



The 2009 Report on Academic Advising: Selected Survey Results

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Executive Summary

The quality of academic advising at the University of Kentucky is assessed regularly by surveys administered at strategic points in students' college careers. This annual report is based on students' evaluations on three surveys: the 2008/09 Graduating Senior Survey, the Spring 2009 Survey of First-Year Experiences, and the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement. The staff from the Office of Institutional Research offers the following generalizations concerning the three sets of survey results:

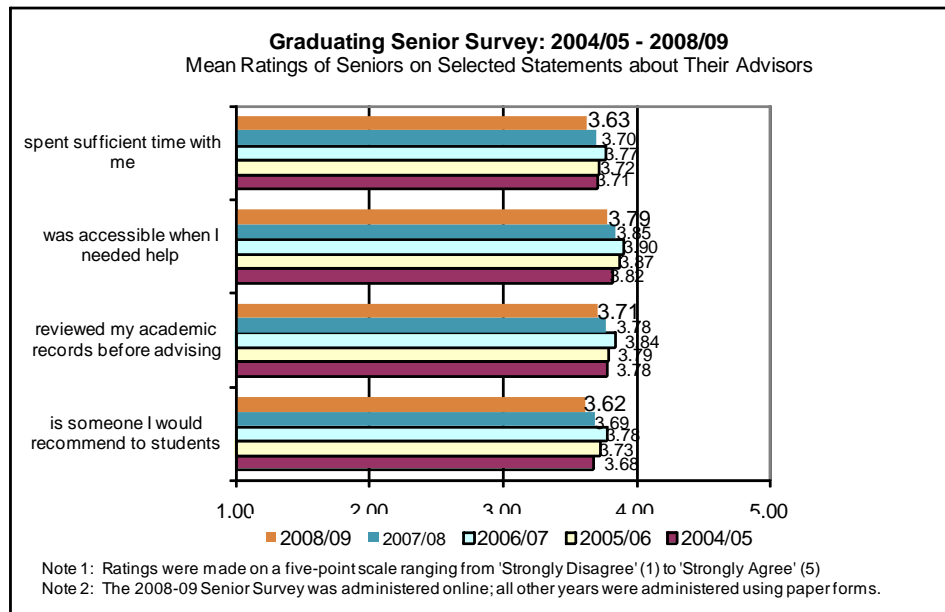
- UK students rate the quality of undergraduate advising as moderately positive. (See pages 2, 3, and 4.)
- First-year students and seniors assign their highest marks to the 'accessibility' of advisors. (See pages 2 and 3.)
- First-year students give their lowest evaluations to the amount of time advisors spend with them. Graduating seniors also assign relatively low marks to the amount of time advisors spend with them and to the question on whether to recommend their advisor to another student. Mean ratings on each of the survey questions are still well above the scale mid-point. This suggests students are relatively satisfied with the academic advising they receive. (See pages 2 and 3.)
- In 2009, UK first-year students gave significantly higher marks to the quality of advising than students in a national sample of Doctoral/Research Universities—Extensive. However, UK seniors gave somewhat lower ratings to the quality of advising than their counterparts at like institutions. (See page 4.)

UK's Graduating Senior Survey

For many years, the IR Office coordinated the administration of the Graduating Senior Survey using a paper form given to students around the time they applied for a degree. The survey was typically completed by more than two-thirds of all graduates. Beginning in 2008-09, the IR Office administered the survey online to all students who applied for a degree. Last year's response rate fell to just over half (53%) of all baccalaureate recipients. Response rates for online surveys often decline significantly. And UK's achievement of a 53 percent response rate far surpasses the 20 to 30 percent rate considered acceptable for an online survey. However, our drop in participation rates may have a negative impact when the results are disaggregated to the college level. The means for the advising items may be unstable, particularly for the smaller colleges.

In general, the ratings of UK seniors consistently fell .06 - .07 of a scale point from the previous year on the four items. It is not possible to determine whether this decline is due to a disproportionate number of disgruntled students deciding to go to the trouble of completing an online survey. Interestingly, four colleges still managed to show increases on the four key items, despite slightly lower ratings at the University level.¹ The graph below presents results for the four advising items administered from 2004/05 - 2008/09:

- Overall, graduating seniors are moderately positive in their ratings of advising.
- Seniors' evaluations of the quality of advising decreased over the past two years.
- Seniors were most positive in evaluating their advisor's 'accessibility.'



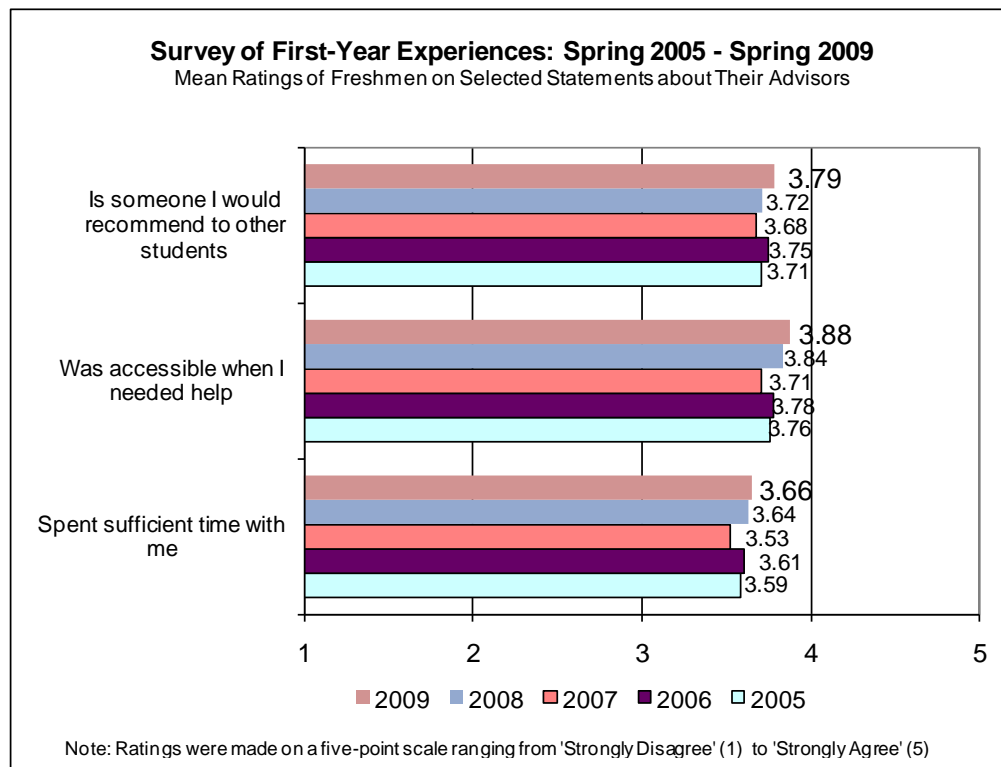
1. Appendix A contains results for the past five years disaggregated by the college in which students were enrolled.

UK's Survey of First-Year Experiences

Students have completed an end-of-year survey in their English and Honors Program classes since spring 2002. The quality of freshman advising is assessed by three items on the Survey of First-Year Experiences. After reaching a low point in 2007, the evaluations of academic advising have shown slight improvements over the past two years on each of the three items.

- First-year students report being generally satisfied with the academic advising received during their first two semesters at UK. Average ratings are well above the mid-points of the scale.
- The accessibility of advisors was rated the most highly of the three items.
- Students assigned the lowest ratings to the amount of time advisors spent with them.

The graph below depicts the last five years of ratings on the three key advising items appearing on the Survey of First-Year Experiences.²

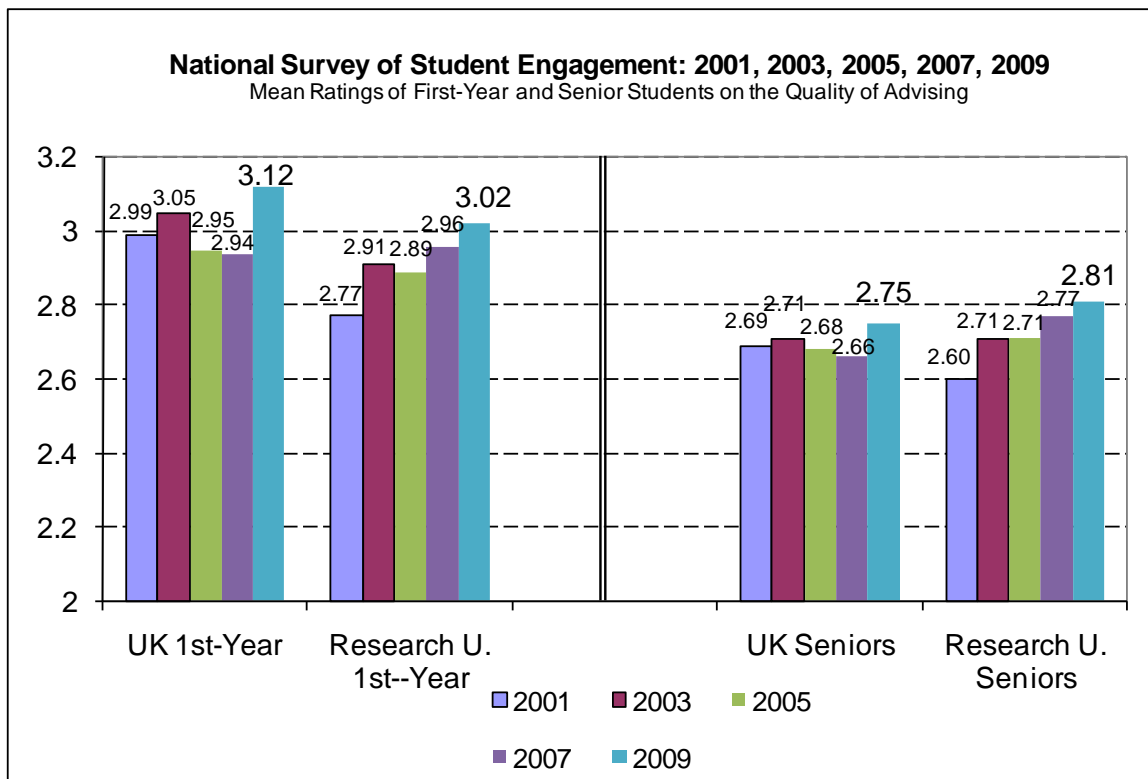


² Appendix B contains results for the past five years disaggregated by the college in which students were enrolled.

The National Survey of Student Engagement

Since it was first piloted in 2000, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has been administered annually to first-year students and seniors at approximately 1,400 colleges and universities across North America. The University of Kentucky has participated biennially in this research project since 2001. NSSE survey administrators at the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and Planning select random samples of freshmen and seniors from population files provided by each participating institution. A total of 2,285 UK students responded to the online questionnaire in spring 2009. One of the survey items asks students to evaluate the quality of academic advising at their institution on a four-point scale ranging from ‘poor’ to ‘excellent.’

The graph below shows advising evaluations of first-year students and seniors at UK and other participating Doctoral/Research Universities—Extensive. In 2009, UK first-year students gave their highest marks ever to the quality of advising. Their positive ratings reflected a small, but statistically significant edge over their counterparts at like institutions. UK seniors also assigned their highest ratings to the quality of advising in five iterations of NSSE. However, UK seniors fairly positive ratings were still significantly lower than their Carnegie comparison group, although the magnitude of this difference was very small and of little practical importance. College-level results for NSSE 2007 and 2009 are presented in Appendix C.



APPENDIX A

Results of the Graduating Senior Survey By College

Graduating Senior Survey By College

My academic advisor spent sufficient time with me

	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009*	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	365	4.02	306	4.03	327	4.09	395	3.91	178	3.79
Arts & Sciences	695	3.70	902	3.72	827	3.69	1,056	3.78	665	4.02
Business & Economics	619	3.58	516	3.49	250	3.74	164	2.98	290	2.79
Communications & Information Studies	124	4.23	243	4.10	177	4.05	283	3.90	192	3.71
Design	66	3.91	37	3.41	2	3.50	92	3.10	37	3.51
Education	255	3.35	233	3.33	197	3.17	285	3.31	202	3.41
Engineering	272	3.45	242	3.61	232	3.97	210	3.87	166	3.79
Fine Arts	84	3.92	79	3.92	61	3.72	45	3.78	68	3.37
Health Sciences	45	3.93	90	3.99	N/A	N/A	3	3.67	36	3.39
Nursing	65	4.09	66	4.21	53	4.04	66	4.15	71	3.59
Social Work	54	3.70	41	3.27	61	3.41	40	3.20	37	3.54
UK Overall	2,614	3.71	2,755	3.72	2,187	3.77	2,639	3.70	1,942	3.63

*-2008-2009 Survey was administered by paper and online.

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

Graduating Senior Survey By College

My academic advisor was accessible when I needed help

	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009*	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	365	4.14	305	4.19	327	4.18	396	4.08	178	3.96
Arts & Sciences	695	3.82	901	3.92	828	3.92	1,056	3.94	662	4.14
Business & Economics	619	3.64	515	3.59	250	3.80	164	3.17	289	3.02
Communications & Information Studies	124	4.28	241	4.20	178	4.13	283	4.04	192	3.88
Design	67	4.03	38	3.47	2	4.00	92	3.05	37	3.57
Education	225	3.49	233	3.45	197	3.28	285	3.51	202	3.59
Engineering	272	3.69	241	3.87	232	4.02	210	4.01	166	3.95
Fine Arts	84	3.99	79	4.06	61	3.80	45	3.87	68	3.54
Health Sciences	45	3.98	90	4.08	N/A	N/A	3	3.33	36	3.58
Nursing	65	4.25	66	4.23	53	4.19	66	4.23	70	3.81
Social Work	54	3.61	41	3.27	61	3.33	40	3.48	36	3.64
UK Overall	2,615	3.82	2,750	3.87	2,189	3.90	2,640	3.85	1,936	3.79

*-2008-2009 Survey was administered by paper and online.

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

Graduating Senior Survey By College

My academic advisor reviewed my academic record prior to giving advice

	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009*	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	365	4.02	306	4.02	327	3.98	396	3.83	178	3.82
Arts & Sciences	695	3.78	902	3.76	827	3.79	1,056	3.86	665	4.08
Business & Economics	619	3.71	516	3.66	250	3.94	163	3.45	291	3.04
Communications & Information Studies	124	4.30	242	4.15	178	4.06	283	3.98	192	3.78
Design	67	4.06	38	3.39	2	4.00	92	2.99	37	3.41
Education	225	3.48	233	3.49	197	3.38	285	3.48	202	3.53
Engineering	272	3.47	242	3.70	232	3.93	210	3.98	166	3.72
Fine Arts	84	3.77	79	3.87	61	3.77	45	3.69	68	3.35
Health Sciences	45	3.93	89	4.01	N/A	N/A	3	3.00	36	3.39
Nursing	65	4.22	66	4.27	53	4.26	66	4.12	71	3.68
Social Work	54	3.74	41	3.51	61	3.38	40	3.55	37	3.62
UK Overall	2,615	3.78	2,754	3.79	2,188	3.84	2,639	3.78	1,943	3.71

*-2008-2009 Survey was administered by paper and online.

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

Graduating Senior Survey By College

My academic advisor is someone I would recommend to other students

	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009*	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	365	3.92	306	4.01	327	4.03	396	3.82	178	3.77
Arts & Sciences	693	3.70	901	3.72	826	3.74	1,056	3.79	664	4.01
Business & Economics	619	3.59	516	3.51	249	3.82	162	3.15	289	2.83
Communications & Information Studies	124	4.19	243	4.13	178	4.07	283	3.93	192	3.68
Design	66	3.88	38	3.21	2	4.00	92	2.88	37	3.16
Education	226	3.33	233	3.33	197	3.17	285	3.29	202	3.47
Engineering	272	3.39	242	3.62	232	3.94	210	3.91	166	3.68
Fine Arts	84	3.82	79	3.86	61	3.69	45	3.80	67	3.39
Health Sciences	45	3.84	89	4.08	N/A	N/A	3	2.67	36	3.33
Nursing	65	4.15	66	4.32	53	4.17	66	4.12	71	3.59
Social Work	54	3.48	41	3.29	61	3.11	40	3.25	36	3.42
UK Overall	2,613	3.68	2,754	3.73	2,186	3.78	2,638	3.69	1,938	3.62

*-2008-2009 Survey was administered by paper and online.

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

APPENDIX B

Results of the Survey of Freshman-Year Experiences By College

Results of the Survey of Freshman-Year Experiences By College

My academic advisor spent sufficient time with me

	Spring 2005		Spring 2006		Spring 2007		Spring 2008		Spring 2009	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	31	3.61	38	3.24	46	3.35	63	3.56	91	3.88
Arts & Sciences	206	3.86	167	3.78	166	3.67	208	3.75	159	3.86
Business & Economics	110	3.39	63	3.65	94	2.74	68	2.94	136	3.32
Communications & Information Studies	38	3.89	30	3.37	43	4.09	39	3.77	29	3.79
Design	29	3.55	16	3.13	13	3.23	13	3.38	14	2.93
Education	55	3.49	39	3.33	47	3.68	55	3.51	53	3.26
Engineering	118	3.72	85	3.80	77	3.74	97	3.84	62	4.02
Fine Arts	27	3.78	21	3.48	26	3.19	26	3.23	33	3.33
Health Sciences	44	3.11	44	3.52	40	3.25	39	3.44	35	3.86
Nursing	43	3.23	33	2.73	46	2.63	60	3.43	63	3.51
Social Work	5	4.00	1	4.00	1	2.00	5	3.80	1	5.00
Undergraduate Studies	267	3.48	209	3.73	273	3.81	383	3.77	240	3.78
UK Overall	973	3.59	746	3.61	872	3.53	1,056	3.64	1,131	3.66

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

Results of the Survey of Freshman-Year Experiences By College

My academic advisor was accessible when I needed help

	Spring 2005		Spring 2006		Spring 2007		Spring 2008		Spring 2009	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	31	3.97	38	3.53	46	3.89	63	3.84	90	4.10
Arts & Sciences	206	4.00	167	3.96	166	3.84	208	3.93	159	3.94
Business & Economics	110	3.55	63	3.73	94	3.18	68	3.32	136	3.63
Communications & Information Studies	38	3.95	30	3.63	43	4.14	39	3.95	29	4.00
Design	29	3.66	16	2.81	13	3.38	13	3.62	14	3.14
Education	55	3.62	39	3.59	47	3.70	55	3.67	53	3.55
Engineering	119	3.92	85	3.94	77	3.79	95	3.91	62	4.03
Fine Arts	26	3.46	22	3.45	26	3.46	26	3.65	32	3.59
Health Sciences	44	3.61	44	3.70	40	3.48	39	3.64	35	3.80
Nursing	43	3.63	33	3.18	46	2.98	60	3.82	63	3.86
Social Work	5	3.40	1	4.00	1	2.00	5	3.40	1	5.00
Undergraduate Studies	268	3.67	209	3.91	273	3.89	384	3.92	240	4.05
UK Overall	974	3.76	747	3.78	872	3.71	1,055	3.84	1,129	3.88

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

Results of the Survey of Freshman-Year Experiences By College

My academic advisor is someone I would recommend to other students

	Spring 2005		Spring 2006		Spring 2007		Spring 2008		Spring 2009	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	31	3.65	38	3.50	46	3.57	63	3.67	90	3.91
Arts & Sciences	206	3.87	167	3.83	164	3.76	208	3.76	159	3.86
Business & Economics	110	3.60	62	3.90	94	3.14	68	3.24	136	3.54
Communications & Information Studies	38	4.03	30	3.70	43	4.28	39	3.85	29	4.03
Design	29	3.48	16	3.25	13	3.15	13	3.31	14	2.86
Education	55	3.60	39	3.62	47	3.79	55	3.56	53	3.32
Engineering	120	3.89	85	4.06	76	3.96	97	3.86	62	4.16
Fine Arts	26	3.35	21	3.29	26	3.38	26	3.42	33	3.45
Health Sciences	44	3.57	44	3.68	40	3.6	39	3.51	35	3.71
Nursing	43	3.30	33	3.06	46	2.61	60	3.55	63	3.56
Social Work	5	3.60	1	4.00	1	2.00	5	3.80	1	5.00
Undergraduate Studies	267	3.67	209	3.78	273	3.91	384	3.84	240	3.91
UK Overall	974	3.71	745	3.75	869	3.68	1,057	3.72	1,127	3.79

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Don't Know, 4-Agree, 5-Strongly Agree

APPENDIX C

Results of the National Survey of Student Engagement By College

Results of the National Survey of Student Engagement By College

Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising at this institution?

	2007				2009			
	Freshmen		Seniors		Freshmen		Seniors	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Agriculture	52	2.94	83	3.03	84	3.01	146	2.84
Arts & Sciences	140	2.90	221	2.62	222	3.10	352	2.81
Business & Economics	46	2.58	68	2.37	114	2.88	138	2.45
Communications & Information Studies	24	3.14	52	2.92	40	3.29	90	2.78
Design	13	2.27	16	2.18	20	3.08	21	2.44
Education	26	2.70	74	2.25	45	3.05	116	2.42
Engineering	57	3.30	83	2.86	116	3.31	146	3.07
Fine Arts	22	2.88	8	2.53	28	3.06	53	2.59
Health Sciences	28	2.97	19	2.85	34	3.18	12	2.75
Nursing	37	2.68	28	2.94	47	3.02	42	2.92
Social Work	4	2.22	8	2.48	4	3.53	20	2.71
UK Overall	763	2.94	675	2.66	962	3.12	1,137	2.75

Scale: 1=--Poor, 2-Fair, 3-Good, 4-Excellent