

School of Education

2024 Admitted Graduate Student Survey Summary Report

General Information

Survey period: October 7, 2024 through November 27, 2024

SOE response rate: 19% (96 respondents)

Admissions/Acceptance

DECISION TO ATTEND OR NOT ATTEND USF

The majority of respondents accepted their offer of admission (94%, $n = 90$) and began attending (98%, $n = 87$). Of respondents who began attending, 85% ($n = 71$) indicated they made the right decision to attend. Of those who did not begin attending¹, 63% ($n = 5$) indicated they made the right decision not to attend.

Only 8 respondents did not begin attending USF (6 did not accept their offer of admission, 2 accepted, but did not attend). The highest proportion (25%, $n = 2$) of those who did not begin attending made their decision after attending a faculty talk. Other respondents made their decision after: they received their notice of acceptance, they learned how much they'd receive in scholarships/grants from USF; they learned how much they'd receive in scholarships from another institution; they saw the class schedule; they saw how high tuition was; and after they reached out for additional information. Of those who did not begin attending, 63% ($n = 5$) are not attending any college or university largely due to financial reasons (80%, $n = 4$).

The highest portion of respondents (33%, $n = 29$) applied to only USF. 74% ($n = 59$) of respondents who began attending indicated that USF was their first choice.

College Characteristics²

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN CHOOSING A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Of those who did not accept their offer of admission or accepted, but did not attend, 100% ($n = 5$) of respondents indicated class size, commitment to social and racial justice, and job outcomes/career opportunities were very or extremely important factors when choosing a college/university. Of respondents who began attending USF, the highest percentage of respondents (87%, $n = 65$) indicated diversity of faculty/staff and students were very or extremely important factors when choosing a college/university.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED DECISION TO ATTEND USF

The top three factors that influenced respondents' decision to attend USF were academic rigor (66%, $n = 50$), diversity of faculty/staff (66%, $n = 50$), and commitment to social justice (64%, $n = 49$).

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED DECISION NOT TO ATTEND USF

Only 5 participants who did not accept their offer of admission or accepted, but did not attend indicated the factors that influenced their decisions. Those factors included: availability of scholarships; financial cost; online learning resources; too few online, hybrid, or hyflex courses; and poor faculty communication.

RATINGS OF USF

The majority of characteristics (14 out of 22) were rated by the highest percentage of respondents as either excellent or good with the exception of financial cost and availability of scholarships, which the highest percentage of respondents rated as average and athletic programs, availability of recreational facilities on campus, library collections/resources/services, opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, religious affiliation, and research opportunities, which participants rated as no opinion.

Of respondents who had an opinion, the highest percentage (94%, $n = 60$) rated USF's diversity of faculty/staff as good or excellent. While few respondents who had an opinion rated USF's characteristics as bad or poor, 33% ($n = 21$) rated financial cost as bad or poor and 33% ($n = 19$) rated availability of scholarships as bad or poor.

Financial Aid/Assistance

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

74% ($n = 52$) of domestic respondents applied for federal financial aid with 67% ($n = 35$) receiving federal financial aid. 28% ($n = 19$) of respondents received scholarships from USF.

¹ Those who did not begin attending includes those who did not accept their offer of admission and those who accepted, but did not attend.

² In multiple select questions, percentages are determined by the number of respondents for each response option. Therefore the denominator may be different for each response option.