

LIS Graduate Exit Survey February 2015

Presentation of Results

February 12, 2015

Survey Details:

No. of Respondents:	19 (16 total submissions, 1 submission with no content, 1 responded "No" to graduation confirmation question)
Method:	Select Survey online survey tool, sent to list of 24 targeted graduates for February 2015 degree conferral
Survey Status:	Closed
Launched Date:	12/10/2014
Closed Date:	12/22/2014

Dear #FirstName#,

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from our program!

I'm writing to ask that you provide us with some feedback on your experiences in the MLS program, so that we may know where we're doing a good job, and work towards making improvements where needed. The survey should take only 10 minutes or less—please help us create positive MLS experiences for current and future students. The link to the survey is:

#SurveyLink#

This survey will be open through Monday, December 22nd, 2014.

We would also like to keep connected with you in the future as we look to strengthen our ties to our alumni and create a bright future for our program. Would you please provide your permanent contact information by sending an e-mail with your name, permanent mailing address, and permanent e-mail address to lis-alumni@buffalo.edu?

Please continue to keep in touch with your fellow UB LIS alumni and the Department of Library and Information Studies for networking, surveys, and other communications and announcements, and update the department of your accomplishments:

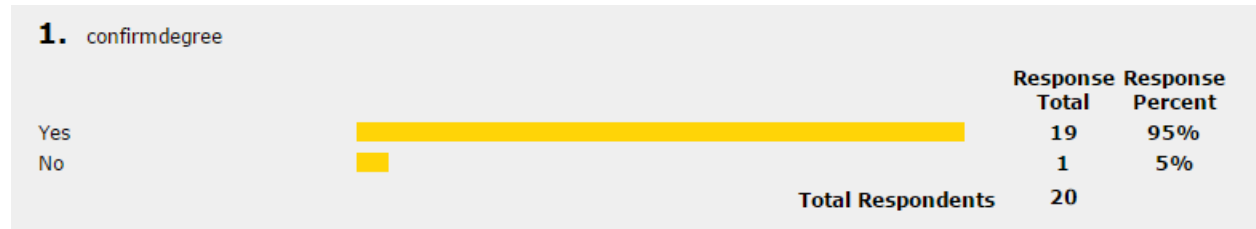
- Facebook : Department of Library and Information Studies official page - <http://www.facebook.com/ublisofficial>
- LinkedIn : University at Buffalo Library and Information Studies Network - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/University-Buffalo-Library-Information-Studies-2936203>
- LIS Listservs : <http://gse.buffalo.edu/lis/students#lists>

Sincere Thanks,

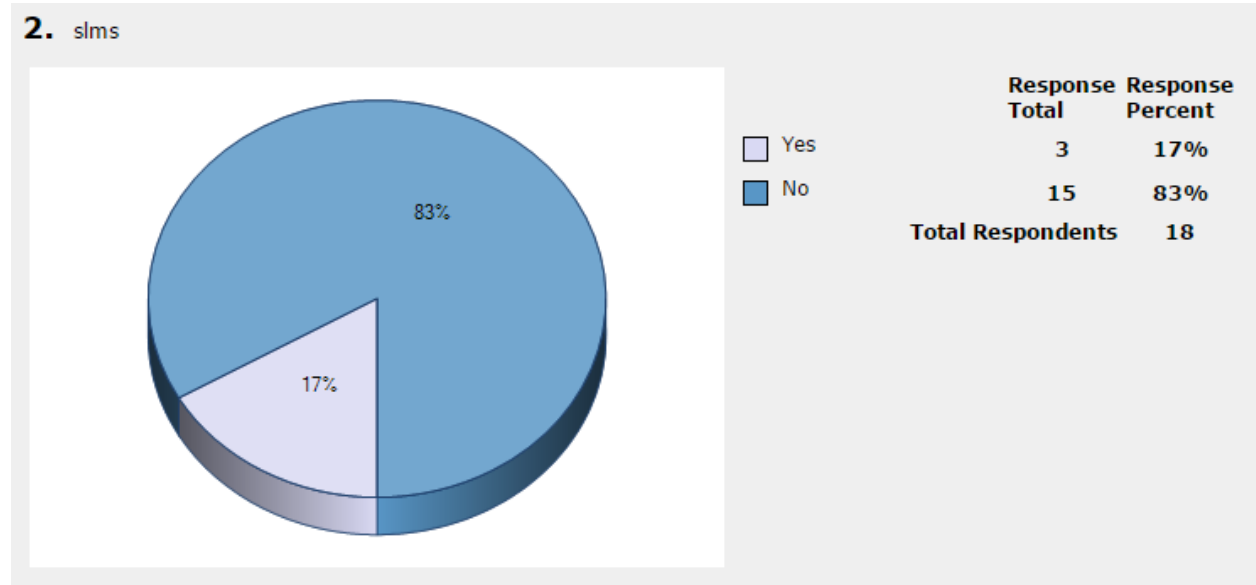
Dr. Heidi Julien

Results:

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
1	confirmdegree	Please confirm: My degree will be conferred in May 2014 (I will have finished all my coursework and will be receiving my degree).	Pull-down (Yes/No)

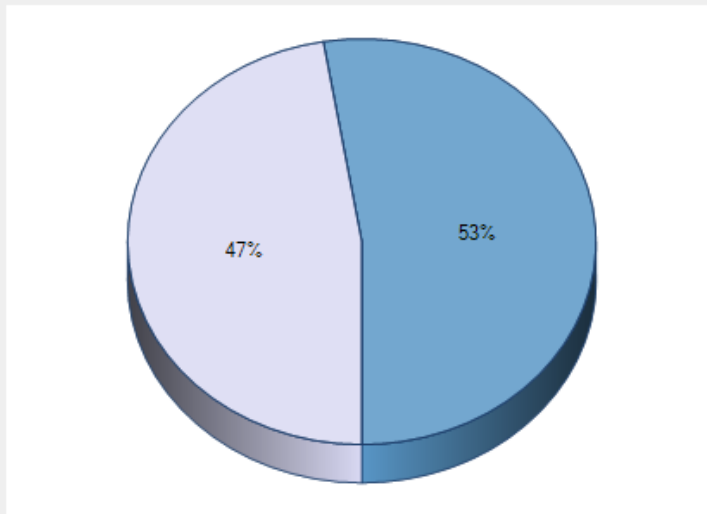


Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
2	slms	I was in the School Library Media Specialist (SLMS) specialization.	Yes/No



Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
3	onlinestudent	My coursework was primarily (online or on campus/in classroom).	Pull-down (Online or On Campus/In-Classroom)

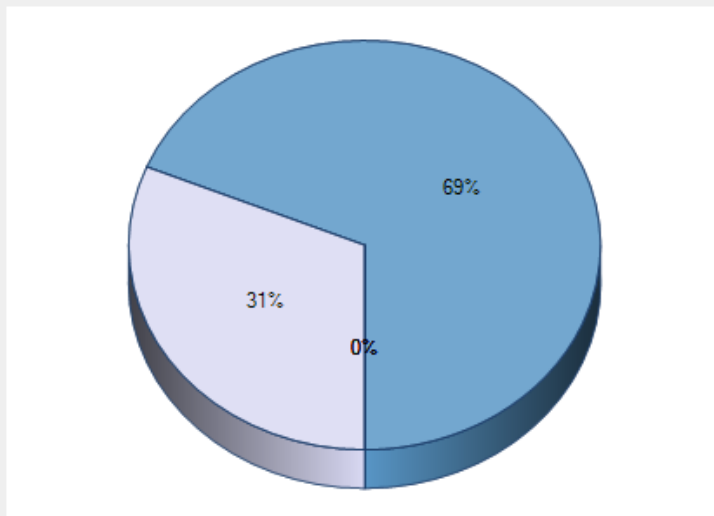
3. onlinestudent



	Response Total	Response Percent
Online	9	47%
On Campus/In Classroom	10	53%
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	19	2

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
4	instructqual	The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
5	instructqualcom	Please comment on the above question (4).	Comment Box

4. instructqual

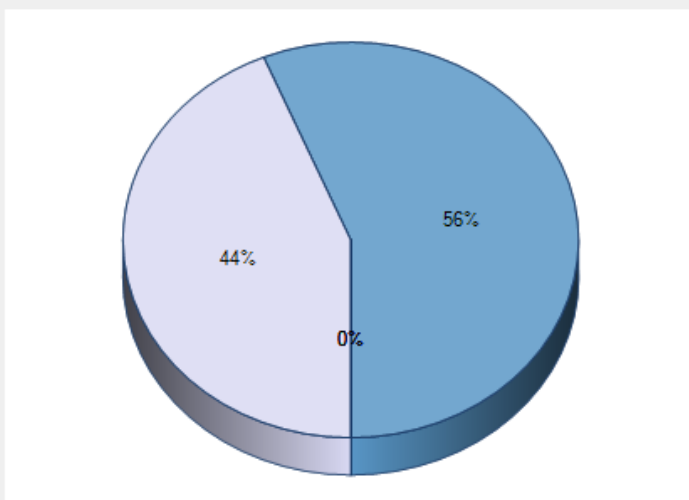


	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	5	31%
Agree	11	69%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total Respondents	16	
(skipped this question)	5	

5. Comments: <i>The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.</i>
The majority of professors provided quality instruction. There were a few that provided useful information, but seemed unfamiliar with the use Blackboard or how to effectively manage a lot of content on an online platform.
For the most part, the quality of instruction was excellent and in some cases extraordinary. But it would be remiss to not mention how awful of an experience I had in LIS 581 this semester (Fall 2014). I have never experienced incompetence of this degree on part of a professor in my entire post-secondary educational journey.
Excellent sounds a bit strong. For the most part I had very good professors.
The majority of faculty are caring and dedicated to their students. While there are a few exceptions, I think on the whole the instruction is highly effective.
The quality of instruction is very good. Professors are dedicated to the task and that is vital.
I greatly enjoyed all of my other courses. I feel that the instructors went to great lengths to make the education meaningful and relevant.
I had positive experiences with the instruction in all of my other courses. The professors tried hard to make what we were learning as realistic and relevant as possible.
All of my professors were very knowledgeable and made themselves very accessible throughout the entirety of my degree program. I would highly suggest this program to interested applicants.
Anne Perrault, Brenda Battleson, Marie Bindeman, and Amy Vanscoy were wonderful instructors. All were patient, intelligent, interesting and engaged in teaching.
Overall, I was very pleased with the program in the end, even though it got off to a very rocky start due to the instructors that I had at the Fairport, NY location. One just plain did not like me or my work no matter what I did and the other failed to realize that not all students were IT experts. I did file a complaint with the department at the time. I decided to stay because of the online offerings that allowed me to continue working with the hope that the instruction would improve, and it was a good choice.
I had a quality education at UB.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
6	facultyinteract	My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
7	facultyinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (6).	Comment Box

6. facultyinteract



	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	7	44%
Agree	9	56%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total Respondents	16	
(skipped this question)	5	

7. Comments: *My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.*

Faculty are always willing to help!

The faculty are kind and very approachable. There were only a small few who I did not find to be completely open to students approaching and talking to them.

Faculty on the whole are kind and willing to listen to student concerns. They are very open and approachable.

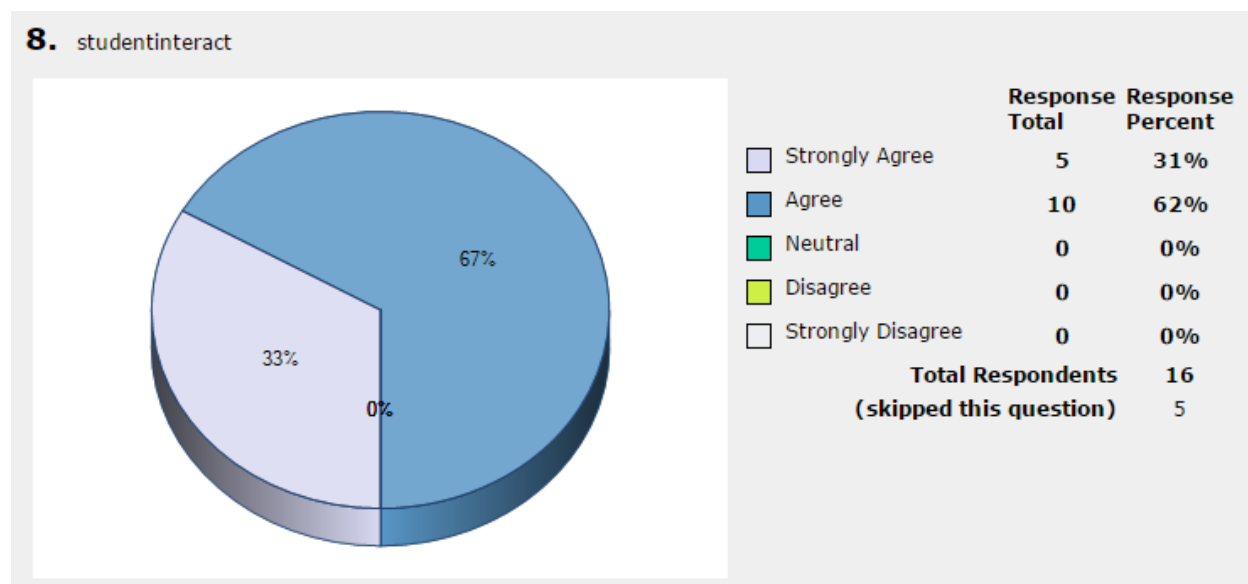
Jessica Purvis has been very helpful as my adviser. She answers my many questions quickly. She also provided me with the forms to receive financial aid while completing my practicum and portfolio.

All of the professors want to see their students succeed and they want to pass the passion for the profession on to the next generation of librarians.

After the initial bad experience, all of my interactions with faculty members were positive. They were there to offer constructive criticism, willing to offer support when needed and were very present in an online environment.

Many faculty members were great but others were not communicative

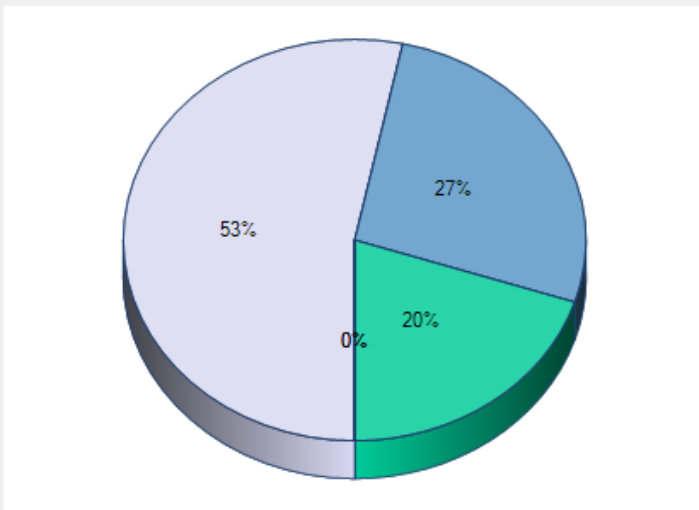
Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
8	studentinteract	My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
9	studentinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (8).	Comment Box



9. Comments: My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.
Group work went well, even online.
Students are people. Some people are good, some people are bad. On the whole the students are wonderful and pleasant. There are one or two notable exceptions however of students who were unnecessarily aggressive, antagonistic, insulting and rude and took every opportunity to act in an barely civil manner.
Yes, students are kind and form a good community, with a short list of exceptions. there was one or two students who were unnecessarily antagonistic, rude, and insulting who take any chance to act barely civil.
I did not have any negative interactions with my fellow students. When working on group assignments they were always respectful and helpful.
My final semester I was able to meet a group of really great students through coursework. I started the program while working at Binghamton University, and we had a pretty large group of library students in our office. So, the first three semesters we were all in classes together. But, by the end I had met other students online that were actually on campus and interacting with the professors- so it was nice to hear and made me feel apart of the UB culture.
All students in the program were respectful and thoughtful.
Despite the online environment, I was able to connect with my peers via e-mail, phone and virtually and have made a couple of life long friends and colleagues in future endeavors. I guess I was lucky to have collaborated with folks that had an intense desire to succeed in the program as I did.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
10	staffinteract	My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
11	staffinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (10).	Comment Box

10. staffinteract

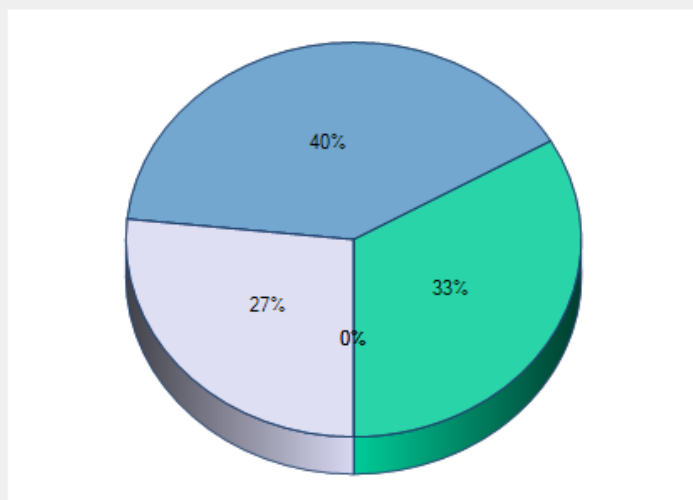


	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	8	50%
Agree	4	25%
Neutral	3	19%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	16	5

11. Comments: <i>My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.</i>
I did not have many interactions with administrative staff, but overall, they seemed friendly and helpful.
Barb and Carole are great!
effective and good.
Efficient and effective.
I have had no negative interactions with the department administrative staff.
They were more than willing to walk me through administrative processes more than a few times throughout my academic career at UB.
Tasks were completed on time when requested with no mistakes.
Always there to answer a question or point you in the right direction.
Barb is the best.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
12	chairinteract	My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
13	chairinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (12).	Comment Box

12. chairinteract

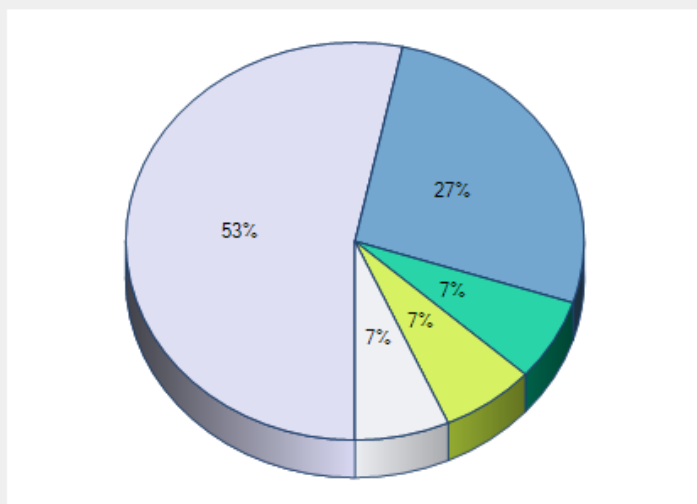


	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	4	25%
Agree	6	38%
Neutral	5	31%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Total Respondents	16	
(skipped this question)	5	

13. Comments: <i>My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.</i>
I did not have much interactive with the Department Chair, but I appreciated her attention to detail and keeping students informed of department related matters.
The department chair was very good about listening to student concerns. I feel she would try to act on the concerns that were brought to her.
She is very open o concerns from the students and seems to really take them seriously. It feels good as a student to be listened to.
I never interacted with the Department Chair.
I did not interact with Dr. Julien at all.
Until recently, I had no interaction with the Department Chair. The present Chair is informative and more than willing to assist.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
14	advisorinfo	I received useful information from my faculty advisor.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
15	advisorinfocom	Please comment on the above question (14).	Comment Box

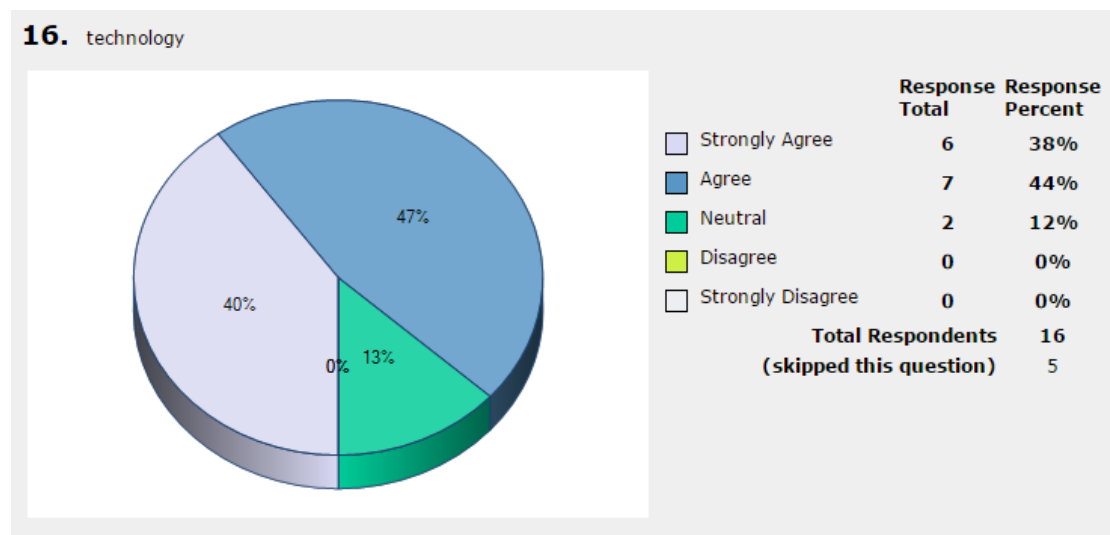
14. advisorinfo



	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	8	50%
Agree	4	25%
Neutral	1	6%
Disagree	1	6%
Strongly Disagree	1	6%
Total Respondents	16	
(skipped this question)	5	

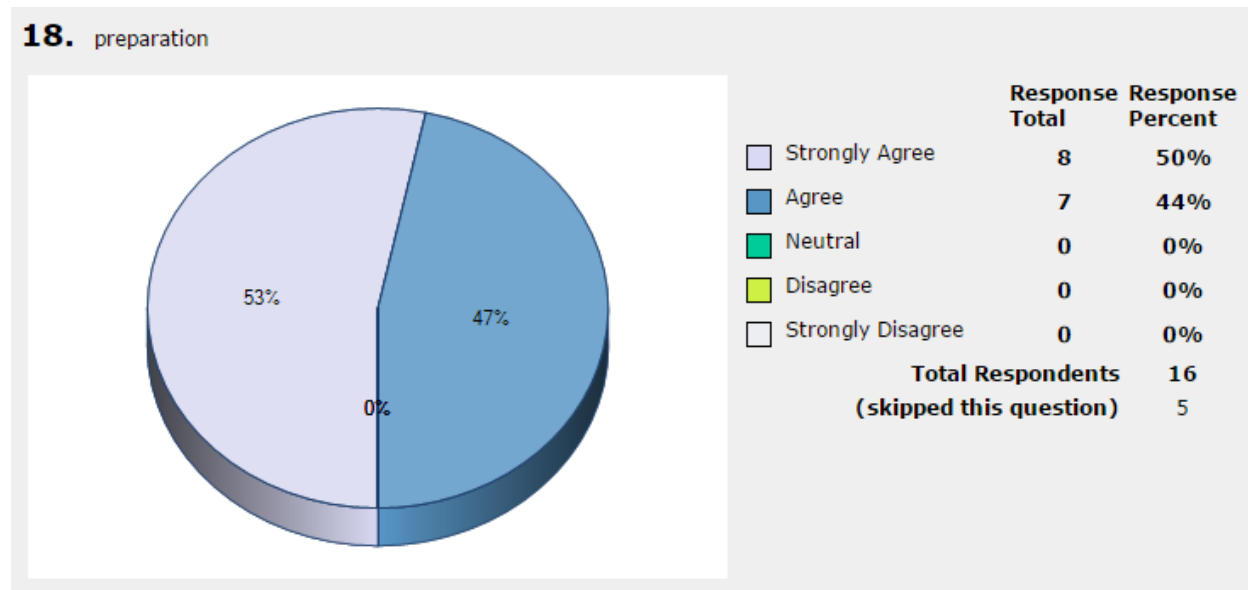
15. Comments: I received useful information from my faculty advisor.
I wish my advisor was more responsive.
I could not have asked for a more dedicated and helpful advisor than Amy VanScoy. Every time we met, I left her office with more possibilities to consider for my education and professional future than I realized were available when stepping into her office. Dr. VanScoy never presumed to make decisions for me but rather guided me to further my own understanding so I could make my own informed decisions.
My adviser was always there to take my questions and he gave me invaluable aid.
He was very helpful in completing my various requirements and gave me invaluable aid.
Dr. Battleson was great as an advisor, she was able to direct me in course selection per semester and give me insight on future selections to tailor my program to complete my degree within the desired time frame. Dr. Battleson was always available and very responsive to all of my questions and concerns.
I was advised well by Brenda White!
Dr. Nessel was incredibly helpful

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
16	technology	I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
17	technologycom	Please comment on the above question (16).	Comment Box



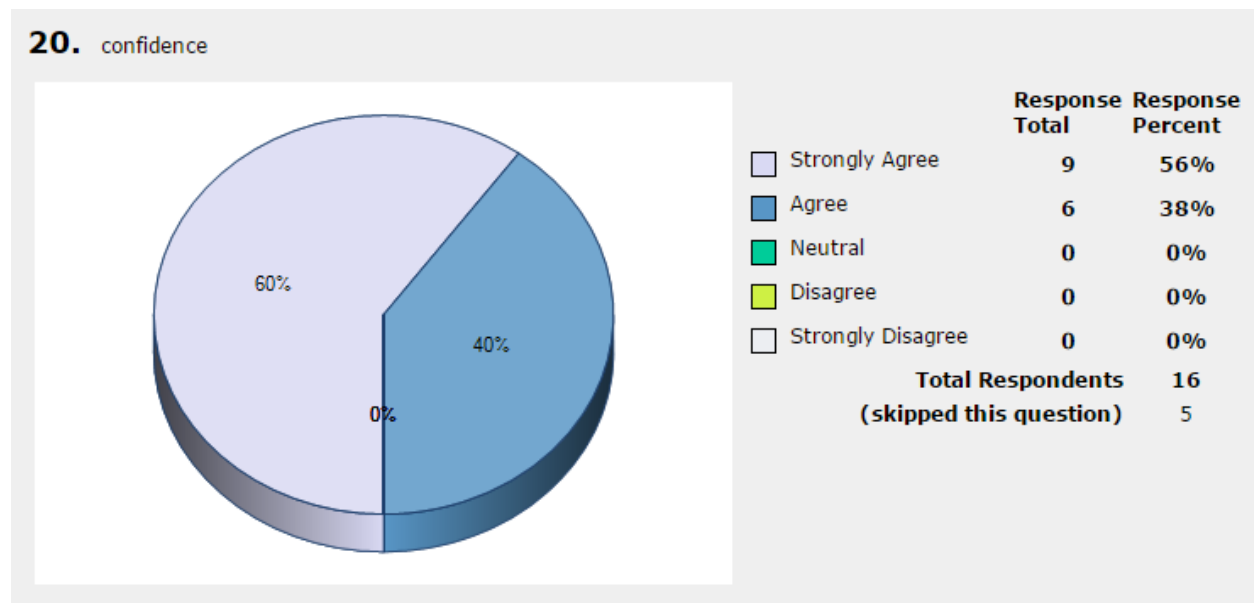
17. Comments: <i>I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.</i>
This was true until Adobe altered the permissions for universities and colleges to use their software suites, as I found Adobe Dreamweaver very useful.
Any technology needed was supplied ro easily downloadable. The only exception was for the database courses where Microsoft Visio and Navicat Database systems would have been very good to have, but instead we had to deal with trial versions that did not last the whole semester.
On the whole yes, but the classes were technology is most importance, (the database courses and others like it) software was not made available by the university, and instead we had to deal with trial programs that expired before the end of the semester. Microsoft Visio and Navicat database systems are two examples.
All software was provided by the college
I did have access to the databases and the library. There were often books that I would like to review and I could have tried to interlibrary loan them through Binghamton University. After leaving Binghamton University and moving to Pittsburgh I didn't have a home base (university) to study at or have access to resources and printing. This perspective gave me insight to how students who are taking the degree and don't have a academic setting close. It was incredibly difficult with no printing access and limited ability to view resources. I think that it might be nice for the university to compile suggestive resources for printing and other academic tasks that a student may need when they are in a setting away from an academic environment. I believe that making just a good will effort will make the students feel like they have support. I would have loved to have information on best places to print when you are away from ub (cost and quality lists).

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
18	preparation	I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
19	preparationcom	Please comment on the above question (18).	Comment Box



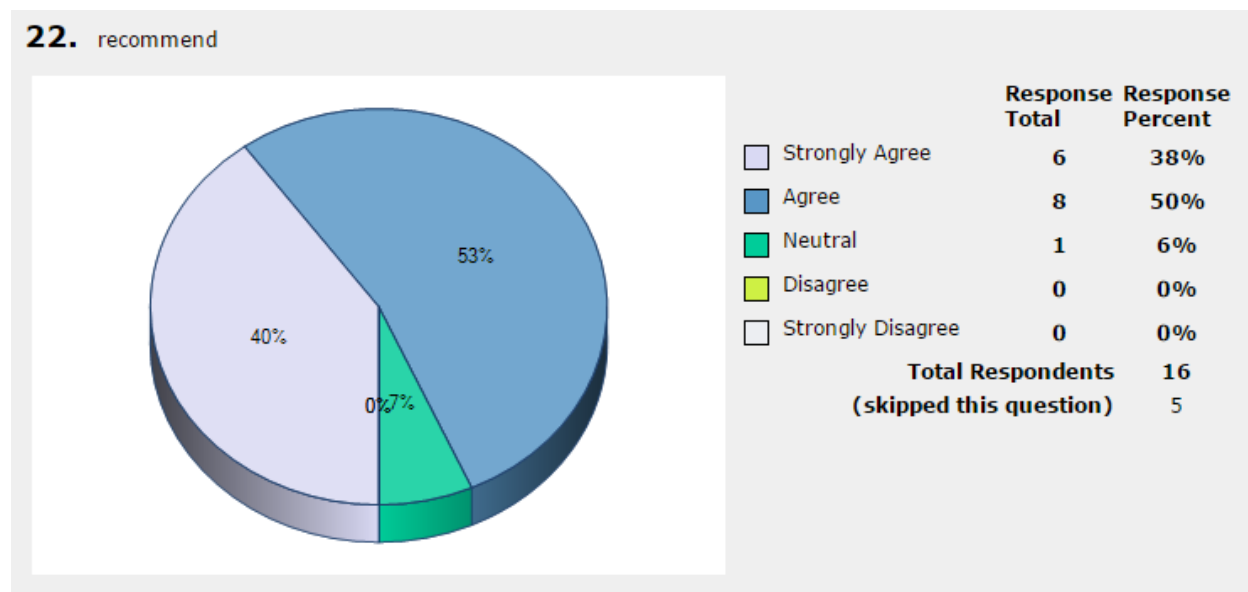
19. Comments : I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.
I feel that some of the material taught by professors can be outdated, as they have been out of the field for awhile. I would have liked to learn more about, and consequently feel more prepared to enter, emerging subareas in the field such as Digital Humanities and Instructional Design.
While I intend o pursue further education for the moment I have examined jobs in the field I intend to pursue and I feel I am well qualified for the positions.
While I intend to pursue further education for the moment I feel i fit the requirements of jobs in my chosen field.
I feel very prepared after my education to enter the workforce as a school librarian.
I feel that this degree prepared me for library geared jobs and beyond!
I am confident that what I was taught will serve me well and provide a good foundation.
I got a job right out of graduation

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
20	confidence	I am confident that I will be professionally successful.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
21	confidencecom	Please comment on the above question (20).	Comment Box



21. Comments: <i>I am confident that I will be professionally successful.</i>
I do feel confident, but part of that confidence must be attributed to work experience prior to entering the program.
The connections and support I have gained during this program help build my confidence in my future professional career.
the connections and associates I have made in this program inspire in me confidence in my future success.
I am very confident
With the help of my course work and my professional experience, I feel that I am equipped to enter the work force and be professionally successful.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
22	recommend	I would recommend this program to others.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
23	recommendcom	Please comment on the above question (22).	Comment Box



23. Comments: I would recommend this program to others.
Being able to do it completely online and being a state school is great.
The program is striving to make improvements and as a result has come a long way from its history. I think that there is great promise in this program and I would like to see it continue to improve. As part of that I would recommend the program to others so that a steady stream of students can help keep the program vital.
I want to see this program continue to grow and succeed and so I will recommend it to others.
Overall, this program has been a positive experience.
I would recommend this program to anyone looking to explore the world and themselves further! Thank you UB!
Depending on specialty and focus. I would recommend to public library track, but I would be wary of the online focus.
I would recommend the program due to my positive overall experience.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
24	strengthcomment	What were the major strengths of your program?	Comment Box

24. What were the major strengths of your program?			
I thought Professor Battleson was one of the best assets of the program. Her ability to teach somewhat mundane material in a creative way helped me to connect with the valuable information. Also, the different required courses provide a well-rounded curriculum.			
LIS 571 with Dr. Soergel, LIS 580 with Dr. Nessel, LIS 518 with Dr. VanScoy, LIS 566 with Dr. Sun, LIS 503 (Emerging Tech) with Dr. Abramovich.			
The ability to focus on academic areas and information environments of interest for most assignments in multiple courses.			
Flexibility to conduct a Special Project, which provided a unique experience			
Group work de-emphazied in most classes			
Courses like User Ed where you get to have hands-on experience/ practice.			
Public libraries and as I understand it the Library media specialist track is good.			
The biggest strength of the program is the practicum experience. No amount of classroom learning can make for on-the-job experience.			
The program required that you be reflective and constantly challenged what you understand about information.			
Teachers			
Other students were focused and interesting.			
Course Development			
Practical experiences in course requirements			
Diversity and frequency of courses offered			
The big thing about this program is the emphasis on the research of the field			

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
25	suggestions	Do you have any suggestions for improvement?	Comment Box

25. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?			
I wish the archives courses were online.			
LIS 581 needs to be completely overhauled, and taught by a different professor			
More collaboration with UB Libraries, fostering a closer relationship			
Addition of courses that reflect current and emerging trends in the field as Special Topics courses			
Grant writing workshops or courses			
Courses that are hybrid (online and seated) need to be taught as such, as in my experience nothing is done to foster the online learning environment; perhaps professional development for (some) faculty is needed in online teaching methodologies			
MAKE AN INTERNSHIP REQUIRED. It puts graduates at a disadvantage as most schools require this.			

Put more focus on the digital information classes. They are often canceled due to low enrollment and these classes are the classes of the future. Put a greater focus on them during the introductory classes and maybe some of the people who aren't to sure where they are going will choose this instead of another public librarian.
I would highly suggest finding a new professor to teach LIS 571.
I would suggest that there be a change to the "suggestive" order of courses. I thought LIS505 and LIS506 were okay introductory course, but honestly I feel that LIS571 should be suggested sooner in the course schedule. I found this class to be most challenging and really helped stretch my brain to understand some of the underlying themes of library science.
Specialized advisors for transfers
Wider variety of coursework. During my entire time in the program two classes I wanted to take (story telling; reference services for the humanities) were not offered. This was incredibly disappointing.
I think an advanced Research Methods class would be good.
I wish there was more about helping diverse libraries and that it was required.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
26	programrefer	How did you find out about the MLS program at UB?	Comment Box

26. Comments: How did you find out about the MLS program at UB?
I started it 5 years ago, but the travel from Rochester to Buffalo proved to much while working full-time. I then heard it went online and re-applied.
Directory of ALA-Accredited Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies: http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/directory
SUNY website
Associates and family who have completed the program.
I was searching for accredited library school programs in New York State.
I had worked at a library in my undergraduate studies 2008-2010; my supervisor at Herrick Library at Alfred University Laurie McFadden was a University of Buffalo MLS graduate. I was excited to tell her that I was joining the program.
High School Library Media Specialist within the same district I am working in.
Through research when applying for MLS programs.
word of mouth
I looked it up on the ALA website.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
27	choicereason	Why did you choose UB for your MLS program?	Comment Box

27. Why did you choose UB for your MLS program?
The online curriculum and state tuition.
While I was accepted into the program at Rutgers University, I chose to attend UB's MLS program for personal reasons based on its geographic location.
It was a SUNY and did not require the GRE
proximity to my home and affordability.
I chose UB because of its online program. It was convenient for my lifestyle.
I was working a SUNY Binghamton at the time and had a great benefit of free tuition on one class per semester.
Recommended by a UB graduate
Proximity to my family; focus on service librarianship
on recommendation, online program
It was cheap.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
28	addlfeedback	Please provide any additional feedback for us below.	Comment Box

28. Please provide any additional feedback for us below.
I have genuinely enjoyed my time at UB and will miss it.
Embrace online and hybrid courses. This may help close the gap for some of those classes that are being canceled due to low enrollment.
The all online track will make it difficult to attract excited and dedicated students. It may harm the program more than necessary if no classes beyond the core requirements are offered in person.