

EXIT SURVEY

INSTRUCTIONS:

Students:

The demographic information requested at the bottom of this page will be collected by your university and submitted to the Council of Graduate Schools separately from the exit survey that follows (beginning on page 2). 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.

University Staff:

Please detach this page from survey that follows and submit collected demographic information forms to:

Ph.D. Completion Project, Attn: Robert Sowell
Council of Graduate Schools
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 230
Washington, DC 20036-1173
(Telephone: 202-223-3791; fax: 202-331-7157)

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SHEET

Institution: _____

Broad Field:

<input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> 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):

<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

EXIT SURVEY

The following 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.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Students:

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. When you have completed the Exit Survey, please follow the submission instructions provided by your university.

University Staff:

Please detach these pages from demographic information page above and submit collected surveys for program codes 01 – 13 (those participating in the Ph.D. Completion Project) to:

Ph.D. Completion Project, Attn: Nathan Bell
Council of Graduate Schools
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 230
Washington, DC 20036-1173
(Telephone: 202-223-3791; fax: 202-331-7157)

Please select your doctoral program from the list below:

INSTITUTION: _____

PARTICIPATING Ph.D. COMPLETION PROJECT PROGRAMS:

- 01 - _____
- 02 - _____
- 03 - _____
- 04 - _____
- 05 - _____
- 06 - _____
- 07 - _____
- 08 - _____
- 09 - _____
- 10 - _____
- 11 - _____
- 12 - _____
- 13 - _____

- 14 - Other Program: _____

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. 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 MPhil 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 your university offer any orientation workshops or sessions that were devoted to graduate student issues?
 Yes; Did you attend? Yes No
 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. Did you receive or are you aware of a "Graduate Student Handbook," or other orientation guide, (either printed or online)?
 Yes No (skip to question #15)
14. Which campus organization produced and distributed the handbook (check all that apply):
 the doctoral program the Graduate School
 Do not know Other: _____
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 your 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: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Preliminary examinations (if applicable): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Qualifying examinations (if applicable): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Dissertation (ABD) stage: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Dissertation defense: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Preliminary examinations (if applicable): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Qualifying examinations (if applicable): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Dissertation (ABD) stage: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | _____ |
| Dissertation defense: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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. Does your doctoral program or university offer travel grants for presenting your work at conferences?

_____ Yes

_____ No (skip to Section H)

63. Did you ever apply for 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

68. Does your program have a job placement officer (e.g. a designated faculty or staff member who advises on CVs, job interviews, etc.)?

_____ Yes

_____ No

69. Do you feel that the program's job placement resources were helpful to you?
 Yes No
70. Did you visit a career center outside of your doctoral program?
 Yes; Was it helpful to you? Yes No
 No
71. Did your program or university offer a Preparing Future Faculty program or other workshops, courses, activities related to faculty careers?
 Yes No (skip to question #73)
72. Did you participate in one or more of the Preparing Future Faculty programs or activities?
 Yes; Do you feel these were helpful? Yes No
 No
73. Did your program or university offer professional development activities for graduate students considering non-academic career options?
 Yes No (skip to Section I)
74. Did you participate in the professional development programs or activities?
 Yes; Do you feel these were helpful? Yes No
 No

I. FINAL QUESTIONS

What was the most positive aspect of your graduate program?

What was the least positive aspect of your graduate program?

What would you recommend your program and/or university do to attract, retain and graduate more and better students?
