

Is there life after high school?

Yes.

Last week I shared information from our senior exit survey, a survey our graduating seniors take in May. The survey gives us some good feedback and as you saw in last week's numbers, the feedback is mostly positive.

Our seniors are again contacted approximately 18 months after graduation. We started this process in 2010 and the company that does the follow up was late with with first two classes but the information has been relatively consistent. We have follow-up surveys from the classes of 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The surveys are sent to the last known address of the senior and is sometimes completed by the parent and sometimes by the graduate. We're getting about a 50% response so about half of the graduates are represented.

We first ask our graduates what they are doing. I will be reporting four year averages on the responses. On average, about two years after high school 16% of our graduates are working full time, 27% are working part time, 4% are in the military, 61% are in a four year college program, 3% are in a two year program with 1.2% in a vocational/technical program. Fifteen percent gave no response on this answer.

According to the National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis, the retention rate for freshman to sophomore college students is 80.8%. Looking at our numbers, it would seem we are right in the ballpark with that statistic.

We asked our graduates if they feel they were offered a quality education at General McLane. Only 10% said no and 64% said yes. After being out, 83% still felt that GM teachers had high standards and demanded quality work. Along those lines, 79% felt the standards were high enough at General McLane with 11% thinking they weren't. Given the 61% in college, I think that indicates they were prepared well.

We also ask if more public speaking/oral communication classes would have been beneficial. Forty-eight percent (48%) said yes and 35% said no, with 17% not responding to that question. Asked about whether their participation in co-curricular activities was an important part of their high school experience, 71% said yes and 17% said no. Twelve percent did not respond.

We ask graduates to rate "how well did high school prepare you in the following:

Subject	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Avg	Needs Improvement	No response
Math	35%	31%	16%	5%	2%	11%
English	49%	29%	9%	1%	6%	7%
Science	32%	36%	14%	5%	2%	12%
History	36%	31%	15%	5%	1%	12%
Technology	31%	31%	13%	4%	4%	15%

We ask all our graduates how well they feel high school prepared them for the work force. Fifty-four percent (54%) said excellent or good and 19% said average. Nine (9%) said their preparation was below average or needed improvement, In regard to how well high school prepared them to continue their education, 69% said excellent or good with 16% giving that an average. Only 4% gave that a below average or needs improvement.

How would you rate the school in providing a safe learning environment was answered excellent by 73% of the graduates, with 12% giving that a “good” rating, no one rating it below average and 1% noting that safety needed improved. In regard to providing a drug free environment, 83% rated that excellent to average with 5% noting “below average” or “needs improvement.”

We also survey our graduates 5 years after graduating but since we started with the class of 2010, we only have one of those surveys. I will wait to report when we have more data from the five year mark. Suffice it to say, our graduates seem to be faring well and their GM education has given them the McLane Advantage!