

Table 3. Graduate average ratings*

	Number of Respondents	All Graduates	One Year after Graduation	Five Years after Graduation
Continued in a position	303	4.25	4.24	4.26
Before Graduation	128	4.29	4.14	4.45
0 to 3 months	126	4.31	4.28	4.35
4 to 6 months	53	4.29	4.29	4.28
7 to 12 months	31	4.23	4.37	4.07
More than 12 months	32	4.22	4.36	4.11
Have not entered	42	3.95	3.79	4.56
All	715	4.25	4.21	4.31

GRADUATES

- Overall, alumni at year five rated the quality of their experience higher than alumni one year after graduation.
- Unlike undergraduate alumni one year after graduation, graduate ratings of academic quality do not systematically decline with increased time to first professional position.
- 78% of alumni reported having their first professional position within three months of graduation.
- 42% of graduates were employed while in graduate school.

*Scale: 1=Poor, 2=Needs to be improved, 3=Adequate, 4=Good, 5=Excellent

Conclusions

For both undergraduates and graduates one year after graduation, average ratings of academic quality were higher for alumni who started a professional position before or within three months of graduation. On average, evaluations of academic quality increased over time.

Implications

These results indicate that for undergraduates being employed is related to their perception about the quality of their educational experience at Marymount.

The findings reinforce the need to support students with exploring their career and internship options so that they can pursue their desired careers and obtain employment within a reasonable time after graduation.

It would be beneficial to explore why alumni perception of academic quality is lower one year after graduation than after five years.

Marymount University

Alumni Ratings of Academic Quality and Time to First Professional Position

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Background

Each year the Office of Institutional Effectiveness surveys alumni one and five years after graduation. The Alumni Survey is used by the University to gain a better understanding of the University's strengths and weaknesses to improve the experience of current and future Marymount students.

This brochure explores alumni views of the University's academic quality in relation to how long it took to obtain their first professional position using responses from alumni who graduated from 2004 to 2010. Table 1 provides information on the number of survey participants from each year.

Table 1. Number of Participants by Graduating Class and Survey Year

Graduating Class	Survey Year		
	2009	2010	2011
2004	195	-	-
2005	-	184	-
2006	-	-	182
2008	265	-	-
2009	-	253	-
2010	-	-	242

Findings: Average Ratings of Academic Quality and Time to First Professional Position

Table 2. Undergraduate average ratings*

	Number of Respondents	All Undergraduates	One Year after Graduation	Five Years after Graduation
Continued in a position	108	4.25	4.09	4.44
Before Graduation	110	4.20	4.08	4.36
0 to 3 months	142	4.08	3.99	4.19
4 to 6 months	77	4.10	4.05	4.17
7 to 12 months	39	3.92	3.83	4.07
More than 12 months	40	3.88	3.70	4.23
Have not entered	81	4.05	4.01	4.30
All	597	4.11	4.00	4.27

* Scale: 1=Poor, 2=Needs to be improved, 3=Adequate, 4=Good, 5=Excellent

UNDERGRADUATES

Overall

- Sixty percent (60%) of alumni started a position within three months of graduation.
- Average ratings were highest for those who continued in or started a position within three months of graduation.

Alumni One Year after Graduation

- Average ratings of academic quality generally declined with the amount of time taken to find a position.
- Further review of survey results found that over 50% of those taking more than 12 months to find a position or had not entered a position were engaged in pursuing additional education.

Alumni Five Years after Graduation

- Average ratings were substantially higher than ratings from alumni one year after graduation.
- Ratings of academic quality declined with length of time to find employment, except for those who took more than 12 months or have not entered the workforce.