



Wisdom to make a difference.

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

2015 Graduating Senior Survey

Keene State College surveys graduating students every two years, asking them about their overall satisfaction with their time at KSC as well as various activities they may have engaged in. The survey is administered online as part of registration to participate in commencement. In spring 2015, there were 879 graduating students who provided usable responses to the survey. This report presents a detailed analysis of the questionnaire items. A separate report shares the results of one open-comment question.

KEY FINDINGS

- The first section of the survey asked respondents to agree or disagree with a series of positive statements about their experience at KSC:
 - I have felt welcome at KSC;
 - My academic program has challenged me to do my best work;
 - KSC has provided the assistance I needed to succeed academically;
 - KSC has provided the support I needed to thrive socially;
 - I would recommend KSC to friends or siblings as a good place to go to college;
 - I am satisfied with my Keene State College education.

Most KSC seniors (85%) report that they have felt welcome at KSC. Eighty percent agreed that their academic program challenged them to do their best work and that they are satisfied with their education. Although all the statements in this section of the survey achieved levels of agreement of 70% or higher, the rate of positive response declined on all questions since 2013 (7% lower on average, with the largest difference – 11% – on the question of recommending KSC to others).
- The second section of the survey asked about participation in high-impact educational practices. Seniors who participated in several of these practices were significantly more likely than their peers to agree with positive statements about their experience at KSC. Attending a professional conference was associated with more positive responses on five of the six statements, while internships and student teaching were associated with more positive responses on four of the six. The 2013 survey had identified significant positive outcomes associated with study away, with performing or exhibiting creative work beyond the classroom, and particularly with the combination of internship and performing or exhibiting creative work. In contrast, the 2015 survey did not find any statistically significant differences in outcomes associated with these activities.
- The final section of the survey asked about ways that seniors could see themselves remaining connected to KSC in the next five years. The most common responses were these:
 - stay in touch with my friends from KSC (94%),
 - stay in touch with my academic major (82%), and
 - follow KSC on social media (69%).

DETAILED FINDINGS

Section 1: Overall College Experience

The first section of the survey used Likert-type items to elicit an overall rating of the respondent's experience at KSC. The following table shows the percentage of graduating seniors who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in 2013 and in 2015. As this table shows, the rate of agreement declined on each question over the past two years.

Percentage of Graduating Seniors Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with Each Statement Rating the Overall College Experience

Statement	% Agree + Strongly Agree	
	2013	2015
I have felt welcome at KSC.	92%	85%
My academic program has challenged me to do my very best work.	85%	80%
KSC has provided the assistance I needed to succeed academically.	81%	76%
KSC has provided the support I needed to thrive socially.	79%	70%
I would recommend KSC to friends or siblings as a good place to go to college.	85%	74%
I am satisfied with my Keene State College education.	87%	80%

Section 2: Participation in High Impact Practices

Next the survey asked respondents to indicate which of a series of high impact educational practices they had participated in during their time at KSC. The table below shows the percentage of respondents who indicated participation in each one.

Percentage of Graduating Seniors Who Report Participating in Each High Impact Educational Practice

High Impact Practice	% Who Participated
Senior Seminar or Capstone Course in the Academic Major	86%
Internship, Co-operative Education, or Practicum (other than Student Teaching)	58%
Community Service (not part of an academic course)	54%
Performed or Exhibited a Creative Work beyond the Classroom	54%
One or More Service-Learning Courses	38%
Attended a Scholarly or Professional Conference	44%
Worked with a faculty member on a research project beyond the classroom	36%
Student Teaching	27%
Presented at Academic Excellence Conference	16%
Presented at a Scholarly or Professional Conference	15%
Study Away	14%

Chi-square analysis was used to determine whether the pattern of responses in Section 1 of the survey (above) differed for students who participated in the various high-impact practices. Statistically significant differences were found in several cases, as shown in the table below:

**Statistically Significant Chi-Square Comparisons of Outcomes for Participants in High-Impact Practices
(Agree plus Strongly Agree)**

Outcome	High-Impact Practice	% Agree + Strongly Agree	χ^2	df	p
I have felt welcome at KSC	Student Teaching	93%	4.00	1	.046
	No Student Teaching	88%			
	Attended Prof. Conference	93%	10.00	1	.002
	Did Not Attend Conference	87%			
My major challenged me to do my best work	Internship	87%	8.31	1	.004
	No Internship	80%			
	Student Teaching	91%	9.89	1	.002
	No Student Teaching	82%			
	AEC Presentation	92%	7.64	1	.006
	No AEC Presentation	83%			
	Attended Prof. Conference	89%	9.98	1	.002
	Did Not Attend Conference	81%			
KSC provided assistance to succeed academically	Internship	82%	3.98	1	.046
	No Internship	77%			
	AEC Presentation	87%	4.83	1	.028
	No AEC Presentation	79%			
KSC provided support to thrive socially	Service-Learning	78%	4.01	1	.045
	No Service-Learning	72%			
	Community Service	78%	5.05	1	.025
	No Community Service	71%			
	Capstone Course	76%	5.08	1	.024
	No Capstone Course	65%			
	Attended Prof. Conference	79%	6.06	1	.014
	Did Not Attend Conference	71%			

Table Continues

Table continues:

Outcome	High-Impact Practice	% Agree + Strongly Agree	χ^2	df	p
I would recommend KSC to friends or siblings	Internship	82%	11.31	1	.001
	No Internship	72%			
	Student Teaching	85%	8.08	1	.004
	No Student Teaching	76%			
	Attended Prof. Conference	84%	14.75	1	.000
	Did Not Attend Conference	73%			
Overall satisfaction with KSC education	Service-Learning	88%	5.85	1	.016
	No Service-Learning	82%			
	Internship	87%	7.03	1	.008
	No Internship	80%			
	Student Teaching	90%	6.84	1	.009
	No Student Teaching	82%			
	Attended Prof. Conference	89%	10.19	1	.001
	Did Not Attend Conference	81%			
	Presented at Prof. Conference	90%	3.83	1	.050
	Did Not Present at Conference	84%			

Section 3: Future Connections to KSC

The final section of the survey asked students, “Looking forward to the next five years, what ways do you see yourself remaining connected to KSC and its students?” Respondents were able to select as many items as they wished. The table on the following page shows the percentage of graduating students who expressed interest in each one.

**Ways that Graduating Seniors Who Are Can See Themselves
Remaining Connected to KSC in the Next Five Years**

Connection to KSC	%
<u>Keeping in Touch</u>	
Stay in touch with friends from KSC	94%
Stay in touch with my academic major	82%
Follow KSC on social media	69%
Respond to alumni surveys	57%
Stay in touch with student organizations I was a part of	53%
Read the Keene State Today alumni magazine	38%
Let the College know when I have important life events (marriage, new job, etc.)	34%
<u>Attending Campus Events</u>	
Speakers	48%
Performances	40%
Student organization events	39%
Community service events	37%
Athletic events	34%
<u>Attending Alumni Events</u>	
Alumni reunion	62%
Alumni events associated with my major	59%
Regional alumni meetings	25%
Alumni events associated with a team I was a member of	25%
<u>Supporting KSC Students</u>	
Help connect KSC students to my place of employment (internships, job opportunities, etc.)	61%
Serve as a mentor	43%
Donate to support my academic major	38%
Résumé review	34%
Sit on a career panel	34%
Donate to support a student organization I was affiliated with	29%
Donate to support scholarships	29%