The Mānoa Experience
Graduating Student Survey Report
(May 2012 Graduates)

Jia Qiong
Research Assistant

Myrtle Yamada
Academic Affairs Program Officer

Office of Academic Affairs
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

August 2012
The Mānoa Experience Graduating Student Survey  
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Introduction

References to the Mānoa Experience, Hawaiian Place of Learning, and Hawaiian Sense of Place are a major focus in Mānoa’s two strategic plans: Defining Our Destiny, 2002-2010 and Achieving Our Destiny, 2011-2015. Various Mānoa documents and conversations about these concepts appear to revolve around slightly different definitions. These differences called for a wider conversation to delineate what constitutes the Mānoa Experience and how to reflect this in our curriculum and student and campus life. Also, the recent WASC accreditation reports pointed out the need to clarify the meaning of the Mānoa Experience.

In spring 2010, the Mānoa Experience Workgroup was formed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to determine how to proceed with this conversation. This was followed by several endeavors which were targeted to collect data regarding the Mānoa Experience. They included an Alumni Survey in August 2010, a campus-wide focus group session in November 2010, a New Student Survey in July and August 2011, a Creative Arts Competition in October 2011, a Graduating Student Survey in December 2011, and Department Chair Interviews in April and May 2012. This Graduating Student Survey was another effort to further articulate the Mānoa Experience. This online survey requested feedback from graduating students who registered for the May 2012 Commencement.

The survey consisted of ten close-ended questions and two open-ended questions. The survey questionnaire is attached. The ten close-ended questions asked for responses from students in terms of their level of agreement (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree, not applicable) about the quality of Mānoa’s academic programs, student engagement in research and creative activities, artistic and cultural expression in the curriculum and campus life, appreciation for world cultures, incorporation of the principles of sustainability, respect for indigenous knowledge and practices, and infusion of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives in the curriculum and campus life—all themes that permeated the two strategic plans. The two open-ended questions asked graduating students to describe their Mānoa experience and to reflect on how their Mānoa experience affected their lives.

The total number of graduating students who registered for the commencement was 2,204. Responses for the online survey were received from 1,194 students, representing a 54.2% response rate. Among them, 824 were undergraduate students, comprising 69% of survey takers, and 370 were graduate students, comprising the remaining 31%.

For the close-ended survey questions, Likert Scale responses were inputted based on the following value assignments: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, and 5=strongly agree, 6=not applicable. Survey information was recorded in an Excel
spreadsheet. “Not applicable” was not considered in this analysis. In order to remain in parallel with the Alumni Survey and the New Student Survey, strongly disagree and disagree were combined into one scale as strongly disagree/disagree, and strongly agree and agree into agree/strongly agree. The result was to create three scale measures: strongly disagree/disagree, neutral, and agree/strongly agree.

The data were then analyzed through the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) in different steps. First, a one-way frequency analysis was conducted to obtain numbers and percentages of responses. Second, a two-way frequency analysis was conducted to obtain numbers and percentages of responses in the sub-group of the student’s academic degree received. Percentage responses were calculated for each of the three scales and the results were reported in the Figure 1 pie chart. The percentages were automatically rounded in the pie chart. Responses were then disaggregated by academic degree. The rounded percentages were also used in explanation and comparison. Those results are presented in Table1.

The responses to the agree/disagree questions were overwhelmingly positive. The agree responses ranged from a high of 94% to the statement that “Mānoa is open to world culture” to a low of 78%, although still very high, for the statements that “Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive programs” and “Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities.” Higher percentages of undergraduate students agreed that “Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive programs,” 79% versus 76%; that “Mānoa is informed by principals of sustainability,” 81% versus 76%; that “Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum,” 88% versus 86%. Higher percentages of graduate students agreed that “Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities,” 86% versus 80%; and that “Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community,” 91% versus 89%.

The qualitative software Nvivo 9 was utilized for data analysis for the open-ended questions. The word frequency query was conducted first to identify the most recurring issues. Then the responses were analyzed based on the themes reflecting those issues and presented as bullet points.

For the first open-ended question, the responses were first evaluated on the basis of the general tone of the answer on a positive/ negative scale. The responses were presented together with the most frequent words that mirrored the tone, and five major themes emerged in both positive and negative scales. The positive responses clustered around five major themes: Hawaiian place and cultural diversity, high quality and distinctive experience, high quality and distinctive academic programs, faculty, and enriching campus life. The negative responses reflected problems in five themes: academic issues, faculty and staff, infrastructure problems, student support, and tuition and fees. Both positive and negative comments were received about a number of issues: academic environment, specific academic programs, faculty, and campus life. For the second open-ended question, the responses were examined based on five major themes identified:
quality and distinctive academic programs, personal growth, career and professional development, social network, and multicultural experience. The negative responses were not included in this analysis due to the tiny percentage they comprised.

The graduating student survey and the alumni survey results were also compared. A comparison of the ten agree/disagree questions showed that agree percentages for graduating students were higher than alumni with the exception of the first item “Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs” where the agree percentage for alumni was 79% compared to 78% for graduating students. An in-depth examination indicated that approximately 72% of alumni who participated in the online survey graduated before 2001. So the differences between graduating students and alumni could be due to new emphases and initiatives since 2002. For instance, higher percentages of graduating students believed that “Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities (8% higher),” “Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability (23% higher),” “Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices (7% higher),” “Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum (7% higher),” and “Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life (6% higher).” These initiatives were adopted in Mānoa’s 2001-2010 and 2011-2015 strategic plans. The comparison results are presented in Table 2.

A comparison of the open-ended questions showed that the responses from the graduating students covered more themes on current specific and detailed issues because they were still on campus while responding the online survey. Based on a positive scale, four same themes emerged from the two groups, including Hawaiian place and cultural diversity, high quality and distinctive experience, faculty, and campus life. But the graduating students covered one more theme about high quality and distinctive academic programs due to the freshness of their experiences. For a negative scale, four similar themes also surfaced from both groups, including academic issues, faculty and staff, infrastructure problems, and student support. However, the graduating students also mentioned issues related to specific academic programs, construction, policy issues, and tuition and fees. The detailed information is presented in Table 3.

While the 2011 WASC accreditation report pointed to the need to clarify the meaning of the Mānoa Experience, the results of the survey show that the features of the Mānoa Experience delineated in Mānoa’s two most recent strategic plans are in fact the features that graduates attribute to their Mānoa Experience.
1. Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs.

![Percentage Distribution](image1)

2. Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities.

![Percentage Distribution](image2)
3. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum.

4. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its campus life.

5. Mānoa is open to world cultures.
6. Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability.

7. Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices.

8. Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community.
9. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum.

10. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life.
Mānoa Experience Graduating Student Survey  
Comparison by Degree Level

Table 1

1. Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>77.96%</td>
<td>78.84%</td>
<td>75.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>16.90%</td>
<td>16.83%</td>
<td>17.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
<td>4.33%</td>
<td>6.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A slightly higher percentage of undergraduate students believe that Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs (79% versus 76%).

2. Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>82.08%</td>
<td>80.47%</td>
<td>85.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>13.52%</td>
<td>15.30%</td>
<td>9.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.39%</td>
<td>4.23%</td>
<td>4.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A higher percentage of graduate students believe that Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities (86% versus 80%).

3. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>82.01%</td>
<td>82.22%</td>
<td>81.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>13.89%</td>
<td>13.49%</td>
<td>14.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.10%</td>
<td>4.29%</td>
<td>3.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Very close percentages of undergraduate and graduate students believe that Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum (82%).
4. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its campus life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>80.70%</td>
<td>80.88%</td>
<td>80.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>14.91%</td>
<td>14.38%</td>
<td>16.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.39%</td>
<td>4.75%</td>
<td>3.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Similar percentages of undergraduate and graduate students believe that Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its campus life (81% versus 80%).

5. Mānoa is open to world cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>93.99%</td>
<td>93.87%</td>
<td>94.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>4.53%</td>
<td>4.51%</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A high percentage of responses (94%) reflect the belief that Mānoa is open to world cultures. The agree percentages for undergraduate and graduate students are very close (94%).

6. Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>79.24%</td>
<td>80.77%</td>
<td>75.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>14.86%</td>
<td>13.61%</td>
<td>17.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>5.91%</td>
<td>5.62%</td>
<td>6.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A higher percentage of undergraduate students believe that Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability (81% versus 76%).

7. Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>86.20%</td>
<td>86.07%</td>
<td>86.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>10.74%</td>
<td>11.04%</td>
<td>10.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
<td>2.89%</td>
<td>3.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Very close percentages of undergraduate and graduate students believe that Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices (86%).
8. Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>89.44%</td>
<td>88.75%</td>
<td>90.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>8.23%</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
<td>6.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
<td>2.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A high percentage of responses (89%) reflect the belief that Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community. Agree percentage for graduate students is slightly higher than undergraduate students (91% versus 89%).

9. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>87.64%</td>
<td>88.33%</td>
<td>86.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>8.28%</td>
<td>10.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.31%</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
<td>3.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A high percentage of responses (88%) reflect the belief that Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum. Agree percentage for undergraduate students is slightly higher than graduate students (88% versus 86%).

10. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>85.27%</td>
<td>85.24%</td>
<td>85.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
<td>10.81%</td>
<td>11.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.73%</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
<td>3.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Similar percentages of undergraduate and graduate students believe that Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life (85%).
Mānoa Experience Graduating Student Survey
Responses to the Open-ended Questions

Question 11: Describe your Mānoa experience, positive and/or negative

The responses for Question 11 were first evaluated based on the general tone of the answers on a positive/negative scale. The responses are presented below along with the most frequent words that were employed to mirror the tone, and five major themes emerged in both positive and negative scales. Both positive and negative comments were received about a number of issues: academic environment, specific academic programs, faculty, and campus life.

Positive Responses
The positive responses clustered around five major themes: Hawaiian place and cultural diversity, high quality and distinctive experience, high quality and distinctive academic programs, faculty, and enriching campus life.

Major words: positive/positively, learned, good, great, helped, enjoyed, better, taught, like, opened, diverse, new, important, gained, informed, confidence, qualified, capable, opportunities, wonderful, well, loved, fun, helpful, happy, values, impressed, prepare/prepared, provided, excellent, appreciate/appreciation, enjoy/enjoyable, friendly, improved, proud, interesting, amazing, allowed, able, enriched, glad, grateful, beautiful, pretty, rewarding, useful, excited, knowledgeable, etc.

Hawaiian Place and Cultural Diversity
- I like the diversity and the different cultures.
- I met people from many different backgrounds from all over the world.
- I appreciated the broad variety of cultural experiences.
- My experience was truly enriched by a blanket effect of culture, media and enlightenment of the world.
- The campus atmosphere was great with diversity.
- I had a great opportunity to meet with people from different cultures.
- It offered me a whole new and different experience.
- Loved Hawai‘i and people I met
- I have learnt a tremendous amount about Hawaiian Culture and more importantly the values and leadership style.
- I met so many people from different culture backgrounds.
- Cultural diversified.
- I learned so much about different cultures around the world, myself, and others.
- I really enjoyed multicultural education at UHM.
- Mānoa opened my eyes when nearly every group of people is represented.
- Very diverse and opened my eyes to different cultures
- Meeting people from all over the world and collaborating on ideas with them
- Really diverse
- I got to experience culture different from mine and truly learned from it.
- I learned many things about Hawaiian culture and history.
• Met a lot of good people and learned a lot about different cultures and viewpoints.
• The diversity of culture here on campus has added to the learning experience.
• UHM is a school with a wide variety of cultures around the world.
• I was able to make many friends from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
• Meet different people from different countries.
• I was very happy that I got to meet new people from all over the world.
• Cultural diversity with various ethnicities.
• I have experienced Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific traditional values at Mānoa.
• I met people from different cultural background and learned a lot from them.
• Met great people from all different cultures and walks of life.
• I experienced various cultures mixed on the campus.
• Mānoa creates a multicultural environment.
• Feel lucky to have been able to be a part of such a culturally rich school.
• A unique experience in a multicultural environment.
• Mānoa infuses the local culture, students and faculty from all walks of life.
• Mānoa is characterized by its rich culture in both faculty and students.
• Meeting and interacting with different ethnic groups.
• Studying in Hawai‘i is unique because the culture is unique.
• It was a great experience to be exposed to different cultures.
• I enjoyed the diversity in culture and how my degree integrated with that.
• Mānoa’s respectfulness and appreciation to Asian and Pacific cultures and heritages helped to develop a field of study about those cultures.
• Culturally enlightening
• A lot of different cultures got involved together, so I enjoyed meeting new people.
• I learned so much about my heritage and received something valuable that was lost.
• I had a great time and met a lot of interesting people from different backgrounds.
• Rich cultural experience
• I interacted with students from different countries and cultures.
• Diverse cultural background of students helped minimize racial discrimination.

High Quality and Distinctive Experience
• My experience here has broadened my horizons, filling me with enthusiasm to keep tackling the obstacles out in the world as I keep learning after graduation.
• It has really helped me build confidence and courage to face public and raise my voice when needed.
• UH Mānoa has opened my mind and knowledge of the world which has in turn made me become a more conscience, awareness, and well rounded individual.
• It was helpful to be in a cohort while pursuing my degree.
• I have learned so much over the past five years and I hope to continue my education at this institution.
• Mānoa provided me with a great education that allowed me to learn in a very diverse environment.
• Mānoa has helped me to open up to more experiences on campus and in my life.
• I am so proud that I went to school here and it was the best decision of my life.
• I now have a broader understanding of the world thanks to UHM.
• Academics were challenging enough to keep me motivated to study.

~ 13 ~
• Taught me a different perspective in politics, alternative forms of teaching, opportunities to study abroad, and internships
• A memorable experience and I learned a lot during my four years and half.
• Returning back to Hawai‘i to complete my education was most successful.
• My UH Mānoa experience was positive, both educational wise and social wise.
• The academic portion of the institution was worth the time and money.
• I learned a lot and would love to attain a job on campus.
• Appreciated the research opportunities offered to undergraduate students
• I have learned academically and also culturally and loved every step.
• I learned not only my major study but also learned important things for my future.
• I was able to participate in programs and courses that can only be found at Mānoa.
• I love studying at UH and I have learned a lot from here.
• It was a life experience that I could not have gotten anywhere else.
• I've learned to view the world with different lens and perspectives.
• Gaining a new wealth of knowledge has been a wonderful experience for me.
• It was a great learning experience, very challenging and worthwhile!
• I was able to challenge myself and accomplish things that others used to say I couldn't.
• My experience helped me to grow intellectually as well as personally.
• I was challenged in a way that brought out the best of my academic potential.
• As soon as I arrived at UH, my mentality totally changed and I became motivated.
• I honestly wouldn't have traded my Mānoa experience for anything.
• My experience was a very positive and fulfilling academic journey that taught me so much about who I am and what I want to become.
• The institute has prepared me to work in my field.
• Attending Mānoa for my masters was one of the best decisions I've made so far.
• I enjoyed my college career at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
• I learned a lot about myself and about others.
• I enjoyed the diversity of courses, students, activities, and clubs at this campus.
• Mānoa offered me many great opportunities that helped me grow as a better person.
• An opportunity to expand my knowledge and gain applicable skills in critical thinking and communication.
• I had a very positive experience, so I am coming back to get my graduate degree.
• There are many resources in this community that are beneficial.
• You truly get a sense of respect, pride and appreciation for being a part of Mānoa.
• Being at Mānoa opened my knowledge to work cultures and experiences.
• I have learned so many things for just being in this unique university.
• I was concerned about attending such a large university but feel I was able to flourish here.
• Mānoa gave me the tools to tackle any obstacle that I will encounter in my life.
• It was long and challenging, but it was worthy.
• Mānoa has contributed to my educational and professional network sphere.
• I love it here! That's why I'm continuing my Doctorate Degree here.
• Most challenging work has stretched me mentally, spiritually and emotionally nearly to the limit.
• Learned a lot of things both directly related to the curriculum and personal maturity.
- It was a good experience academically.
- I've gained a perspective of what is important in life.
- I gained knowledge of so many areas that I can apply in my future endeavors.
- I have significantly improved and found a major that fits me best.
- Positive learning environment
- Provided an excellent academic experience.
- Learned a lot and networked with many potential employers, and was able to land a good career.
- My scholastic abilities were challenged.
- I had good experience from Mānoa’s education. It can be useful things in my future.
- I grew as an individual and expanded my knowledge of fields I was interested in.
- My educational experience was a very enriching one.
- I learned not only in the classroom but through life experiences where I think the most valuable knowledge comes from.
- The knowledge I have gained at this institution has changed me and has allowed me to grow as an open-minded individual.
- I will miss the campus life and the amazing atmosphere this university has.
- I learned a great deal, met many new friends, and made new job contacts.
- Could not be happier with this school and the things that I have obtained.
- Mānoa has given me a great scholastic experience and I’ve enjoyed my four years.
- I have learned a lot in my academic field along with my personal life.
- It was a great experience that helped shape who I am and my views today.
- The respective subjects were valuable to enhancing social awareness.
- It has truly enriched my life and has helped to develop me as person.
- Assignments and projects really helped me and will be very useful in my career life.
- I am very grateful for the education I received here at Mānoa.
- Excellent teaching
- I've gained more knowledge about myself, higher education, and people.
- The skills and knowledge I've gained helped me to be a better leader.
- My experience at Mānoa was amazing. I learned and experienced so much!
- Really great experience. I am glad I did it.
- As an international student, the Mānoa experience has been positive.
- It was great! I want my kids to come here.
- I was able to learn a lot throughout my college life at UH Mānoa.
- The teachers are amazing and well versed in their degrees.
- Good teachers and great opportunities for networking and learning.
- It was a good experience with many resources that helped me along the way.
- It was an amazing journey that has shaped me into the person I am today.
- I am very proud to be a UH graduate.
- Awesome! Going to Graduate School at UH Mānoa was the best thing I ever did.
- It is here that I figured out what I want to do with my life after graduation.
- My eyes have been opened up to the needs of the people of Hawai‘i.
- I am glad that I chose UHM to pursue my degree.
- I really loved attending this school and recommend to anyone.
- I have developed my interest and potential career, and plan to continue to do so.
- I appreciate all that I have learned here at Mānoa.
I feel like I have learned a lot about myself and the area of study I am in.
Very positive and life changing. I recommend my friends and family to go here.
It was very challenging at some points but very rewarding.
UHM have many helpful resources for students such as the writing center.
I enjoyed the plethora of choices I had when registering for classes.
I have learned a lot from classes.
I enjoyed my courses and felt prepared for the future.
I loved small classes because teachers cared more and I was more involved.
I coupled the knowledge from courses with hands-on experiences in my practicum.
Challenging classes broadened our minds and I tried to experience them.
Learning and having classes that I had interest in was the reason why I chose UHM.
I was nurtured in every class I took.
My classes were interesting and integrated well with my social life and work life.
I enjoyed attending in-person classes at UH Mānoa. The people here are great!
Mostly good experience with classes and teachers.
I’ve taken many types of courses, fallen in love with different studies.
Challenging coursework
I enjoyed this university and the classes.
There were some interesting and great classes offered.

High Quality and Distinctive Academic Programs
- I learned a lot through Hawaiian Studies and enriched by HAP programs.
- The Hawaiian Studies Program was a great foundation for me.
- I really loved my time at Shidler College of Business.
- The Business Program at Shidler was among the best experiences of my life.
- I have had lots of help and advising from advisors at Shidler College of Business.
- The professors in Engineering are great. You can really see their passion for the subject through their lectures.
- The College of Engineering was mostly very positive experience.
- My field practicum in Social Work was the most helpful in giving me the hands on work that I needed to be immersed in the profession.
- The School of Social Work has shown their extreme efforts towards indigenization.
- Challenging program which challenged my ideas and values and helped me to prepare for Social Work practice.
- I had a good experience in my Nursing Program.
- Great Nursing Program
- The Dental Program I was in gave me a real world experience.
- The Master of Public Health Program is rigorous.
- Excellent Asia-focus
- Enjoyed the experience and great instruction in the Asian Studies Program
- I found Mānoa the right place for Asian Studies.
- I appreciate the COE's attentiveness to their students' needs and concerns.
- My experience was very good due to faculty in Special Education.
- Our Chair in Education Administration was very supportive and helpful.
- I discovered the Ethnic Studies Program while at Mānoa.
- I was proud to graduate with a BS from the FSHN Program.
• Great experience as an undergraduate in the Food Science program
• The Department of Music is excellent. I learned a lot and expanded my knowledge and got to perform music through various events.
• Staff and chair of Department of Music were supportive throughout my journey.
• The Department of Music has been such a great support system for me.
• The great Computer Science Program
• The Public Administration Program was wonderful! I will miss it.
• Professors in the Department of Religion helped me so much expanding my way of thinking and challenging me to grow.
• I'm glad to have come here for my BS in Civil Engineering. Faculty and staff were always friendly and helped me throughout my college years.
• The Travel Industry Management Program is excellent.
• I enjoyed my MLISc experience here at Mānoa.
• The GE program has been a smooth experience and I have enjoyed all of my learning experiences in class and in the field placement.
• I have had an excellent experience in attending the graduate school.
• Studying abroad was the best decision I've made in my life so far.
• I thought it offered some good programs such as Study Abroad.
• Online program makes it possible for me to obtain my advanced degree.

Faculty
• The professors are really lenient and helpful.
• Most of my instructors were awesome and engaged.
• Professors, TAs, and employees made this experience a positive one.
• My professors are very supportive and helpful!
• My professors were amazing!
• Some of my professors were passionate and concise.
• My Professors were helpful and offered time outside of class whenever I requested.
• Excellent professors and friendly classmates
• Professors and faculty challenged me to do my best.
• Great people and great professors
• Teachers and students were very nice and friendly.
• Professors are in tune with academics and strive for improving the curriculum.
• Professors care about their students and are very understandable individuals.
• The professors at the Department of Nursing were awesome!
• I have had some very wonderful professors.
• The professors were very knowledgeable in their field.
• Fantastic! The faculty at UH is first rate.
• The professors were always friendly and passionate about what they taught.
• Professors in FSHN were always there to help and enthusiastic in the subjects they are teaching.
• Many of different great professors were always willing to help their students.
• Professors care about their student, which makes students study harder.
• My teachers and advisers were incredibly dedicated and gave me a wonderful education and future full of bright opportunities.
• Some teachers are very exceptional.
• I loved my English professors. Everyone was professional and well equipped to teach.
• I met some professors who changed, and will continue to change my life.
• Professors in Music are very supportive and dedicated.
• All Music Department faculty members are wonderful.
• Most of my professors were very flexible and responsive to my needs.
• Great faculty
• Most of the staff are very nice and helpful, especially the academic advisors.
• Professors were nice and easy to talk with.
• The professors are experts and approachable.
• I've had many helpful professors.
• I had amazing professors and learned a great deal.
• The professors are very helpful.
• Most of the instructors are passionate about the subjects they are teaching.
• Highly qualified instructors
• I was very grateful to learn from the professors and they continue to inspire me.
• My professors who were from different countries were brilliant.
• Most of my professors were very inspiring.
• Some really great teachers
• The professors were great.
• The faculty is amazing.
• Helpful professors
• Professors and faculty have been very kind and generous.
• The teachers really care about you. They treat you like family not just a number.
• The professors are very engaged and inspire me to look for further education.
• The professors are kind.
• There were definitely very helpful people working within the UH system.
• There was always someone that helped me to choose classes, make decisions, and prepare for my future.
• I had great counselors and some teachers that helped to guide me.
• There were people to contact when I had questions.

Enriching Campus Life
• Best years of my life
• As a foreign born I feel welcome and teachers are always available to assist.
• Fun, enjoyable, and challenging.
• I had a great overall experience in my classes and campus life.
• I love the sports events, theatre performances, and art exhibitions.
• I enjoyed the campus life a lot.
• I attended many cultural exchange programs.
• Enjoyed my UH life with meeting many people from other countries.
• It was a great home away from home.
• Everyone is so helpful and loving.
• I have built strong and lasting friendships with my professors and my classmates.
• The atmosphere is very welcoming and a nice place.
• UH Mānoa became a second home to me.
• It is a place that made me feel welcome.
• An unforgettable experience in a home-like setting.
• I made many friends and enjoyed my five years of school here at UHM.
• Had a fun time hanging out around campus with the various food places
• I met the most influential people that have helped shape me into who I am today.
• I had a great time with professors, meeting people and learning all types of subjects.
• Made a lot of friends and gave me another way of looking at the world and life
• Campus life and curriculum were very positive.
• Everything is very close and people are very friendly.
• I learned many new things and met many wonderful people that I will never forget.
• Met wonderful people both students and teachers
• Great campus, great environment, and great community.
• I got to meet lots of new people.
• The campus is beautiful.
• I attribute to many activities and events on campus as well as the amazing classes and friends I have interacted with.
• Fun and casual learning environment.
• I enjoyed the activities and classes provided by the university.
• Provided me with networking for the future and friends that will last for a lifetime.
• Loved every second of it socially and academically.
• I love the campus and the teachers.
• The school always makes me have a warm fuzzy feeling when I am on campus.
• I was highly involved in Ka Leo and PRSSA, which truly made my college experience memorable.
• Loved meeting new people
• I was able to serve and participate in club activities, and enjoy intramural sports and recreation.
• I met many unique types of people and was able to learn a lot from that experience.
• My involvement with student organizations made my experience more enjoyable!
• Met good friends
• Lots of different activities to participate in. Lots of great people to meet.
• I had a lot of fun during my time spent here.
• I have met so many amazing people and learned a lot.
• Good facilities and activities
• I was able to adjust my campus life easily and settle into a community of my fellow peers who shared similar views.
• I enjoyed my time here.
• I loved the programs that I’ve participated in.
• Great campus life
• I had amazing encounters with wild life, plants, and wonderful people on campus.
• It has been a lot of fun to meet a number of great people along the way.
• Student life in UH Mānoa is plentiful and it helps me in building my future career.
• I enjoyed the campus atmosphere and the classes I took.
• A good networking experience.
• We have our own little, yet thriving community.
• I have forged friendships that I am certain will last for years to come.

~ 19 ~
• The feeling of ohana is all around the campus.
• Campus life is good.
• I met new people who enriched my perspectives and experiences.
• Love the landscape around Hawai‘i Hall.
• The comfort of knowing that home is only an island away.
• I was able to get the full "life" of college while still living in Hawai‘i.

Negative Responses
The negative responses reflected problems in five themes: academic issues, faculty and staff, infrastructure problems, student support, and tuition and fees.

Major Words: challenges, limited, old, hard, never, bad, disappointed, horrible, closed, distracting, obstacles, failed, bias, problem, racial, unorganized, worst, boring, cumbersome, discrimination, downfall, etc.

Academic Issues: Academic issues can be grouped into three sub-themes: academic environment, courses, and academic programs.

Academic Environment
• Compared to other schools, Mānoa is extremely unorganized and uninformative.
• It feels almost like a commuter school.
• Not as challenged academically as I wanted to be
• Quality of the education could be improved.
• I felt unchallenged and classes could have been more competitive academically.
• It is underrated.
• UH Mānoa wasn't that challenging.
• I feel like I was unprepared for my research project.
• I wish the school functioned less like a commuter campus.
• Some instructors inflate the grades and are not taking their jobs of upholding standards seriously.
• It took a bit longer than I expected. Streamlining the experience may help students focus better.
• Too much requirements need to be fulfilled with very little time and space to do so.
• Wasted
• The academics and quality of students are weak.
• This is a closed-minded school and I had a mediocre, at best, experience here.
• Having a more focused curriculum, i.e. paths for specific disciplines such as Marketing, would have been beneficial.
• Having more resources and funding would have made my research experiences much more enriching.
• Mānoa is a commuter school, so it's understandable that campus life isn't essential.
• Being a commuter campus is less than ideal for the true college experience.
• Some international students tend to flock with their country fellows and do not mix with others.
• I was at the John A Burns School of Medicine and I wish it was more like Mānoa with a more campus and community oriented feel.
- I wish a stronger presence of Hawaiian and other world cultures on campus.
- The majority of policy makers are not Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. So the theories and paradigms of research and knowledge are based on principles and values that are not from Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders.
- The red tape of university policies can be very cumbersome.

Courses
- The cutting back of certain classes because of budget cuts
- There should be more Chemistry courses.
- Hawaiian Language should be more emphasized.
- The huge lecture classes seemed unnecessary to go to.
- Students are not motivated due to pointless things for the required focus courses.
- Some courses are not very challenging.
- Very difficult to get classes.
- Some of the Mānoa core requirements don't make sense.
- The graduate course list is incredibly limited and repetitive.
- Some of the classes could have been a little more challenging.
- Some classes that I needed to take were useless.
- There is a huge difference between courses of the same level. Some are really easy and some are really hard.
- I didn't enjoy the huge lecture classes.
- Getting classes only being offered every other semester sucks and is frustrating.
- The system to enroll into classes is greatly lacking.
- The only hardship was getting certain classes that I needed.

Academic Programs
- I wish there were more research opportunities for undergraduate students.
- Undergraduate students get very little attention from the whole system.
- Too much emphasis on pleasing expectations of certain individuals in Art.
- Seemingly biased favor for certain programs or parts of campus.
- The MEdT program I attended was not exceptionally challenging.
- The Animal Science has limited classes and professors, so graduating is hard and finding classes to fill schedule is tough.
- Online PBSC Program limited my knowledge and experience of campus life.
- The quality for Undergraduate Education is subpar.
- I was not happy with the level of education provided by the Department of Zoology.
- My experience with GE Program was fairly negative and time was consumed on irrelevant subjects.
- Too many GE requirements which makes graduating in 4 years difficult.
- The curriculum of the Graduate Program doesn’t allow for cultural experiences.
- I was disappointed in the funding for my particular program.

Faculty and Staff
- Faculty could be improved.
- Besides some bad professors, my experience here has been fulfilling.
- Had some boring teachers and also had some I wondered how they became teachers
• I only had three good instructors.
• All instructors need to post assignments on Laulima.
• Communication with faculty has been the biggest downfall.
• The professors were usually very nice, but some weren't very good at teaching.
• Feedback from professors did not prove useful for future assignments.
• UH needs better professors.
• Small pockets of interesting and engaging professors surrounded by a mass of humdrum, uninteresting, unoriginal thoughts.
• Some professors need to find innovative ways to teach by using more visuals.
• The parking office needs to replace its current staff with more friendly, knowledgeable, and respectful employees.
• Some counselors were not that helpful.
• Administration and counselors were horrible.
• The administration is much worse than it should be in terms of managing the budget between providing a good education and optional recreational opportunities.
• Student housing staff lack consistency in knowledge and were not very helpful.
• Asian Studies needs more counselors with a clearer graduation checklist.
• Unorganized administration, no transparency in university policies.

Infrastructure Problems: Infrastructure problems were reported in four areas: parking, construction, facilities, and dorms.

Parking
• Parking was a huge issue for me.
• The parking problems need to be addressed ASAP.
• Parking situations are not good. Limited parking passes are given out so I had to pay for parking everyday or I would get a ticket.
• Parking is horrible.
• The parking sucks!!
• Other than the horrible parking situation, my UH Mānoa experience was great.

Construction
• The cafeteria construction has been going on for three years since I was enrolled.
• Construction sucks.
• Positive despite the construction.
• Too much construction plus construction takes too long and looks ugly.
• Not very happy about the amount of construction during the semesters.
• Hated the constant construction.
• Construction and renovations to the Campus Center really messed things up.
• I wish there was less construction here.
• It would be great if construction was expedited.
• We have to endure the distractions of construction around the classrooms.

Facilities
• I am disappointed with exercise facilities. We pay so much money for a small gym.
• Need to continue to improve the facilities.
• Insufficient campus facilities
• Facilities could be improved.
• Miller Hall needs to be updated.
• We need a 24 hour lab and functioning equipment in the Fashion Industry.
• Old buildings and lab materials
• More resources should be put into classroom rather than a new recreation center.
• We were studying in buildings deemed to be unsafe in Gartley.
• The UH system isn't too great with housing, parking, etc.
• A lot of work is needed.
• Campus is really, really old.
• The limited resources such as computer lab, faulty equipment in classrooms, and printing stations
• Campus needs some uplifting as far as decor and visual.

Dorms
• The dorms are horrible and are not controlled very well.
• The dorms need to be remodeled and more parking needs to be made available.

Student Support: Negative comments regarding student support included four sub-themes: advising, student service, campus life, and policy issues.

Advising
• As a transfer student, I wish I'd had a little more guidance.
• More advising! I think it should be mandatory.
• Many times I felt lost and sent in circles when I tried to get help. I wish we were assigned advising from the beginning.
• There seems to be some distance in advising service and students.
• Having a mandatory meeting with a counselor should be done in the freshman year.
• Need to improve the academic advising. Students need more direction than the 15 minutes meetings we got at UH.
• The main issue I encountered was proper advising.
• There is a lack of guidance and clarity.

Student Service
• Negative in that sometimes paperwork and getting back to students is not efficient.
• Difficult at times to get through systems such as financial aid, housing, etc.
• Clarity on policies and procedures are needed.
• Processing forms or things takes too long.
• I had trouble with the organization of Mānoa, which sometimes made me frustrated.
• Less security at night
• It is very tough for new students to get help from the student services.
• I wish that I was better informed about resources to find a career.
• Job placement skills are not emphasized.
Campus life
- I paid a tremendous amount for Nursing Graduate School, but can't get into football games and buy a bus pass.
- We're not included in the GSO.
- The student athlete experience at UH Mānoa was very negative.
- Not much social experience though.

Policy issues
- The only problem I have ever had was not being able to transfer so many credits.
- Homeless people in library are very distracting and frustrating.
- Don't turn the air conditioning so low in some of classrooms.
- Every student should have some understanding of Hawaiians and their self-defined role as host culture and aboriginal people.

Tuition and Fees
- The cost is out of this world.
- Parking fees, increasing tuition, and keeping changing the new editions of books
- Unexplained tuition hiking
- Students have to pay for fees for resources they don't ever use.
- Tuition hiking made for some troubling semesters.
- The cost of tuition is not so pleasant

**Question 12: In what way did your Mānoa experience affect your life?**

The responses for Question 12 were analyzed for major themes which emerged from the survey. Based on a word query of the responses, five major themes were identified: quality and distinctive academic programs, personal growth, career and professional development, social network, and multicultural experience. The negative responses were not included in this analysis because only five students provided their negative comments.

**Quality and Distinctive Academic Programs**

**Major Words:** knowledge, act, experience, education, classes, quality, understanding, support, study, nursing, success/succeed, assignments, major, music, academic, school, encouraged, subjects, degree, courses, Mānoa, faculty, program, engineering, lecture, taught, science, mentors, university, etc.

- My advisor gave me the confidence to follow my passion and to take risks.
- I would be always proud of my school University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
- It will help me pursue my lifelong dream of attending law school in the future.
- Political Science has opened my eyes in global politics and sustainability.
- I got to study under some dedicated instructors.
- Gave me a college degree and expanded my international politics perspectives
- I was able to receive a higher education and more.
- Professors in the Department of Psychology deserve the highest recognition.
Being a student at Mānoa is great.

It provided me with the opportunity to seek a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. It gives me the key to open the door to a brighter future. Provided me with the education I need to sustain a comfortable life in the future. Not only an Engineering education but also the confidence to succeed in what I do. It has made me value more the importance of higher education. It was the opportunity to study abroad in Japan that affected me profoundly. Allowed me to get a good college education at an affordable price. Extracurricular offerings are exceptional and greatly involved in the community. Enriched my education and provided me with many opportunities for my future. Classes at school of Hawai‘i‘iniʻakua helped to shape my life in a positive way. I have finally made it with the help of amazing professors. I am willing to seek for opportunities instead of waiting for something to happen. I loved the Department of Asian Studies. Allowed me to obtain a college education while staying on the island. Studying at Mānoa was the best decision of my life so far. Taking diverse classes has changed my perspectives in life. Learned the value of travel from programs in Korea, Japan, and Washington DC. Thanks to the classes I took, I can look at myself and the world differently. The international academic environment allowed me to conduct my research in a high standard. I had awesome mentors that helped me figure out my future. Improved my ability in effective communication, leading, and following instructions. The graduate school engulfed me into new knowledge I have never known before. I could learn and study a second language at Mānoa. I was able to express my thoughts more thoroughly than before. My study abroad experiences in France and Belgium influenced my career choice. The classes taught me so much about research methods in Childhood Development. Mānoa fosters highly rewarding experiences. Opportunities to engage in the community and hand-on experiences at TIM. It gave me the chance to perform at an international academic level.

Personal Growth

Major Words: changed, learned, life, positive, accountable, opened, grow, attitude, advanced, responsible, management, raise, allowed, adult, rounded, accomplish, inspirational, improved, mature, enriched, confidence, horizons, broaden, etc.

It helped me learn how to apply what I learned in the settings of the real world. One of the most challenging and fulfilling achievement and experience of my life. I grew up from a teenage to a young mature adult. I have more knowledge and am ready to go out into the world. It made me realize what I wanted to do in my life. Helped me grow as a person and appreciate differences and similarities of people. My horizons have been opened.
• Participating in programs that I didn't normally engage in
• Affected me socially since I used to be more on the conservative side
• Taught me to be more open, especially with different and new experiences.
• Allowed me to explore and grow in a beautiful and supportive environment.
• A complete revival of my culture and identity as a person, resident of the archipelago and an indigenous student of Hawaiianism.
• I did a lot of growing here and it made me a better person.
• I learned a lot about myself and my role in this world and I will be forever grateful!
• Made me a well rounded person
• It opened me up to the world, seeing new opportunities and challenges.
• I learned how to manage my time and the importance of social connections.
• I have truly grown as a person and have learned more than I thought I ever would.
• Gained so much leadership and time management skills.
• I am a better person and feel more confident to succeed in my life.
• I learned so much about myself by focusing on my strengths and weaknesses.
• Made me become open-minded to view the world from different aspects.
• I learned how to be responsible and how to motivate and challenge myself.
• Gain a sense of maturity and responsibility
• I have become more knowledgeable and more interested in my studies.
• UH Mānoa helped me grow up and find myself.
• It helped me to grow as a human being, broaden my horizons, and have a much more complete picture of the world.
• I learned a whole new way of eating, talking, and looking at life.
• Appreciate my opportunities to the fullest and keep working towards my dreams.
• My perspective has changed. I feel that I have re-identified my core values.
• It made me more responsible and helped develop my work ethics.
• I gain a lot from UH, especially the attitude about study, work and life.
• I learned a lot of valuable life lessons.
• Mānoa really opened my eyes to a new lifestyle and a new approach to learning.
• It made me a mentally stronger person by challenging me.
• Changed and improved me internally and externally
• Helped me to become a more critical and creative thinker
• Being away from home allowed me to grow up and learn new responsibilities.
• I have grown and matured a lot through my four years at Mānoa.
• It taught me to be more independent.
• I learned to serve my community, help others, appreciate my surroundings, and work and strive for the best.
• I have a greater appreciation for the things I have been blessed with in my life.
• It affected my life by moving away from home and exposing me to new things.
• It helped me get a better understanding of the real world.
• It shaped a lot of my experiences and opinions now that I am an adult.
• I became a more responsible person.
• The experience exceeded all my expectations.
• Proud to be a Rainbow Warrior!
• It taught me many things, especially about being independent and how to learn.
• It is here that I grew as a musician, a student, a teacher, and a person.
• Strengthened me as a student and learned new things that I never knew before.
• Completely changed my life for the better.
• The Mānoa experience helped me expand my world viewpoint.
• Mānoa helped me grow as a person not just academically but socially and mentally.
• It taught me to be responsible and to act on my own accord.
• It made me a more mature and open minded individual.
• It has changed me as a person and my view of how I see the world.
• I feel like I am a more well-rounded and confident individual.
• It affected how I critically analyze things, broadened my knowledge, theories, and their application to real life experiences.
• First generation college student.
• New horizons I never would have imagined myself pursuing before coming to UH.
• It has taught me the value of hard work and friendship.
• Learned how to manage time and efficiency and to be a responsible person.
• I became very self reliant and learned how to really live on my own.
• It made me more independent and overcome some fears I've had.
• Being a student here has been the turning point of my life so far.
• It has helped me discover who I am and what I want out of life.
• I am a confident young woman ready to take on any challenges.
• It helped me with time management and taught me to be accountable.
• Mānoa has taught me to think analytically and diversely.
• It helped me view my personal life from different constructive points.
• Grow as person in mind, body and soul. Help me to realize my future.
• Allowed me to be mature as a successful individual.
• Improved my life in many ways.
• Learned how to become a better person in society and challenge myself daily.
• Helped me learn who I am and set myself on a path that I am proud to be.
• I am ready and prepared to take on the real world.
• It allowed me to be more confident in my life.
• Prepared me for various life challenges ahead.
• Broadened my way of thinking.
• I learned to become independent and self-motivated.
• Made me more independent and aware of the world around me.
• Taught me to overcome challenges.

**Career and Professional Development**

**Major Words:** work, job, prepared, develop, future, profession, professional, way, career, opportunities, skills, master, seek, walks, influenced, income, means, goals, expectations, ability, capable, equipped, expanded, ready, etc.

• The Shidler College of Business helped me secure a great job.
• The professors at Shidler prepared us for the real world experience.
• The Shidler College of Business prepared me for a business or a technical position.
• Learned a tremendous amount about Business and work ethics.
• It allowed me to learn more about Marketing and International Business.
• Fulfill my goal as a quantitative financial analyst
• It was Mānoa that helped me to reach my dream of becoming a teacher.
• It is nice to be a certified teacher.
• I am teaching as a result of the degree earned at Mānoa.
• I am grateful that I am now a step closer to my next goal at the Pharmacy School.
• I can also think more critically pertaining to my Nursing Degree.
• It built the foundation in Biology which I will use for my future goal in Medicine.
• I can become an architect.
• As an international student, I got a Master’s Degree and I learned English.
• I will return home to practice medicine and serve my local community.
• It expanded my professional life in music.
• Gave me the preparation to go into my profession as an artist
• It allowed me to get my masters degree quickly and work full time.
• Got a great job and established my new travel company
• It allowed me to get the job that I wanted.
• I found my dream job right here at Mānoa. I am very happy and excited!
• Obtained a great job through school
• It encouraged me to meet prospective employers and establish myself in Hawai‘i.
• It gave me direction in which I can start my future in Hawai‘i.
• Hopefully I am better equipped to find a new line of work.
• I want to work for the government to help build relationships in Asia.
• It was a good stepping stone to my future endeavors.
• I am excited about what I can do in the world after graduation.
• Opened up jobs and networking
• It enabled me to earn the degrees needed to get the job I want.
• It helped me decide what I want to do for my future.
• Better job opportunity in future.
• I will now have more opportunities in my career.
• I want to use my knowledge for my future career and expand myself.
• I feel that I am a well-rounded individual that is ready to take on the work force.
• Learned many things about the career that I want to go to
• It taught me the skills I need to find a job.
• Expanded my knowledge, giving me the confidence to be successful in my career
• Able to learn what I want to do in life and correct career path for me
• Provide me with a good base for what I want to accomplish in my career
• It helped me realize what career path I should follow.
• I have gained marketable career skills to achieve anything I set my mind to.
• It has helped me to build a strong foundation to prepare for my future career.
• It prepared me for future work and life.
• My experiences at Mānoa allowed me to pursue and fulfill my career goals.
• I have realized what my path is and where my ambitions lie.
• How to meet new people and be able to become a leader in whatever work I do.
• It opened up my eyes to all the opportunities that are in my reach.
• Become increasingly aware of current issues in technology and how to use them
• It prepared me with the tools I need in order to successfully emerge into the world.
• I was given opportunities to broaden my horizons and develop professionally.
• With the knowledge I gained at UHM I am better prepared for my future.
• Equipped with public speaking skills and professional relationships.
• The Mānoa experience has allowed me to understand the real world.
• I feel more knowledgeable and it steered me in the direction where I want to go.
• Gave me a foundation for success
• It made me somewhat ready for the real world.
• It will help me to support myself financially in the future.
• Going to school here allowed me to get a degree in the field I like
• UHM helped me enhance the skills that I lacked when I first started my college life.
• Got me on the right track for the future
• It paved a way for me to discover myself and the field I want to be.
• It opened doors to opportunities I would not have seen before.
• I was able to find my passion and stick with it.
• Learned what I liked, what I am good at, what to pursue
• I will be better equipped to serve people.
• Helped me gain a degree that will benefit me for the rest of my life
• Greatly impacted my future and opened many doors of opportunities for myself.
• I am ready to give back what I have learned.
• I fully appreciate the idea of community and its important role in my future.
• I was able to gain much knowledge in the respective subjects I enrolled in.
• An academic commendation will be a solid foundation for all future endeavors.
• Acquired skills I need in my field and how to work with others
• The emphasis of understanding and compassion in the professional field
• I have a better understanding of my profession and will utilize the skills learned.

Social Network

Major Words: united, family, exposure, events, community, active, meet, people, countries, international, connections, social, involved, leader/lead, engage, exchange, society, attending, friends, relationships, network, classmates, etc.

• The people who I met and the things I learned from them.
• I feel my world has expanded through the diversity of people.
• I have chances to contact many friends and faculty from different countries.
• I met many people who I would have never met before.
• It granted me opportunities to meet people.
• I met really interesting people from around the world.
• Taught me how to get along with other people from diverse backgrounds
• I met great people from diverse backgrounds who taught me a lot about myself.
• I have met many great people at this school.
• Networking with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds
• Made really good connections and learned a lot
• Meeting new people
• I have met some great people and I know that we will be lifelong friends.
• I got to meet amazing people and build life-long friendships.
• I met my real friends.
• Met great professors and peers that challenged and broadened my perspectives
• I made good friends, and gained valuable experience and knowledge.
• I met some great people, and established an excellent social and career network.
• I gained new networks to help better my chances of success in the future.
• I met students and professors that come from a very diverse background.
• Met the most wonderful people who will be my friends for a very long time
• The networking with other classmates will probably help me a lot in the future.
• I have made my best friends and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.
• Met awesome people from around the world, and created awesome friendship
• Introduced me to some key people in my future life
• Exposed me to many different people
• It changed my life by meeting so many different people.
• I will cherish all friends I made at Mānoa, especially those from other countries.
• This experience allowed me to meet people that experience the same passion I do.
• Mānoa helped me to meet the people who played important roles in my life.
• Helped me meet lifelong contacts
• Enjoyed being around different people and gaining different perspectives
• Mānoa encouraged me to communicate with people from different culture.
• It opened my eyes to many different kinds of people.
• Student-teacher relationships were valuable and inspired me to pursue my career.
• I have made lasting relationships that will help me in my future here in Hawai‘i.
• It also helped to interact with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds.
• During my time here I have made friendship that I know will last for a lifetime.

Multicultural Experience

**Major Words:** cultures, acceptance, enjoyed, place, diverse, diversity, natural, values, traditions, Hawai‘i, Hawaiian, environment, perspectives, islands, comfortable, respect, collaborative, language, hospitality, etc.

• My experience was able to prepare me when I interacted with different cultures.
• It opened my eyes to many cultures and walks of life.
• It made me open-minded to other cultures.
• Understand the Western culture/values while having Asian values/traditions around
• Huge cultural impact that you can receive nowhere else
• Have been introduced to many of the world cultures
• I feel more cultured and well rounded.
• I learned a lot about the culture and diversity in Hawai‘i.
• It has reconnected me to my Hawaiian culture.
• More appreciative of the diversity around me
• Appreciation of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures
• It broadened my perspectives on culture and diversity.
• Learned a lot about other cultures, specifically Asian cultures.
• I have grown-up and see many new cultures differently.
• Experienced new ways of thinking and open-minded views of the world
• Diversity and acceptance.
• Learned a lot about Hawaiian, Polynesian, and local cultures.
• I learned a lot about different cultures.
• It opened my eyes to Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and cultural practices unknown to the mainstream society.
• I have a greater understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures of the world.
• Interaction with students from various parts of the world helped me to understand cultures abroad.
• I am more open to cultures, values, and traditions people have different from mine.
• The culture in general gave me new ways to look at life.
• Challenged me to think outside of the box, and opened my mind to different cultures and people
• Learning various Asian cultures
• It made me less judgmental towards others and realized good people coming from everywhere.
• I have a great respect for Hawaiian culture and it made me a more well-rounded and tolerant person.
• Mānoa allowed me to connect many cultures and open my eyes to other people.
• East-West Center and Hawai‘i have given me cultural and natural experiences.
• My Mānoa experience affected my life in that it made me more culturally sound.
• My hometown is small and Mānoa granted me access to many new diverse things.
• Provided me with a multi-cultural experience
• Open-minded about cultural diversity and ethnicity
• Gave me the opportunity to learn about other cultures and study abroad in Spain.
• Experienced the Hawaiian culture that is totally different from that on the mainland.
• I mastered a new language and a different aspect on people living within and outside of the United State.
• I've learned a lot of cultures.
• Opened up my eyes to another part of the world.
• It made me realize the diversity that is presented.
• It exposed me to different cultural perspectives that have broadened my horizons.
• I could explore Hawaiian culture and tradition thorough learning at UHM.
• Mānoa has a friendly environment for minorities.
• I used to be intimidated by a certain type of ethnic people, but now I made friends with those ethnic people in my program.
• Exposed me to cultures I had not encountered before
• Diverse cultures enabled me to learn how to get along with different people.
• I have learned diverse cultures through UH life.
• Learning about new cultures and respecting other cultures and traditions.
• I learned to speak a new language, got culturally emerged, and found my career.
• I experienced a very diverse culture and learned a lot from it.
• It made me more open to cultures, and the way of life represented here.
• The cultural diversity helps me develop my appreciation of different cultures and people, which is critical importance for me since I am a language teacher.
• It made me understand a vast array of different ways of thinking, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds. This university is a great representation of Hawai‘i.
• I have gained a broader scope of understanding diverse cultures which are imperative in this era of globalization.
• It helped to open my eyes to more cultures from the Pacific to Hawaiian Islands. It was really an eye opening experience.

Mānoa Experience Graduating Student and Alumni Survey
Comparison by the Close-ended Questions
Table 2

The responses of the close-ended questions from the Graduating Student Survey and the Alumni Survey were compared. The comparison showed that agree percentages for graduating students were higher than alumni in nine close-ended questions except for the first one. In fact, the agree percentages received from both groups for the first one were very close (78% versus 79%). An in-depth investigation revealed that approximately 72% of alumni who participated in the online survey actually graduated before 2001. So the differences between graduating students and alumni could be due to new emphasizes and initiatives since 2002. The detailed information is presented in Table 2.

1. Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>77.96%</td>
<td>78.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>16.90%</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
<td>6.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• A slightly higher percentage of alumni believe that Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs (79% versus 78%).

2. Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>82.08%</td>
<td>75.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>13.52%</td>
<td>19.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.39%</td>
<td>5.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• A higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities (82% versus 75%).
3. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>82.01%</td>
<td>74.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>13.89%</td>
<td>20.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.10%</td>
<td>5.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum (82% versus 75%).

4. Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its campus life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>80.70%</td>
<td>73.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>14.91%</td>
<td>19.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>4.39%</td>
<td>7.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A higher percentage graduating students believe that Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its campus life (81% versus 73%).

5. Mānoa is open to world cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>93.99%</td>
<td>93.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>4.53%</td>
<td>4.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
<td>2.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A slightly higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa is open to world cultures (94% versus 93%).

6. Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>79.24%</td>
<td>56.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>14.86%</td>
<td>34.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>5.91%</td>
<td>8.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A much higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability (79% versus 56%).

7. Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices.
A higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa is informed by respect for indigenous knowledge and practices (86% versus 79%).

8. Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>89.44%</td>
<td>86.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>8.23%</td>
<td>10.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
<td>3.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A slightly higher percentage of graduating students believe that Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community (89% versus 87%).

9. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>87.64%</td>
<td>81.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>14.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.31%</td>
<td>4.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A higher percentage of graduating students believe that Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s curriculum (88% versus 81%).
10. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduating Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree/Agree</td>
<td>85.27%</td>
<td>78.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
<td>17.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>3.73%</td>
<td>4.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Responses</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• A higher percentage of graduating students believe that Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa’s campus life (85% versus 79%).

**Mānoa Experience Graduating Student and Alumni Survey**
**Comparison by the Open-ended Questions**
**Table 3**

The results of the open-ended questions from the Graduating Student Survey and the Alumni Survey were compared. This comparison focused on the themes that emerged from the general tone of the answers on a positive-negative scale in terms of students’ Mānoa experience.

Based on a positive scale, four themes emerged from the two groups, including Hawaiian place and cultural diversity, high quality and distinctive experience, faculty, and campus life. But graduating students covered one more theme on high quality and distinctive academic programs because of the freshness of their experiences.

For a negative scale, four similar themes also surfaced from both groups, including academic issues, faculty and staff, infrastructure problems, and student support. However, graduating students included one more theme on tuition and fees. In addition, they mentioned more issues related to specific academic programs, construction, and policy issues. The detailed information is presented in Table 3 below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alumni</th>
<th>Graduating students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positive</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian place and cultural diversity</td>
<td>Hawaiian place and cultural diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High quality and distinctive experience</td>
<td>High quality and distinctive experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>High quality and distinctive academic programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus life</td>
<td>Campus life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic issues:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Academic environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty and staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure problems:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Parking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Dorms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic issues:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Academic environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Academic programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student support:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Advising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Student service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Campus life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student support:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Advising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Student service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Campus life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Policy issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ 36 ~
MĀNOA GRADUATION SURVEY

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa! As a soon-to-be alumnus, we want to hear from you about the quality of your education, how you remember your Mānoa experience, and what made your college years special.

We hope to sustain your positive experiences for our incoming students and incorporate your suggestions for change toward an evolving and improved "Mānoa Experience" that prepares students for the challenges and rewards that await them as the 21st century unfolds.

Mahalo for your time, your support, and any feedback that you can provide. Your responses to this survey will be confidential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strong Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>Mānoa students are challenged by high quality and distinctive academic programs.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>Mānoa students learn to do research and engage in creative activities.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td>Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression through its curriculum.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4)</td>
<td>Mānoa celebrates artistic and cultural expression</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
through its campus life.

Mānoa is open to world cultures.

Mānoa is informed by principles of sustainability.

Mānoa is informed by a respect for indigenous knowledge and practices.

Mānoa students gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures and perspectives that comprise our local community. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa's curriculum. Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific traditions, values, and perspectives are infused in Mānoa's campus life.
• 11) Describe your Mānoa experience, positive and/or negative.

• 12) In what way did your Mānoa experience affect your life?

Submit  Skip the survey