Mississippi State University

February 2017

MSU Graduate Exit Survey Results

2015 - 2016

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

The MSU Graduate Student Exit Survey instrument was developed by an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The committee members reviewed the format and content of the already implemented MSU Undergraduate Exit Survey to design a graduate student exit survey analog. Graduate student exit surveys of other universities were also reviewed. The primary areas of inquiry within the Graduate Student Exit Survey include quality of intellectual environment/experience, quality of instruction (including resources), quality of academic resources and services, and quality of student life services.

After development of the survey, the Information Technology Systems division of Mississippi State University launched the instrument through the MSU portal. Permission was granted by the Mississippi State University Institutional Review Board to require all graduate students to complete the survey before being allowed to apply for graduation. A pilot survey was distributed to a small sample of the graduate students who applied for graduation in summer 2011.

The survey instrument takes approximately ten to fifteen minutes to complete. Upon completion, each student is given the option of allowing his/her responses to be used in or excluded from research endeavors.

SURVEY RESULTS

This report provides analysis of the 2015 - 2016 graduating students' (1) quality of intellectual environment/experience; (2) quality of instruction (including resources); (3) quality of academic resources and services; and (4) quality of student life services.

During 2015 - 2016, there were 880 students who were awarded a graduate degree and completed the survey. Of those 880 students, 754 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

<u>Demographics</u>

Of the 754 graduates responding to the survey, 69.9% represent White, 10.6% represent Black/African American, and 19.5% represents the other ethnicities. 3.4% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus and 33.2% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree through Academic Outreach. 48.5% are female and 51.5% are male. 85.7% are U.S. Citizens and 14.3% are International students. 16.2% of the students graduated with a Doctoral degree, 2% of the students graduated with an Education Specialist degree, and 81.8% of the students graduated with a Master degree.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

	Yes	No
Did you graduate in the degree area/discipline in which you initially enrolled?	96.9%	3.1%
Have your career plans changed from what you intended when you first entered graduate school?	20.6%	79.4%

What describes your immediate postgraduate plans?	Percentage of responses
Seeking employment	27.6%
Employed or accepted a position	56%
Seeking additional study	6.1%
Engaged in additional study/training	7.8%
Undecided	2.5%

If you selected "Employed or accepted a position" above, please select type:	Percentage of responses
Education (PK-12)	16.8%
Education (University or College Faculty)	4.6%
Education (University or College Staff)	7.2%
Government	7.6%
Private Sector (Business/Industry)	19.1%
Other	4.6%
N/A	40.1%

If you selected "Engaged in additional study/training" above, indicate the type of study:	Percentage of responses
Doctoral Study	8.8%
Postdoctoral Research Associate	1.6%
Traineeship	0.5%
Other Study	2.5%
N/A	86.6%

Where do you intend to live/work/study immediately after receiving your degree?	Percentage of responses
At Mississippi State University	10.6%
In Mississippi	31.8%
Not in Mississippi but in the U.S.	54.2%
Not in the U.S.	3.3%

QUALITY OF INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT/EXPERIENCE

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with what they learned or attained at MSU for each item represented in the following table. If they had no experience, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Intellectual Environment/ Experience	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Graduate courses exhibited advanced academic content	47.9%	45%	5.2%	1.5%	0.4%	3	4.4
Adequate frequency of course offerings	31.5%	43.6%	14.9%	8.7%	1.3%	4	4
Variety of courses that were taught	34.8%	41.4%	14.5%	7.6%	1.7%	3	4
Highly improved ability to communicate effectively	39.6%	45.9%	12.9%	1.3%	0.3%	4	4.2
Obtained the fundamental knowledge necessary to compete successfully in your field	47.8%	44.5%	6.9%	0.7%	0.1%	3	4.4
Acquired technical and research skills necessary for success	45.3%	46.5%	6.5%	1.2%	0.5%	5	4.3
Learned to analyze and evaluate competing or contradictory information or points of view on a variety of topics	48%	44.9%	6.4%	0.5%	0.1%	6	4.4
Gained a comprehensive understanding of professional ethics	49.3%	42.5%	7%	0.7%	0.5%	13	4.4
Opportunity for personal development of multicultural and global perspectives	38.9%	41.9%	16%	2.6%	0.5%	24	4.2
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students within your program	41.4%	46%	9.2%	2.7%	0.7%	17	4.2
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students outside your program	31.6%	32.6%	25%	8.2%	2.5%	74	3.8
Value of providing on-campus graduate research symposium	31.4%	37.3%	27.5%	2.9%	0.9%	194	4
Availability of opportunities for volunteer or community service work	29.2%	36.8%	29%	3.3%	1.7%	178	3.9
Enhanced appreciation for cultural diversity	34.2%	41.4%	20.8%	2.7%	0.9%	82	4.1
Overall quality of program	44.1%	46.3%	7.2%	1.9%	0.5%	2	4.3
Overall quality of campus intellectual environment/experience	43.1%	45.4%	9.4%	1.3%	0.7%	84	4.3

QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION (INCLUDING RESOURCES)

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with the quality of instruction (including resources) received at MSU for each item represented in the following table. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Instruction (Including Resources)	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Accessibility of faculty	50%	40.1%	7.5%	2%	0.4%	8	4.4
Faculty advising	49.6%	35.5%	10.1%	3.1%	1.6%	14	4.3
Mentoring received from major professor/graduate committee	48.4%	33.5%	12.5%	4.3%	1.3%	64	4.2
Thesis/dissertation direction	43.8%	32.8%	18.4%	3.8%	1.3%	281	4.1
Classrooms (including associated instructional technology)	33%	50.5%	12.2%	3.4%	0.9%	99	4.1
Laboratory facilities	34.7%	44%	14.9%	4.6%	1.8%	256	4.1
Laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	34.3%	43.7%	15%	5.8%	1.2%	255	4
Accessibility of laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	38.6%	42.2%	14.5%	3.4%	1.4%	256	4.1
Overall quality of instruction (delivery & learning outcomes)	43%	47.8%	6.9%	2%	0.3%	14	4.3

QUALITY OF ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with academic resources and services provided at MSU for each area represented in the following table. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Academic Resources and Services	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Resources and services provided by University Libraries	42.1%	46.9%	9.2%	1.4%	0.4%	34	4.3
Ability to access computer services and ITS support (i.e. On-Campus portal, blackboards, software, etc.)	43.4%	48.3%	6.7%	1.2%	0.4%	19	4.3
Ability to access on-campus computers	46.4%	41.8%	9.8%	1.4%	0.5%	185	4.3
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the *Bulletin of the Graduate School*	36%	43.4%	16%	3.6%	1%	60	4.1
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Office of the Graduate School Website	36.7%	46.2%	12.6%	3.5%	1%	38	4.1
Overall informational value and user friendliness of the Office of the Graduate School Website	34.3%	47.2%	13.6%	3.7%	1.1%	32	4.1
Information and orientation activities provided at orientation for new graduate students (New Graduate Student Orientation)	36.4%	42.3%	16.2%	3.4%	1.6%	144	4.1
Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop	34.9%	36.3%	21.9%	4.4%	2.6%	324	4
Information provided at orientation for new international graduate students ("Find your Feet")	40.3%	36.5%	21.6%	0.8%	0.8%	384	4.1
Departmental adherence to published policy and degree requirements being followed	39.7%	47.6%	9.9%	2.5%	0.3%	37	4.2
Information about current academic calendars and descriptions of grading policies and refund policies are easily accessible	39.8%	47%	10.1%	2.4%	0.7%	13	4.2
Recruitment materials and presentations are accurate representations of the institution's practices and policies	36.3%	47%	14.7%	1.6%	0.4%	79	4.2
Services provided by the Office of the Graduate School	38.3%	46.2%	13.2%	1.5%	0.7%	36	4.2
Service to provide awareness of opportunities/resources to fund your education	33%	39.6%	18.2%	6.6%	2.6%	69	3.9

Quality of Student Life Services

Respondents were to indicate their level of satisfaction with the quality of student life services provided at MSU for each area represented in the following table. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA.

Quality of Student Life Services	% Strongly Satisfied	% Satisfied	% Neutral	% Dissatisfied	% Strongly Dissatisfied	NA	Mean
Resources provided through MSU Bookstore, Barnes & Noble	30.6%	46%	18.3%	3.6%	1.6%	119	4
Campus Dining Services	26%	40.1%	26%	5.6%	2.3%	323	3.8
Services and resources provided for financial aid	32%	42.1%	20.6%	4.3%	1.1%	191	4
MSU Police Department & Campus Security	37.6%	44.5%	15%	2%	1%	246	4.2
Office of Parking Services	29%	37.6%	20.7%	7.2%	5.5%	227	3.8
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	35.9%	41.6%	19.1%	2.8%	0.5%	331	4.1
Opportunities to attend athletic events on campus	48%	36.8%	13.5%	1.2%	0.6%	241	4.3
Access and services provided through the Student Health Center	42.9%	40.7%	13.9%	1.9%	0.6%	272	4.2
Student Health Insurance benefits	34.9%	33.9%	22.8%	6.2%	2.2%	350	3.9
Student Counseling Services	38.3%	37%	22.5%	1.2%	1%	349	4.1
Recreational sports and wellness resources (Sanderson Center/Intramural Clubs)	45.4%	41.2%	12.2%	0.9%	0.4%	285	4.3
Student Support Services/Disability Support Services	39.8%	38.1%	21.2%	0.3%	0.6%	400	4.2
The Graduate Student Association as an advocate and networking resource for graduate students	31.6%	34.9%	26.8%	4.5%	2.2%	261	3.9

Overall Experience and Recommendations

	Yes	No
If I had to do it over again, I would choose to attend MSU for graduate study?	92.8%	7.2%
Would you recommend to others that they apply/enroll for study in your graduate degree area/discipline at MSU?	92.4%	7.6%
Would you recommend to any prospective graduate student that they strongly consider MSU?	92%	8%

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