



Office of Graduate Studies

Ph.D. Exit Survey

INSTRUCTIONS:

This survey (a modified version of one created by the Council of Graduate Schools) is in two parts. Demographic information is requested for the purpose of analyzing demographic trends in aggregate completion and attrition rates by broad field area. Individual demographic information is confidential, will not be shared with others, and will not be identifiable from the aggregate analysis. The second part is an anonymous Exit Survey and should be completed by any student that is either completing the Ph.D. **OR** withdrawing from his or her doctoral degree program prior to completion.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SHEET

Institution: _____

Broad Field:

☐ Life Sciences	☐ Mathematics
☐ Physical Sciences	☐ Humanities
☐ Engineering	☐ Social Sciences

Citizenship:

☐ U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident of U.S.
☐ Non-U.S. Citizen (Citizen of another country)

Gender:

☐ Male ☐ Female

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native	☐ Asian
☐ Black	☐ Hispanic
☐ White	☐ Other: _____

Do you have a spouse or partner who lives with you:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have dependents who live with you:

☐ Yes; ☐ Number _____
☐ No

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please consider and answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability. Your responses may be recorded with an ✕ or a ✓, or by circling the appropriate answer

What year did you first enroll in this doctoral program? _____

A. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Are you currently completing your doctoral degree?
☐ Yes ☐ No (**skip to question #3**)
2. What are the main factors that contributed to your ability to complete your doctoral degree?
(**check all that apply and then skip to Section B**):
☐ Financial support ☐ Mentoring/advising
☐ Family (non-financial) support ☐ Social environment/peer group support
☐ Professional/career guidance ☐ Program quality
☐ Other (please briefly explain): _____

3. (**Since you are not completing your doctoral degree, otherwise please go to Section B**) Are you withdrawing from your current doctoral degree program?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If Yes, please briefly describe your primary reason:

4. Please check all factors that contributed to your decision not to complete your doctoral degree:
☐ Financial support ☐ Mentoring/advising
☐ Family issues ☐ Social environment
☐ Program requirements ☐ Program quality
☐ Professional/career guidance
☐ Other (please briefly explain): _____

5. Are you withdrawing prior to advancing to candidacy?
☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Are you eligible for an “en route” master’s degree from this program when you withdraw?
☐ Yes ☐ No (skip to question #8)
7. If Yes, did you petition for, or receive, the appropriate degree?
☐ Yes; Please circle appropriate degree: MA MS Other _____
☐ No
8. Do you intend to re-enroll in this program at a future date?
☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Do you intend to enroll in another degree program in the near future?
☐ Yes; ☐ At this university? ☐ At another university?
☐ No

B. SELECTION/ADMISSIONS

10. Did you visit the campus before enrolling in the doctoral program?
_____ Yes _____ No
11. Did you attend the university's orientation workshops or sessions that were devoted to graduate student issues?
_____ Yes _____ No
12. Did your doctoral program offer a formal orientation to the program in addition to any university graduate orientation programs?
_____ Yes; Did you attend? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No
13. Are you aware of the university's "Graduate Student Policies," or other orientation guide, (either printed or online)?
_____ Yes _____ No (skip to question #15)
14. Does your program have a printed handbook?
_____ Yes _____ No
15. Were the requirements of your program presented to you in clear, written form?
_____ Yes
_____ No
16. Was information about Ph.D. completion and/or attrition rates included on the program website or in other orientation materials?
_____ Yes; Did this affect your decision to enroll? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No
17. Was information about the job placement of recent Ph.D. graduates included on the program website or in other orientation materials?
_____ Yes; Did this affect your decision to enroll? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No
18. What were the main reasons you selected this doctoral degree program (check all that apply):
_____ Faculty/Program reputation _____ Job placement
_____ University reputation _____ Location/region
_____ Financial support _____ Course offerings/curricula
_____ Program requirements
_____ Other (please briefly explain): _____

C. MENTORING & ADVISING

19. Did you have an academic advisor who was readily available to meet or converse with you during the following stages of your doctoral career?

Coursework:	_____ Yes	_____ No
Preliminary examinations (if applicable):	_____ Yes	_____ No
Qualifying examinations (if applicable):	_____ Yes	_____ No
Dissertation (ABD) stage:	_____ Yes	_____ No
Dissertation defense:	_____ Yes	_____ No

20. Did you receive regular feedback from your advisor and/or program about your academic progress?
_____ Yes _____ No

21. Did you have access to someone in your doctoral program that you consider a mentor, e.g. someone who advised you on academic and professional matters beyond your immediate research project(s)?
_____ Yes _____ No (skip to question #25)

22. Are you satisfied with the quality of the relationship between you and your mentor(s)?
_____ Yes _____ No

23. What were the most valuable things/tools you received from your mentor(s)? (check all that apply):

_____ Teaching/Pedagogical guidance	_____ Research guidance
_____ Career/Professional guidance	
_____ Other (please briefly explain): _____	

24. Would any of the following have helped to improve your level of satisfaction with your mentor(s)? (check all that apply):

_____ More time	_____ Research guidance
_____ Better quality of time	_____ Teaching/Pedagogical guidance
_____ Career/Professional guidance	
_____ Other (please briefly explain): _____	

25. Are you aware of any program workshops, information sessions, or printed materials about selecting or switching advisors at your university?

_____ Yes; Did you participate in these sessions or obtain materials? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No

26. Do you feel that you experienced any form of discrimination or conflict with your advisor(s), mentor(s), or graduate program?

_____ Yes _____ No

27. Are you aware of any programs, sessions, or workshops on conflict resolution at this university?

_____ Yes; Did you participate in any sessions? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No

28. Did you ever visit your university's ombudsman or other university employee outside your doctoral program designated to receive and investigate complaints?
_____ Yes _____ No

D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

29. Did you receive financial support, other than personal savings or student loans (e.g., grants, scholarships, or stipends) to support your doctoral study?
_____ Yes _____ No (**skip to question #37**)
30. Were you offered financial support:
_____ At the time of admission to the doctoral program?
_____ After enrolling in the doctoral program for more than one semester? (**skip to question #32**)
31. Did your admissions offer include guaranteed multi-year financial support?
_____ Yes; How many years of financial support? _____
_____ No
32. What were the primary form(s) of non-loan financial support that you received (check all that apply):
_____ University or department fellowship or scholarship
_____ Private or external, nationally competitive (non-university) fellowship or scholarship
_____ Private or external, locally competitive (non-university) fellowship or scholarship
_____ Teaching Assistantship (TA) stipend
_____ Research Assistantship (RA) stipend
_____ Work study
_____ Other: _____
33. Were you satisfied with the amount of financial support that you received during your program?
_____ Yes _____ No
34. If you were supported by a Teaching Assistantship, do you feel that your assistantship:
_____ increased or _____ decreased the length of your doctoral program?
35. If you were supported by a Research Assistantship, do you feel that your assistantship:
_____ increased or _____ decreased the length of your doctoral program?
36. If you were supported by a private or external (non-university) fellowship, did you also have opportunities to teach in your graduate program?
_____ Yes _____ No
37. Did you work outside of the university during your Ph.D. degree program?
_____ Yes; Was the work related to your research field/degree? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No
38. Did you take student loans or private loans to support your doctoral study?
_____ Yes _____ No (**skip to Section E**)

49. Are campus mailboxes provided for students in your graduate program?
 _____ Yes _____ No (skip to question #51)
50. What were the most common types of materials you received? (check all that apply):
 _____ Postings of upcoming conferences, calls for papers, etc.
 _____ Postings of job openings/announcements
 _____ Information about recent publications or talks by either faculty or students
 _____ Program communications
 _____ Books or professional journals
 _____ Personal mail
 _____ Other: _____
51. Did you have an office located in the graduate program?
 _____ Yes; Was it shared with other Ph.D. students? _____ Yes _____ No
 _____ No

F. CURRICULAR PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

52. Were you satisfied with the quality of the course instruction you received in your program?
 _____ Yes _____ No
53. Please rate the collective difficulty of this coursework from 1-5 (1=too easy; 5=too difficult): _____
54. Were program expectations clearly articulated during the following stages of your doctoral career?
 (Optional Comments/Explanation)
- | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|-------|
| Coursework: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Preliminary examinations (if applicable): | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Qualifying examinations (if applicable): | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Dissertation (ABD) stage: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Dissertation defense: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
55. Were program expectations appropriate (in terms of work load, difficulty, etc.) during the following stages of your doctoral career?
 (Optional Comments/Explanation)
- | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|-------|
| Coursework: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Preliminary examinations (if applicable): | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Qualifying examinations (if applicable): | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Dissertation (ABD) stage: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
| Dissertation defense: | _____ Yes | _____ No | _____ |
56. Did you have the opportunity to provide feedback to your graduate program or participate in evaluations or decision-making about the graduate program?
 _____ Yes; Did you participate in one or more of these? _____ Yes _____ No
 _____ No

G. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

57. Did your graduate program provide you with research opportunities designed to prepare you for dissertation research before the conclusion of your coursework?
_____ Yes _____ No
58. Were research activities conducted in:
_____ Research teams?
_____ Independently?
_____ Both?
59. Have you had the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary teams or participate in interdepartmental reading-groups?
_____ Yes _____ No
60. Have you published on your research while in this program?
_____ Yes _____ No (skip to question #62)
61. Did you do so (check all that apply):
At least once individually? _____ Yes _____ No
At least once as a co-author with a faculty member? _____ Yes _____ No
At least once as a co-author with another student? _____ Yes _____ No
62. Are you aware of the university's offer of travel grants for presenting your work at conferences?
_____ Yes _____ No (skip to Section H)
63. Did you ever apply for such a travel grant?
_____ Yes; Did you receive an award? _____ Yes _____ No
_____ No

H. CAREER PLACEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

64. Do you plan to move into the employment sector upon graduation or withdrawal?
_____ Yes _____ No (skip to question #67)
65. What employment sector will you be working in?
_____ Full-time academic faculty
_____ Part-time academic faculty
_____ Academic non-faculty research
_____ Academic administrative
_____ Government
_____ Industry/corporate
_____ Non-profit
_____ Other: _____
66. Is this employment related to your research field or degree?
_____ Yes _____ No
67. Was job placement information about recent Ph.D. graduates available from your graduate program?
_____ Yes _____ No

- _____ Yes _____ No

- _____ Yes _____ No

- _____ Yes; Was it helpful to you? _____ Yes _____ No

- Yes No (skip to question #73)

- _____ Yes; Do you feel these were helpful? _____ Yes _____ No

- Yes No (skip to Section I)

- _____ Yes; Do you feel these were helpful? _____ Yes _____ No
