

Part B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The purpose of the alumni survey is to document student perceptions about education received at USMMA and will not be used for any type of forecasting or projecting. The survey results will be tabulated and documented as indirect evidence for accreditation purposes.

1. Describe potential respondent universe and any sampling selection method to be used.

USMMA graduates approximately 200 students each year. The goal of USMMA alumni surveys is to seek perceptions from all those who graduated within the last ten years. Those entering the 10-year window will receive three surveys during that period (immediately upon graduation, and at a five and ten year mark). Overall, approximately 600 surveys will be sent via e-mail link and no special sampling techniques will be used.

2. Describe procedures for collecting information, including statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection, estimation procedures, degree of accuracy needed, and less than annual periodic data cycles.

Survey all alumni three times during a 10-year window immediately upon graduation. The interval between receiving surveys is four years or longer. No statistical methodology is used for stratification or sampling. Expect 25% response rate.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rate.

USMMA will seek assistance from the USMMA Alumni Foundation to encourage participation and maximize the response rate.

4. Describe tests of procedures or methods.

All universities conduct alumni surveys routinely; they are required for maintaining institutional accreditation. No special tests are required.

5. Provide name and telephone number of individuals who were consulted on statistical aspects of the information collection and who will actually collect and/or analyze the information.

The surveys were prepared by the Academy's two degree granting departments, viz., Marine Transportation and Marine Engineering under the supervision of the Academic Dean. Once the responses are received, faculty members from the two degree granting departments will compile the data under the supervision of the Academic Dean.

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