

San Diego Miramar College Graduation Survey: Spring '18 compared to Spring '19

Prepared by the *Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness*

This is a comparison of students' responses to the San Diego Miramar College (SDMC) Graduation Survey for Spring 2018 and Spring 2019.

What stayed the same from year to year?

Goals

- The majority of students responded that their initial goal was to obtain an AA/AS and transfer to a 4-year institution.
- About a third of respondents reported changing their goals over the course of their education.

Educational Plans

Most students said they planned to transfer to a 4-year college or university in the next six months.

Supporting Students

- When asked what Miramar College has done well in supporting graduates' career, educational, and personal goals, students continue to mention instructional faculty and classified staff.
- When asked what we could have done better, students continue to mention counseling services, including improving the accuracy and consistency of advice from counselors. They also mentioned offering more courses or courses at different times/modalities.

Barriers Impacting Award Completion

- Health/illness, including mental health issues
- Struggling with academic materials
- Work
- Family responsibilities or issues
- Counseling services
- Getting courses transferred/transfer services

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What other patterns do we see?

Service Utilization and Perception

- In 2019, higher percentages of students reported never having used most services.
 - Exceptions to this are the Student Affairs Office and Veterans Affairs, which had a high percentage of students reporting usage in 2019.
- Counseling services were the most-utilized in both years.
- Mental health services were the least-utilized in both years, despite mental health being a relatively highly-reported barrier to students meeting their goals in both years.
- Students' perceptions of the services they used were very similar from year-to-year, with all services receiving positive weighted average scores for both years.¹
 - Perceptions of EOPS were the highest in 2019, and among the highest in 2018.
 - Perceptions of the Student Affairs Office were the lowest in 2019, and among the lowest in 2018.

Summary of Preparation

- A slightly higher percentage of students (2%) agreed or strongly agreed to the following statement in 2019: "I feel like I have gained meaningful knowledge, skills, and experiences during my education at Miramar College."
- A higher percentage of students (8%) did *not* agree or strongly agree to the following statement in 2019: "As a result of my education at Miramar College, I feel prepared for the next step of my personal, educational, and agree journey."

¹ In 2018, student perception of services was measured by asking about satisfaction on a scale of 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). In 2019, it was measured by asking about perceived impact of the service on a scale of 1 (strong negative impact) to 5 (strong positive impact). While direct comparisons of weighted response averages between 2018 and 2019 should be used with caution, these two scales can be helpful in identifying trends, for example, which services have consistently high averages.