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Alumni Survey 2014, Master of Urban Planning

Introduction

In June 2014, the faculty of the UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning launched the second annual survey of its graduates. We asked graduates from the most recent six years to rate us on how we have done so that we can formally track our outcomes and evolve in better directions as needed.

MUP alumni by the numbers

Number of MUP graduates between 2008 and 2013: 218. Alumni were distributed as follows: 2008: 38; 2009: 36; 2010: 35; 2011: 29; 2012: 42 and 2013: 38.

Number of such graduates with email addresses: 191

Number of such graduates with email addresses that were accepted as valid when we initiated this survey: 172

Survey process

We sent a letter via e-mail to our MUP alumni announcing the survey along with a link to the survey itself (the survey was administered through a third-party survey site, SurveyMonkey).

Confidentiality

Participation was voluntary. Survey subjects were not asked to provide personal information. Results are only presented in aggregate form. No individual responses are revealed.

Survey subjects are not charged to complete the survey, and they are not compensated. Names of survey subjects can never be connected to survey responses.

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How we define planning and planning-related positions

We sought information on the types of jobs in which our graduates are employed. A *planning position* may take place at local, regional, state (province), national, or international levels. It may occur in the public sector, public authority, nonprofit organization, or private sector. Specific fields that constitute planning include: arts and culture planning, community activism/empowerment, community development, consulting, disaster planning, economic development, energy development and planning, environmental planning, GIS and other computer applications to planning, historic preservation and heritage, housing, international development, land use and code enforcement, legal practice related to planning, natural resources planning, neighborhood planning, parks and recreation, planning education, planning for training programs, planning within an architectural or engineering firm, planning management/finance, public health, real estate development, tourism development, transportation planning and analysis, urban design, and waste management.   A *planning-related* position includes consulting, design, development, nonprofit management and administration, policymaking, policy analysis, corporate location, health policy analysis, and public administration that in some way uses your planning skills or contributes to planning objectives but does not fall under the first definition above.

Results

1. Survey Response Rate

Number of survey responses: 43

Survey response rate: 43/172 = 25 percent
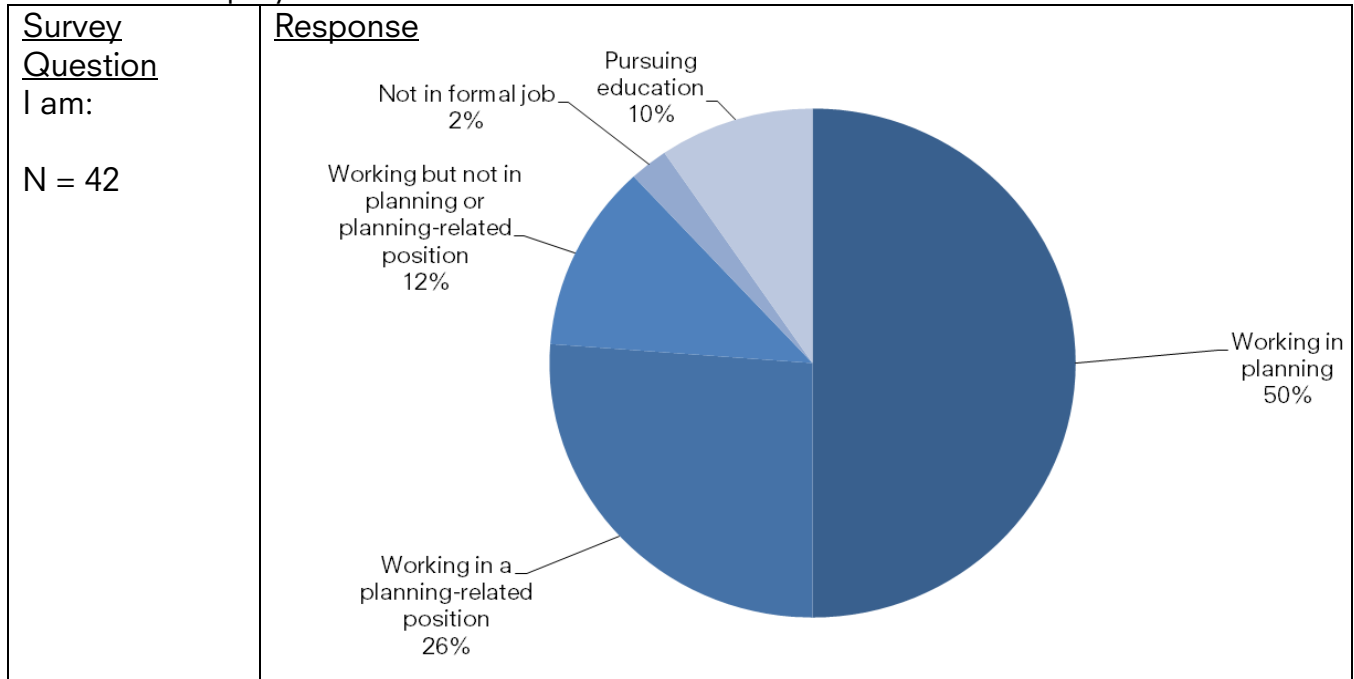
Survey response rates are:

2008	14%
2009	9%
2010	19%
2011	9%
2012	16%
2013	23%
Unspecified	9%

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2. Employment

2.1 Current Employment

Survey Question	Response
I am: N = 42	Working in planning 50% Working in a planning-related position 26% Working but not in planning or planning-related position 12% Not in formal job 2% Pursuing education 10%

2.2 Planning Work Organization

Survey Question	Response
Please tell us what type of organization you are employed in: N = 35	Private sector development, Non-profit, Government - Municipal or local, Government - County, Government - Federal, Consulting, Other, Government - State/Province, Government - Public authority, Government - Regional, International agency — Responses 0% to 25%

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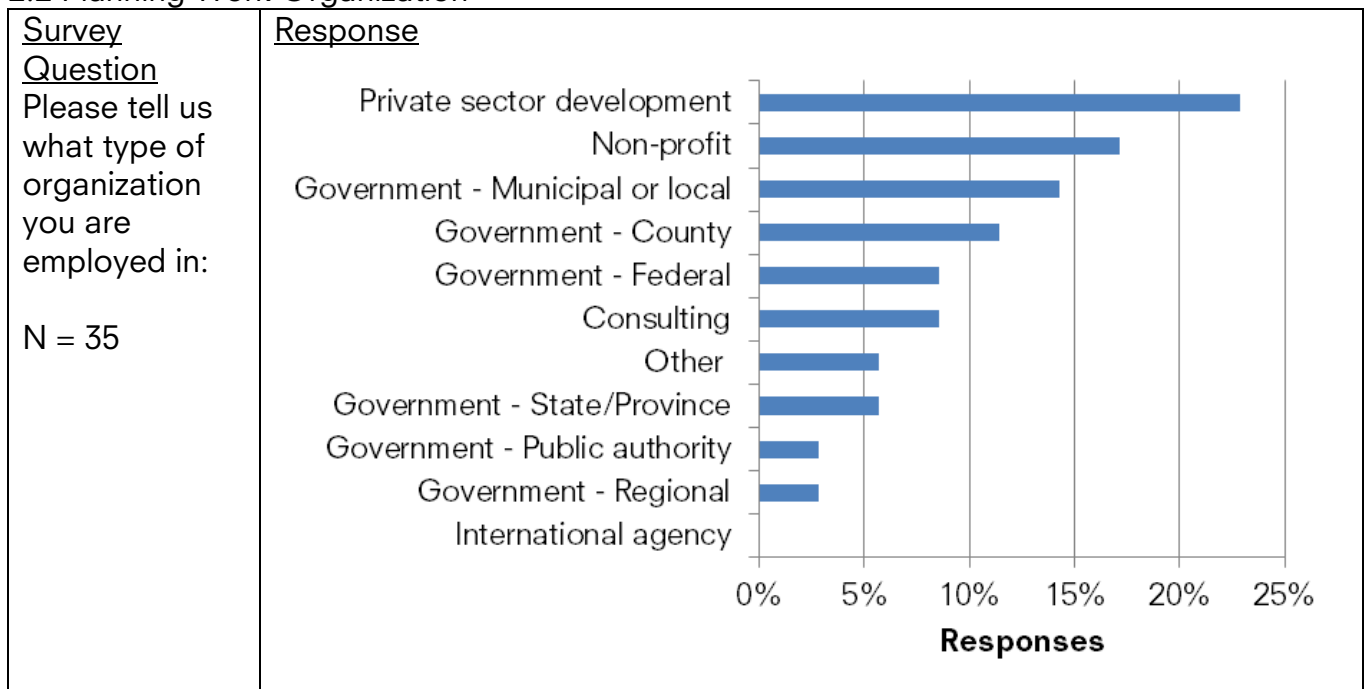
2.3 First Year Activities

Survey Question	Response
Please tell us about your activities during the first year after graduation (check all that apply) N = 39	

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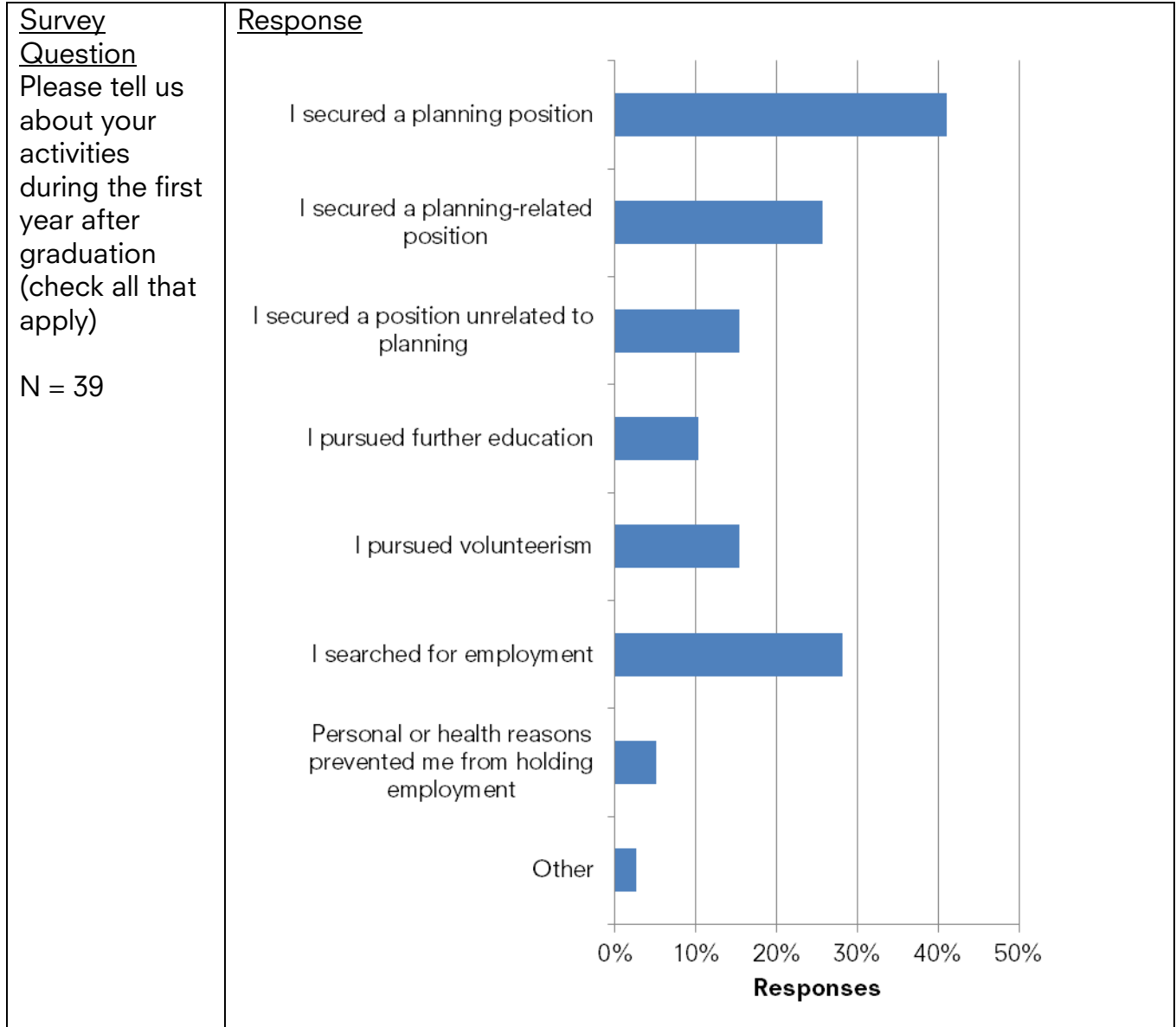
3. Satisfaction with MUP Program

3.1 Preparation for employment

Survey Question	Response
How satisfied are you with how the MUP program at UB prepared you for your employment in planning or planning-related positions?[1] N = 39.	90% Satisfied, 10% Not satisfied (bar chart)
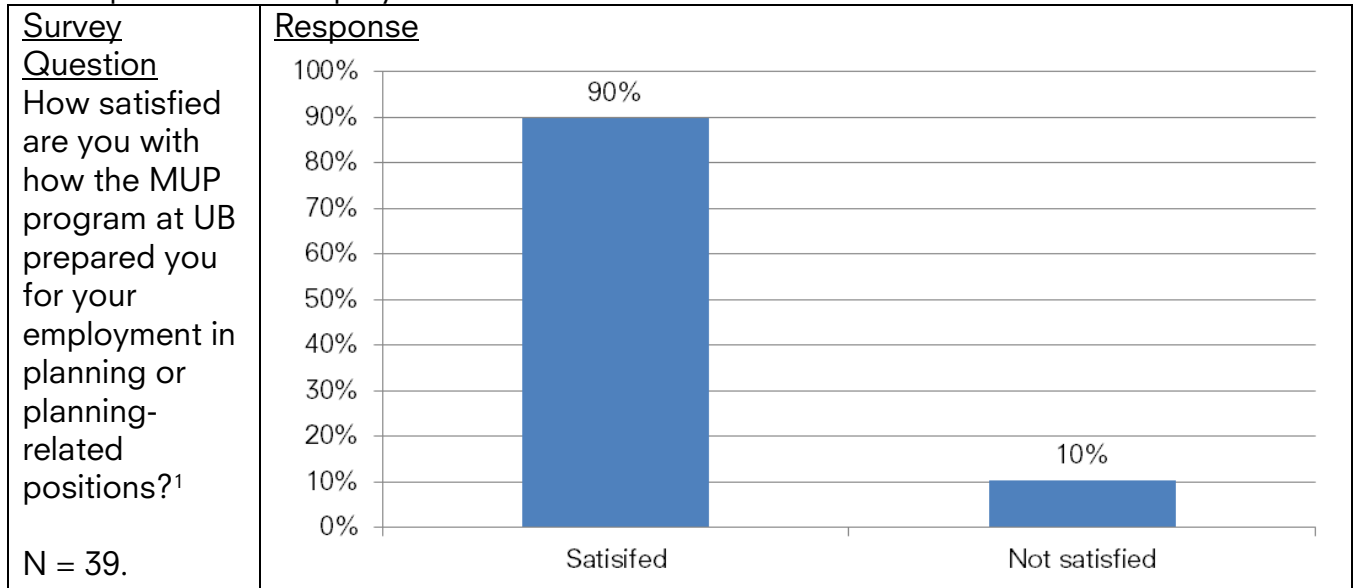
3.2 Satisfaction with Specializations

Survey Question	Response
How satisfied were you with your exposure to one of more specializations in the MUP program?[1] N = 39.	87% Satisfied, 13% Not satisfied (bar chart)

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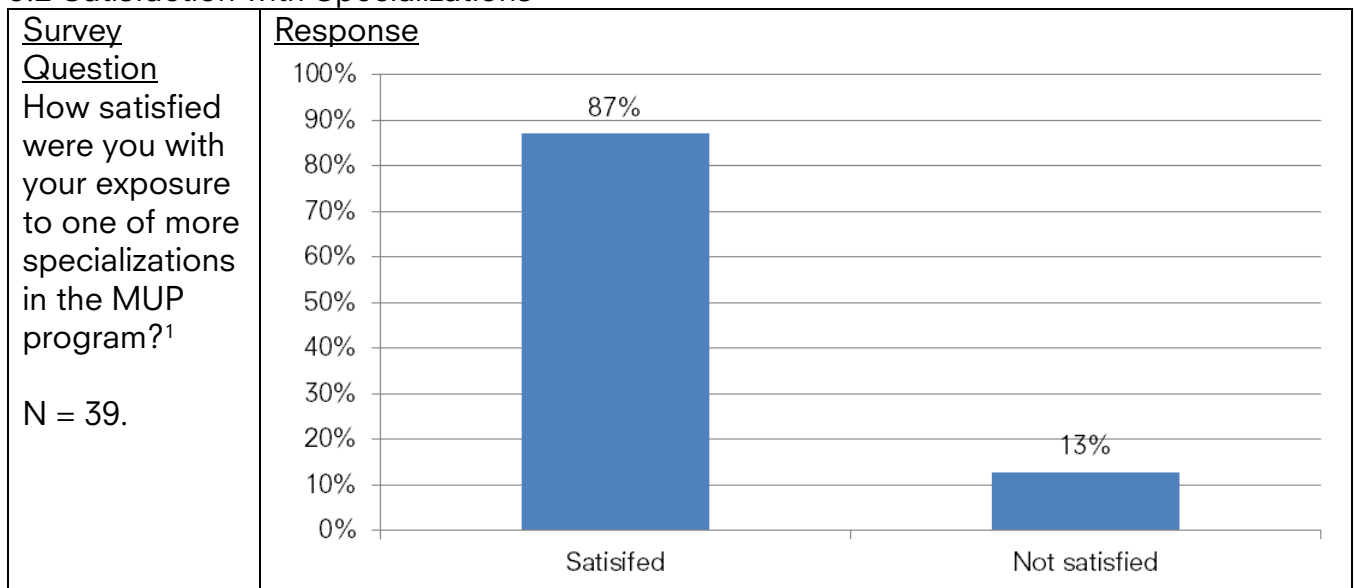
[1] Responses are aggregated for "Highly satisfied, "Satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied."

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3.3 Satisfaction with Practice-Based Learning Experiences

Survey Question	Response
How satisfied are you with the studio course(s), final project, or other practice-based MUP learning experience?[2] N = 38.	84% Satisfied, 16% Not satisfied
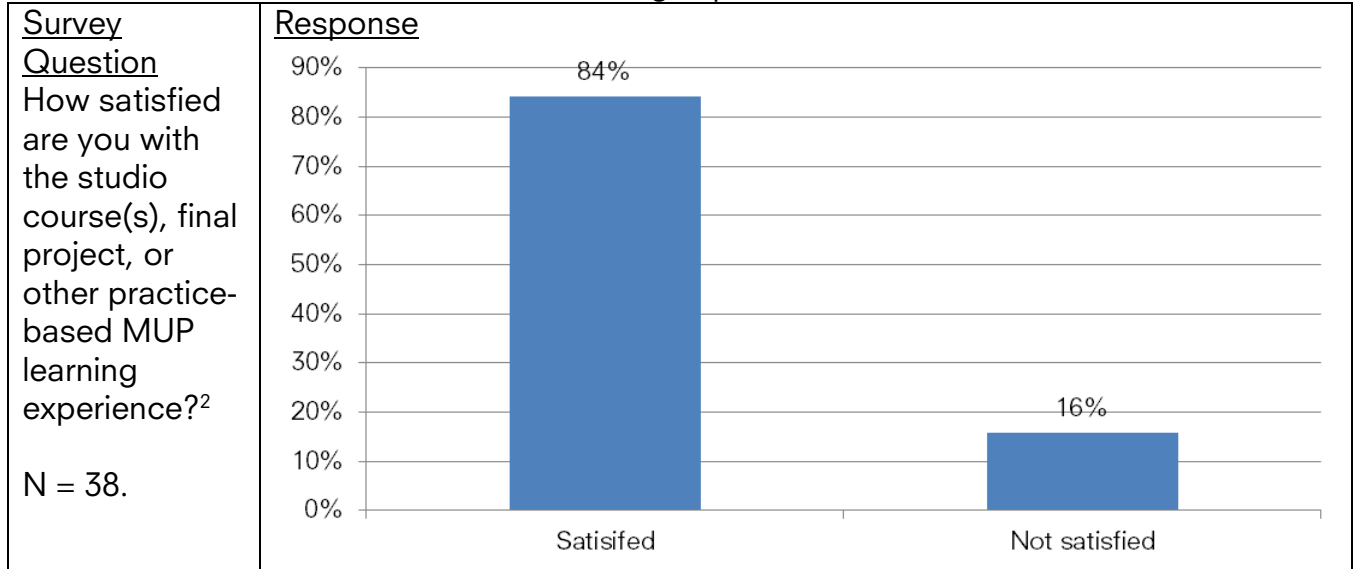
3.4 Satisfaction with Collaborative Learning

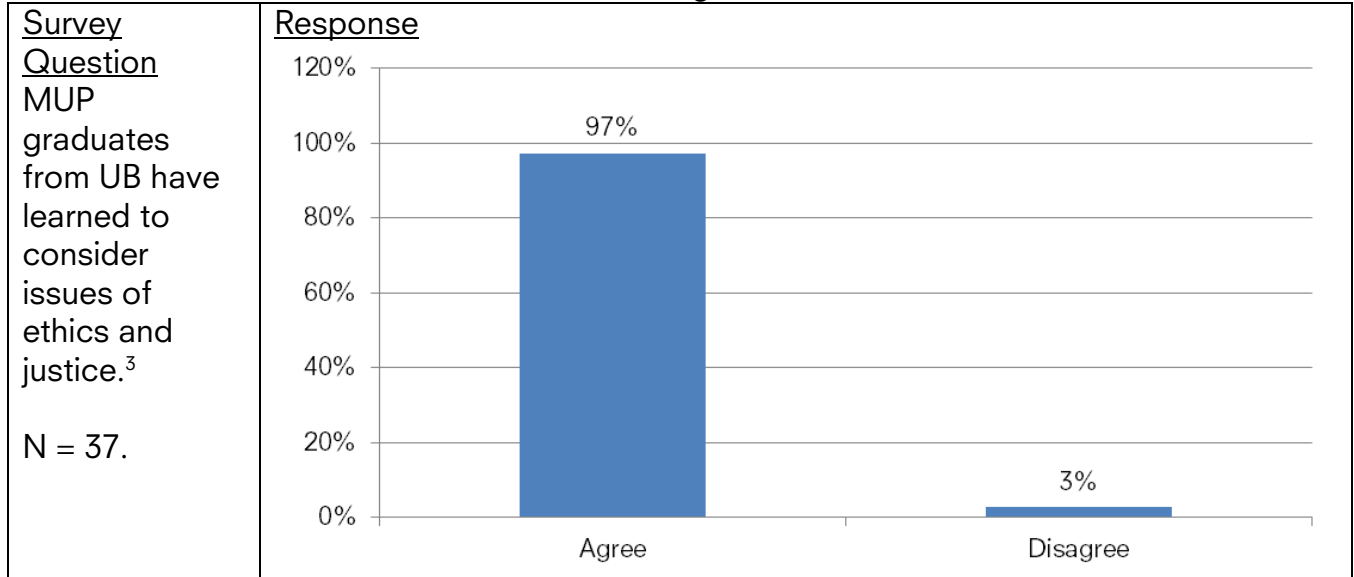| Survey Question	Response
MUP graduates from UB are prepared for collaborative practice and client/ community participation.[2] N = 38.	97% Agree, 3% Disagree

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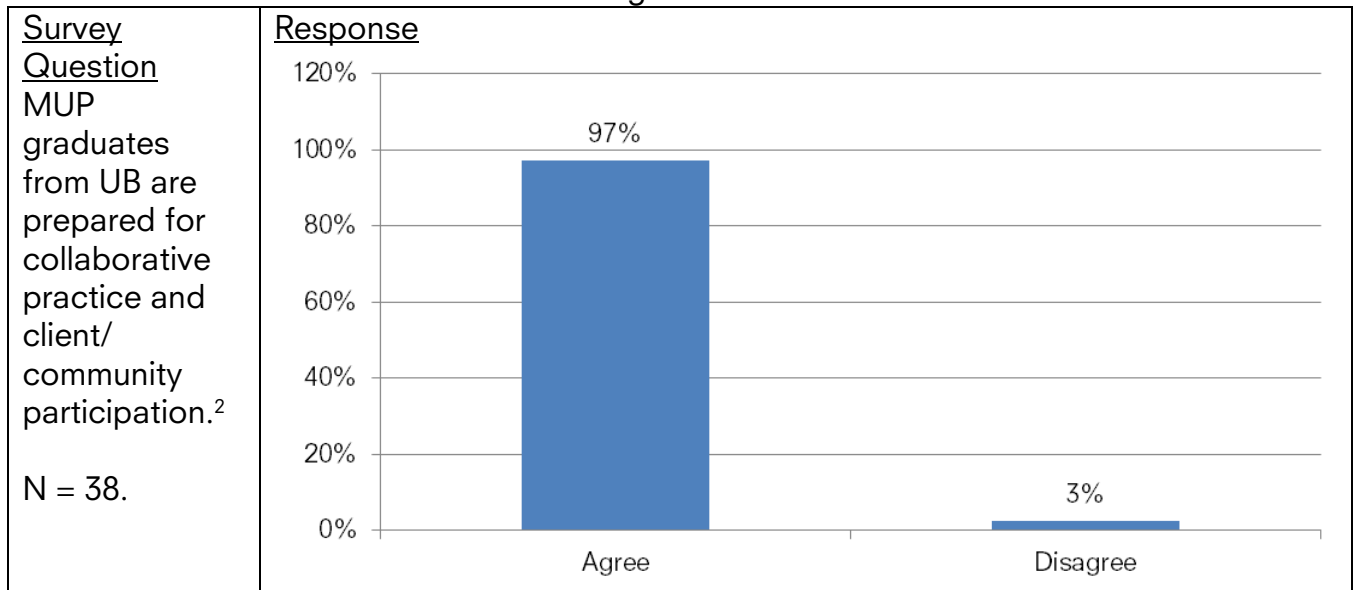
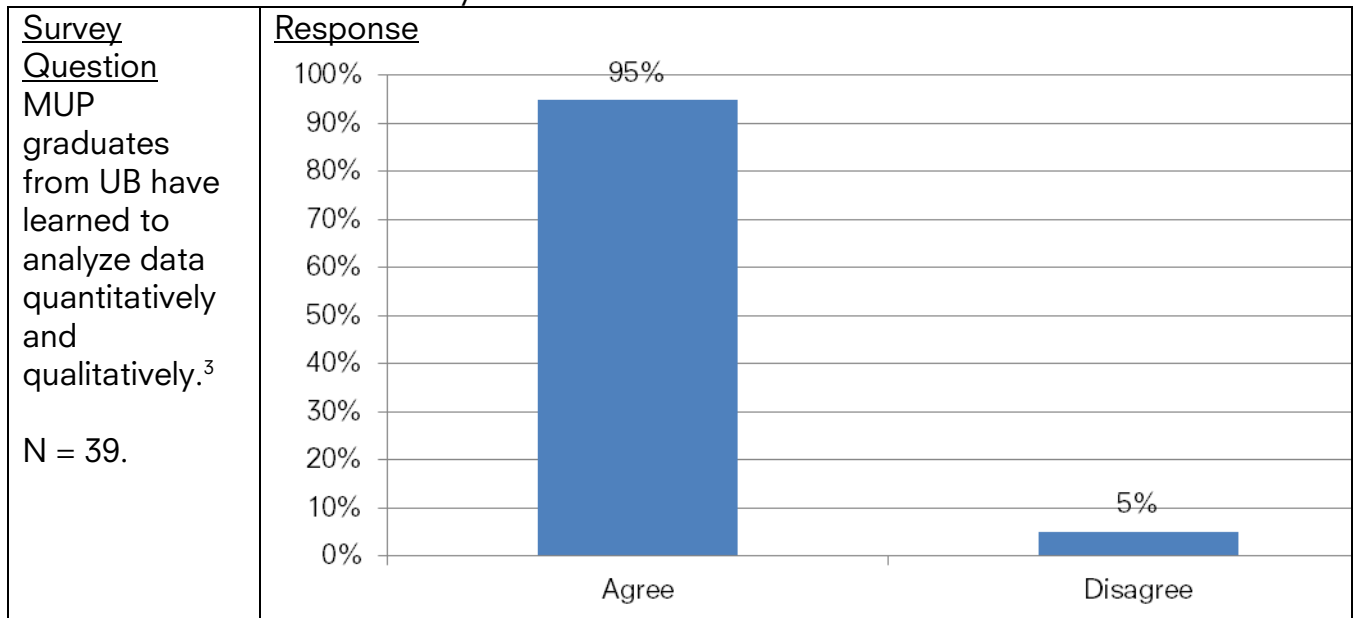[2] Responses are aggregated for "Strongly agree & "Somewhat agree" and for "Somewhat disagree" & "Strongly disagree."

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3.5 Satisfaction with Ethics and Justice Learning

Survey Question	Response
MUP graduates from UB have learned to consider issues of ethics and justice.[3] N = 37.	

3.6 Satisfaction with Data Analysis Skills

Survey Question	Response
MUP graduates from UB have learned to analyze data quantitatively and qualitatively.[3] N = 39.	

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[3] Responses are aggregated for "Strongly agree & "Somewhat agree" and for "Somewhat disagree" & "Strongly disagree."

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4. Engagement

4.1 Participation in Community Service Activities

Survey Question	Response
Are you currently involved in volunteering or community service activities (whether related to planning or not related to planning) formally outside of your employment? N = 39.	
Volunteer work highlights include efforts related to Habitat for Humanity, the APA's NYC Metro Chapter's Mentorship Program, English language teaching, and research projects related to creating community engagement strategies connected to environments and pollutants.	

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