Research. Beginning in November 2010, all graduating students were asked to complete the questionnaire as part of their exit process. The survey began early so that December graduates could respond.

Analysis of 2010-2011 Results

Student Characteristics

98 students responded to the survey, 49% of the 195 students who graduated in December 2010 or May 2011. Of the respondents, 55% (n= 54) were female, 73% (n=72) were commuters, and 91% (n=89) were full time students. The demographic tables (below) summarize these and other basic characteristics of the respondents. Consistent with our overall student population, more than one-third of these graduates were over 25 years old, and almost 10% were 35 or older. As would be expected, the largest group of respondents majored in nursing (29%, n=25 overall); the next largest group were the business management majors (17%, n=15 overall). Nearly all of these students were full time, and over three-quarters were commuters.

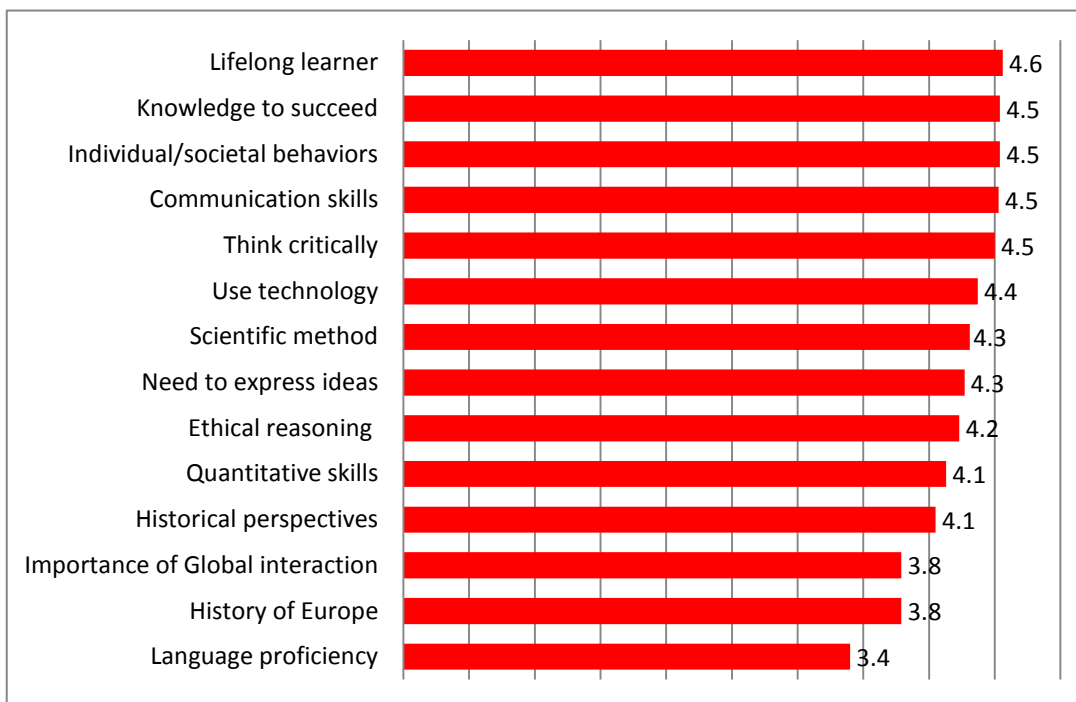
2010-2011 Graduation Survey - Demographics

Gender	Number	Percent	Enrollment Status	Number	Percent
Female	54	55%	Full Time	89	91%
Male	42	43%	Both	1	1%
Not Specified	2	2%	Part Time	6	6%
			Not Specified	2	2%
Age	Number	Percent	Housing Status	Number	Percent
Under 21	23	25%	Commuter	72	73%
22-25	38	42%	Both	2	2%
25-34	22	24%	Resident	23	24%
35-44	8	9%	Not Specified	1	1%
Major	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Behavioral Science	6	7%	Forestry	4	5%
Biology	3	3%	Nursing	25	29%
Business Management	15	17%	Rural Public Safety	4	5%
Criminal Justice	6	7%	Secondary Education	7	8%
Elementary Education	2	2%	Social Science	0	0%
English	2	2%	Not Specified	7	8%
Environmental Studies	6	7%			

Global Learning Outcomes

When asked to rate Global Learning outcomes, graduates gave high ratings across nearly the entire list, ranging from 3.4 to 4.6 (on a scale where 1=Strongly Disagree and 5=Strongly Agree). There were two notable exceptions: a markedly lower mean rating of 3.8 on their understanding of the history of Europe, and an extremely low mean score of 3.4 to their proficiency in a language other than English. This low scoring on language proficiency is not surprising –as many students feel that learning a second language is non-beneficial to their future success. Overall, most graduates appear to be well pleased with their experience at UMFK; respondents gave an overall mean rating of 4.2 to aspects of their General Learning Outcomes, and consistently ranked Global Learning Outcomes at a rating of “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”, yielding relatively high average scores, as shown in Figure 1. However, it would seem that the more “general” the outcome (e.g., “I have gained the knowledge to be a successful professional”) the greater the agreement; the more “specific” the outcome (e.g., “I understand the history of Europe and Euro-influenced societies”) the less the agreement.

Figure 1 – Ratings for Global Learning Outcomes

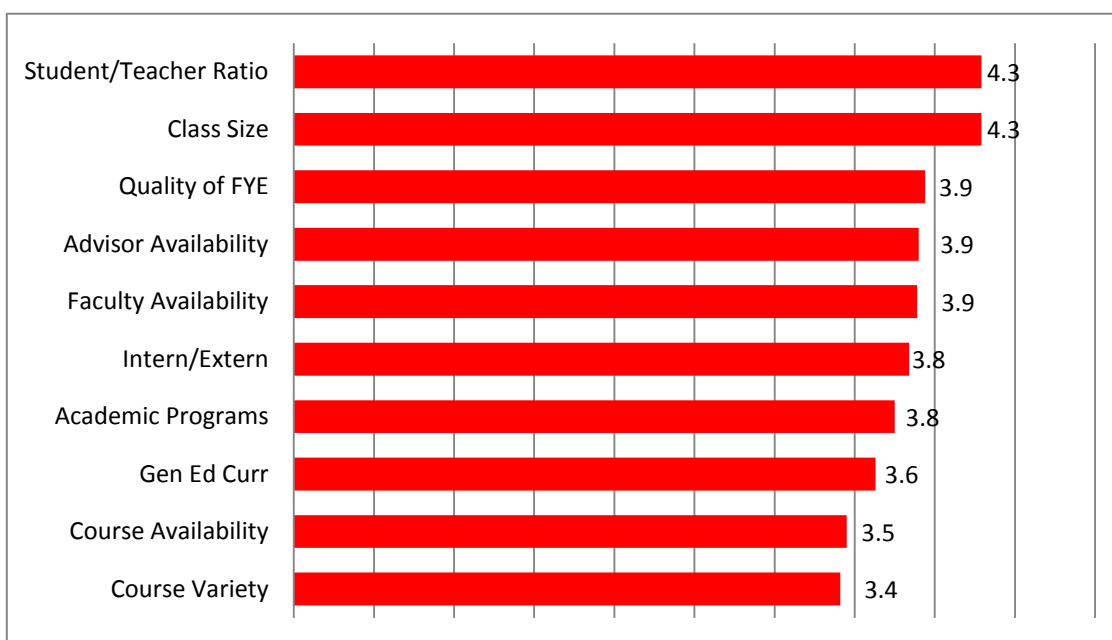


Academic Environment

Compared to their assessment of learning outcomes, last year’s graduates were somewhat less satisfied with their Academic Environment. On a scale where 1=Unsatisfactory and 5=Excellent, respondents gave a mean rating of 3.4 to this aspect of their experience, and there were no questions which had a mean rating above

4.3. Students evaluating the UMFK Academic Environment gave particularly high ratings to class size (mean=4.3) and to student/teacher ratio (mean=4.3). Lower rated aspects of the Academic Environment were course variety (mean=3.4) and the course availability (mean=3.5). In general it would seem students recognize the strengths and weaknesses that arise from our small size: classes are small and faculty is accessible, but variety and resources when it comes to course variety is very limited. These graduates would have been among the students to take the FYE course when it was still in its developing stages, which may be a source of the high rating given to FYE.

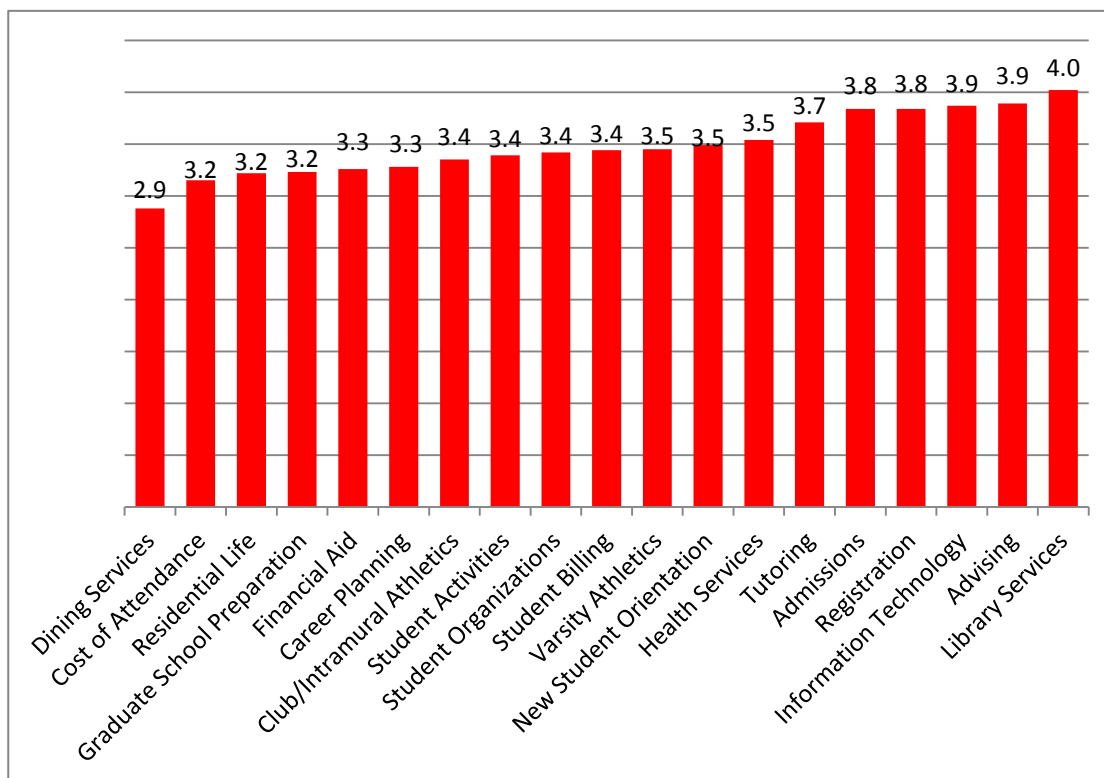
Figure 2 – Ratings for Academic Environment



Student Services and Activities

When rating individual School Programs, graduates gave an overall average score of 3.5 (again on a scale where 1=Unsatisfactory and 5=Excellent). The library, advising and information technology were rated highest, with a mean score at or above 3.9; admissions and registration were also highly rated. Graduates also gave high ratings to tutoring and health services. Noticeably lower ratings were given to the “traditional” student services. Dining services had the lowest mean rating of 2.9; slightly above that is cost of attendance, residential life and graduate school preparation with mean rating of 3.2.

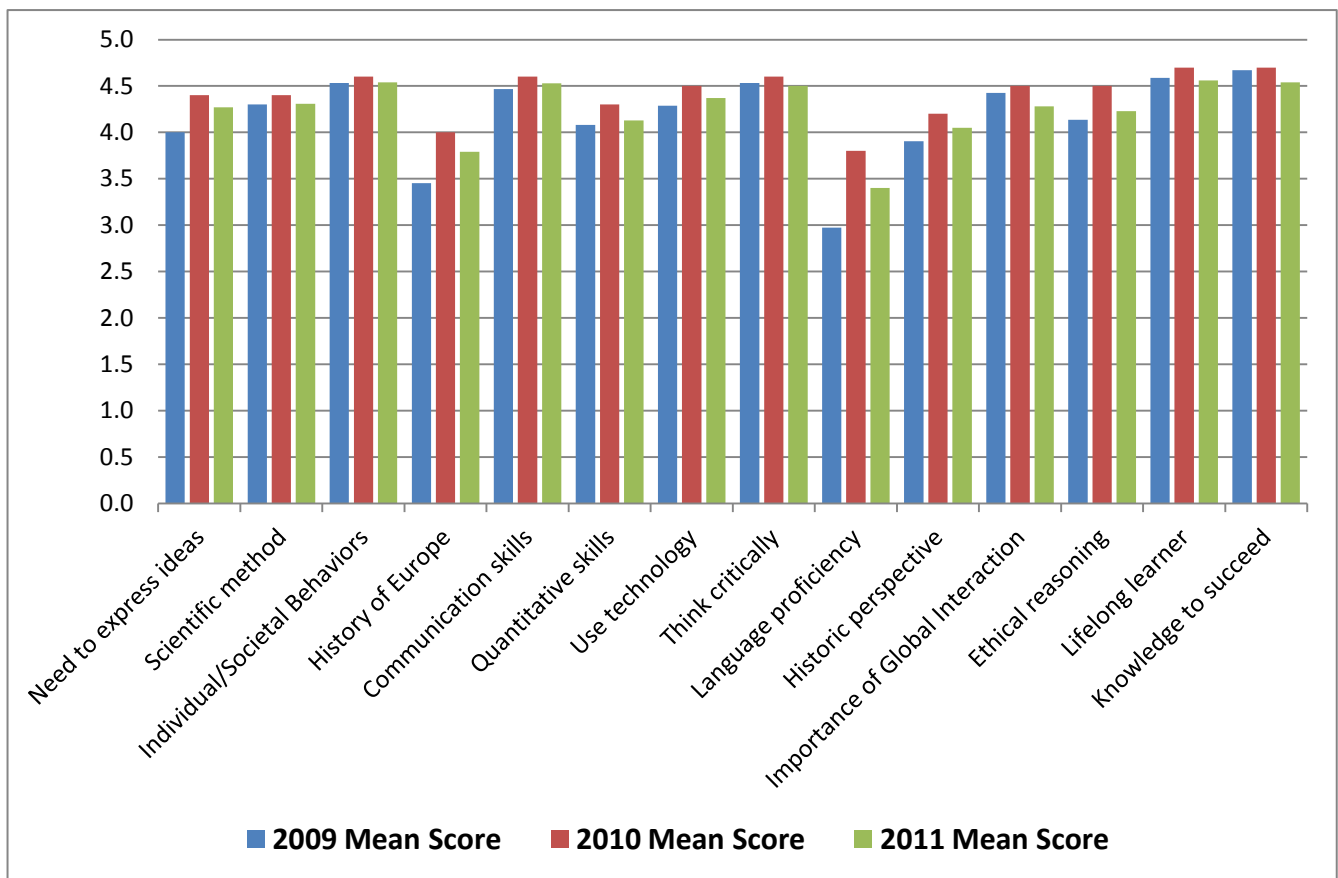
Figure 3 – Ratings for Student Services and Activities



Comparison to Earlier Results

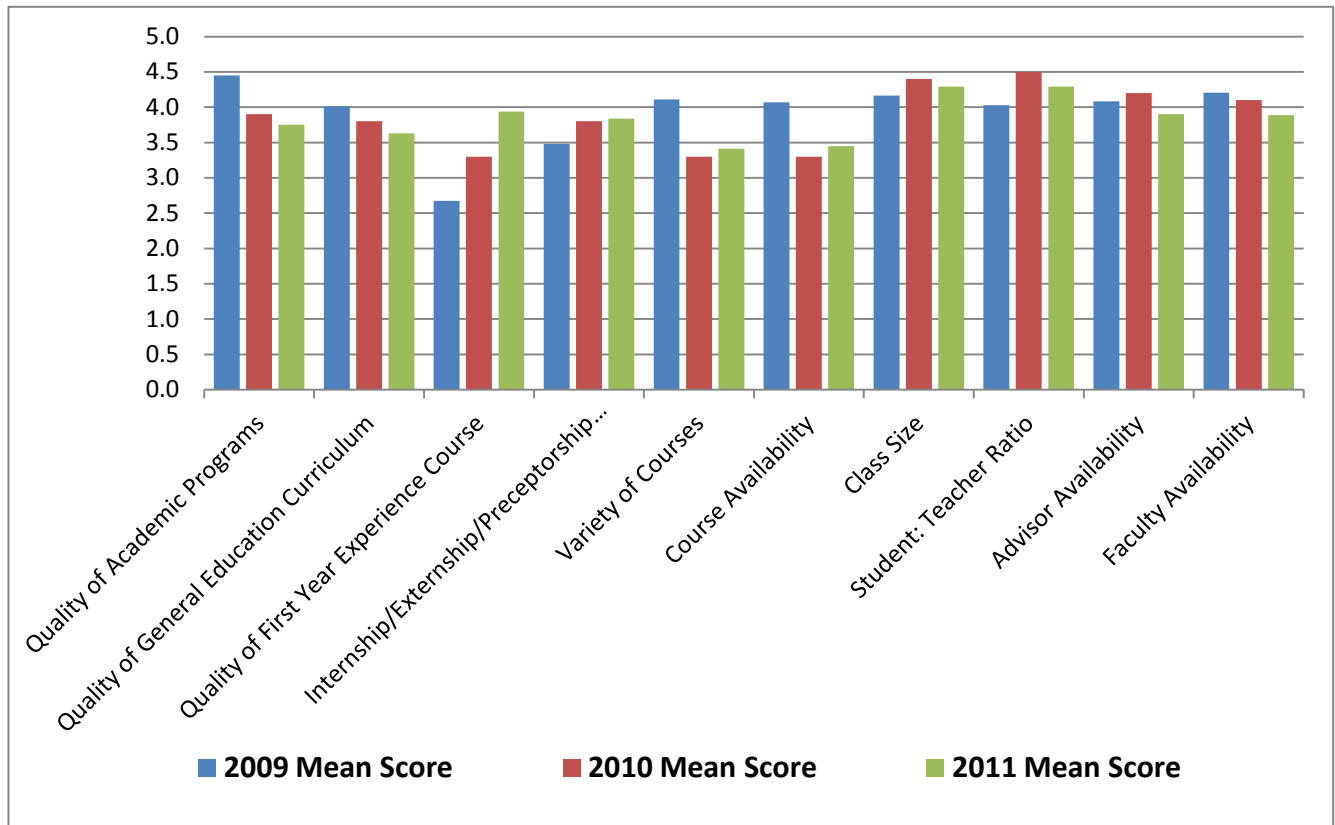
Graduates in 2011 hold slightly lower opinions about learning outcomes than in 2009 and 2010. The two *lowest* rated areas slipped the most when compared to previous years. In 2009 graduates gave a mean score of 3.0 (1=Strongly Disagree and 5=Strongly Agree) to the statement about achieving proficiency in a language other than English; in 2010, this rating rose to an average of 3.8. In 2011, graduates gave this statement an average rating of 3.4. Similarly, the mean score on understanding of European history rose from 3.8 to 4.0 in 2010, and then fell to 3.8 in 2011. In all other areas, learning outcomes ratings that had held fairly in 2010 had dropped off slightly in 2011.

Figure 4 –Global Learning Outcomes Ratings, 2009 to 2011



Most items in the Academic Environment have displayed more variability in the three years of these surveys. As shown in Figure 5, significant drop offs (more than a full point on a 5 point scale) occurred from 2010 to 2011 in the areas of General Education Requirements, Advisor Availability and Faculty Availability. Most of the items had at least some drop when compared to previous year’s numbers; the three exceptions were course availability, FYE and course variety; whose ratings increased from the previous year. Faculty availability, quality of academic programs and quality of general education curriculum declined slightly.

Figure 5 –Academic Environment Ratings, 2009 to 2011



A variable pattern is shown by the ratings for Student Services. As can be seen in Figure 6, nearly all items rated low in 2009 had higher rating in 2010, and showed declines in 2011. Nearly all items rated high in 2009 had lower 2010 ratings. These ratings continued to fall in 2011, with the exception of Tutoring and Financial Aid. Cost of Attendance and Student billing were the two exceptions where there was an increased rating from the previous year. These shifts are so pronounced that only two items (Tutoring and Financial Aid) had fairly equal ratings from one year to the next. Where last year there seemed to be a reversal of student attitudes, this year marks a return to declining evaluations of School Programs and Services.

Graduate Employment

When asked about their employment, many students said they were employed on a part-time basis; (see Figure 7) although few worked full time. Most of the respondents provided the name and location of their employer: the majority of these employers seem to be related to their major or intended career (see Figure 9).

Our graduates' future plans agree with their major (see Figure 8). Of the 55 students who told us their career plans, 17 are nursing students, all of whom intend to pursue a career in that field; 10 graduates plan a

career in business management, and 8 in criminal justice. Eleven students graduated with a minor in criminal justice; having majored in a different field all together. Very few of our graduating students appear to have given thought to graduate school at the moment: only six indicated they had applied. Our students also do not appear to give much thought to a career in the military: only one said they would be joining the armed services.

Conclusions

Our graduates do appear to have gained from their college experience and to regard UMFK well. They report that they leave with the skills they need for the future, but not as positively as in past surveys. This year’s graduates still give good assessments of their learning outcomes, but their ratings have dropped off. They appear less satisfied with their experiences in advising, faculty availability, housing, food services, extracurricular activities, and so on. This year’s graduation survey still suggests that our students leave UMFK with the benefits of a positive *classroom* experience, and in this sense is gratifying. Unfortunately, it also suggests that the broader learning environment and the “college experience” are increasingly unattractive.

Figure 6 –Student Services Ratings, 2009 to 2011

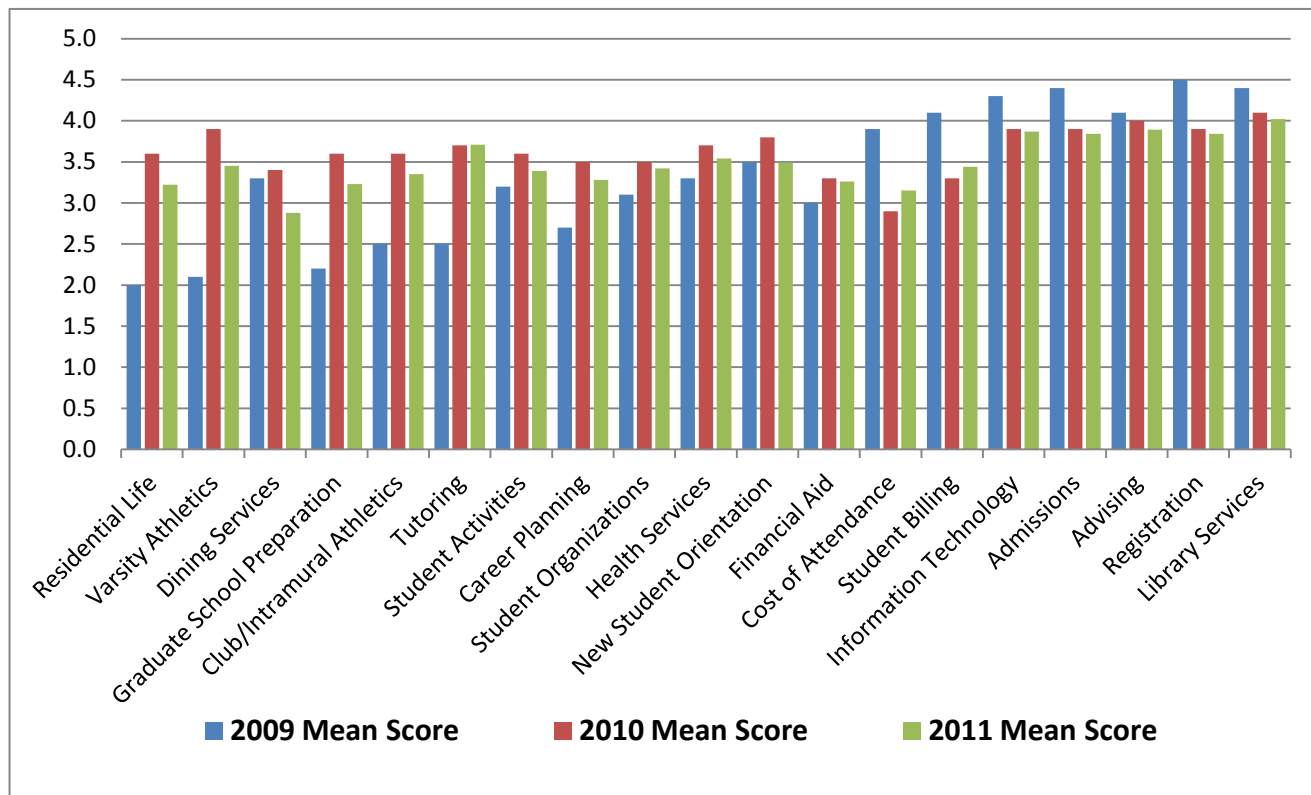


Figure 7 - Current Employment Status

Major	Unemployed	Employed Part Time	Employed Full Time
Behavioral Science	0	5 (83%)	1(17%)
Biology	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0
Business Management	2 (15%)	8 (62%)	3 (23%)
Criminal Justice	2 (33%)	3 (50%)	1 (17%)
Elementary Education	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	0
English	0	1 (100%)	0
Environmental Studies	2 (40%)	3 (60%)	0
Forest Technology	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	0
Nursing	11 (44%)	13 (52%)	1 (4%)
Rural Public Safety	0	4 (100%)	0
Secondary Education	4 (57%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)
Social Science	0	0	0
TOTAL	27 (36%)	42 (55%)	7 (9%)

Figure 8 – Graduate’s Career Plans

Major	Intended Career	Frequency
Behavioral Science	Human Services	2
	Case Management	1
	Social Services	1
	Counseling	1
Biology	Ecologist	1
Business Management	Business Management	6
	Event Planner	1
	Accounting	2
	Teaching	1
Criminal Justice /Rural Public Safety	Game Warden	1
	Customs/ Border Patrol	2
	Forest Ranger	1
	Law Enforcement	1
	Pre-Trial	1
	Probation Officer	1
	Public Safety	1
Education	Teaching	8
English	High School English Teacher	1
Environmental Studies	Biologist	1
	Ornithologist	1
	Park Ranger	1
	Field Naturalist	1
Forest Technology	Forester	1
Nursing	Nursing	14
	Family Doctor	2
	Mental Health Nurse	1

Figure 9 - Current Employment

Major	Current Employer	Frequency
Behavioral Science	AMHC	1
	Country Village Estates	1
	Northern Maine General - Eagle Lake And Caribou	2
	Robin's restaurant- Van Buren	1
Biology	Town of Waterville	1
Business Management	Sears	1
	Lee Theriault, CPA	1
	Donald Dunn Funeral Home	1
	TAMC- Presque Isle	1
	Van Buren Hardware	1
	Aramark	1
	Fort Kent Rural Health	1
	Swamp Buck restaurant- Fort Kent	1
Criminal Justice/ Rural Public Safety	Aroostook Home Services	1
	Van Buren Police Dept	1
	Shop N Save Fort Kent	1
	Vescom Security	1
Elementary Education	Shop n Save Fort Kent	1
	UMFK	1
English		0
Forest Technology		0
Nursing	UMFK	1
	Cary Medical Center	2
	Northern Maine Medical Center	1
	Coves Edge Nursing Home	1
	Swamp Buck Restaurant- Fort Kent	1
	Acclaim Quality Services	1
	St. Joseph Nursing Home	1
Social Science		0