

## Graduate Exit Survey Summary 2017-18

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 a summary of the 2017-18 graduating students' satisfaction with the quality of (1) intellectual environment/experience; (2) instruction (including resources); (3) academic resources and services; and (4) student life services. During 2017-18, there were 948 students who were awarded a graduate degree and completed the survey. Of those 948 students, 827 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

### Demographics

Of the respondents, 3.1% obtained their degree from the Meridian Campus and 27.2% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree through Academic Outreach. 47.4% were female and 52.6% were male. 82% were U.S. Citizens and 18% were international students. 17.7% of the students graduated with a Doctoral degree, 2.3% of the students graduated with an Education Specialist degree, and 80% of the students graduated with a Master degree.

| <b>Ethnicity</b>                          | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|----------------|
| American Indian or Alaskan Native         | 0.4            |
| Asian                                     | 2.4            |
| Black or African American                 | 10.5           |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0.1            |
| White                                     | 65.4           |
| Hispanic                                  | 2.5            |
| International                             | 0              |
| Multiracial                               | 1.7            |
| Unknown                                   | 16.9           |

### General Questions

|   | Yes  | No   |
|---|------|------|
| Did you graduate in the degree area/discipline in which you initially enrolled?               | 95.2 | 4.8  |
| Have your career plans changed from what you intended when you first entered graduate school? | 18.9 | 81.1 |

| What describes your immediate postgraduate plans? | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Seeking employment                                | 28.5    |
| Employed or accepted a position                   | 50.7    |
| Seeking additional study                          | 6.7     |
| Engaged in additional study/training              | 10      |
| Undecided   | 4.1     |

| If you selected "Employed or accepted a position" above, please select type: | Percent |
|--|---------|
| Education (PK-12)  | 13.1    |
| Education (University or College Faculty)                                    | 4.5     |
| Education (University or College Staff)                                      | 6.3     |
| Government   | 7.6     |
| Private Sector (Business/Industry)   | 20      |
| Other  | 5.1     |
| N/A  | 43.5    |

| If you selected "Engaged in additional study/training" above, indicate the type of study: | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Doctoral study  | 12.3    |
| Postdoctoral Research Associate   | 2.5     |
| Traineeship   | 0.1     |
| Other Study   | 2.2     |
| N/A   | 82.8    |

| Where do you intend to live/work/study immediately after receiving your degree? | Percent |
|---|---------|
| At Mississippi State University   | 12.1    |
| In Mississippi  | 28.5    |
| Not in Mississippi but in the U.S.  | 56.1    |
| Not in the U.S.   | 3.3     |

### Quality of Intellectual Environment/Experience

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with what they learned or attained at MSU. If they had no experience, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

| Quality of Intellectual Environment/Experience  | Strongly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Strongly Dissatisfied | NA  | Mean |
|---|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Graduate courses exhibited advanced academic content  | 45.1               | 47.4      | 5.7     | 1.6          | 0.2                   | 2   | 4.4  |
| Adequate frequency of course offerings  | 30.5               | 44.9      | 15.9    | 6.9          | 1.8                   | 3   | 4    |
| Variety of courses that were taught   | 34.5               | 45.8      | 12.5    | 6.1          | 1.2                   | 3   | 4.1  |
| Highly improved ability to communicate effectively  | 42                 | 45.6      | 10.2    | 1.5          | 0.7                   | 4   | 4.3  |
| Obtained the fundamental knowledge necessary to compete successfully in your field  | 45.9               | 45.7      | 6.5     | 1.5          | 0.4                   | 2   | 4.4  |
| Acquired technical and research skills necessary for success  | 46.5               | 42.9      | 9       | 1.1          | 0.5                   | 2   | 4.3  |
| Learned to analyze and evaluate competing or contradictory information or points of view on a variety of topics                 | 48.5               | 43.5      | 7       | 0.6          | 0.4                   | 4   | 4.4  |
| Gained a comprehensive understanding of professional ethics   | 47                 | 42.2      | 8.9     | 1.5          | 0.5                   | 5   | 4.3  |
| Opportunity for personal development of multicultural and global perspectives   | 37.8               | 41.8      | 17.7    | 2.2          | 0.4                   | 21  | 4.1  |
| Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students within your program  | 42.4               | 44.7      | 10.1    | 1.8          | 0.9                   | 9   | 4.3  |
| Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students outside your program | 32.2               | 37.6      | 23      | 5.3          | 1.8                   | 58  | 3.9  |
| Value of providing on-campus graduate research symposium  | 33.8               | 37.2      | 26.2    | 1.2          | 1.6                   | 158 | 4    |
| Availability of opportunities for volunteer or community service work   | 29.7               | 39        | 27.6    | 2.5          | 1.2                   | 153 | 3.9  |
| Enhanced appreciation for cultural diversity  | 36.2               | 41.5      | 19.5    | 2            | 0.8                   | 59  | 4.1  |
| Overall quality of program  | 44.3               | 45.9      | 7.3     | 2.1          | 0.5                   | 3   | 4.3  |
| Overall quality of campus intellectual environment/experience   | 42.2               | 46.5      | 9.4     | 1.2          | 0.8                   | 50  | 4.3  |

### Quality of Instruction (Including Resources)

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the quality of instruction (including resources). If they had no experience, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

| Quality of Instruction (Including Resources)                     | Strongly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Strongly Dissatisfied | NA  | Mean |
|--|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Accessibility of faculty   | 51.5               | 41.5      | 5.      | 1.6          | 0.4                   | 6   | 4.4  |
| Faculty advising   | 48.6               | 38.4      | 8.9     | 3.5          | 0.6                   | 6   | 4.3  |
| Mentoring received from major professor/graduate committee       | 51.1               | 35.5      | 10.5    | 2.2          | 0.8                   | 52  | 4.3  |
| Thesis/dissertation direction                                    | 43.4               | 36.7      | 17.8    | 1.1          | 1.1                   | 265 | 4.2  |
| Classrooms (including associated instructional technology)       | 35.5               | 46.9      | 12.6    | 4            | 1.1                   | 95  | 4.1  |
| Laboratory facilities  | 35.7               | 43.5      | 17.6    | 2            | 1.2                   | 264 | 4.1  |
| Laboratory equipment and/or research facilities                  | 37.7               | 40.7      | 17.8    | 2.7          | 1.2                   | 264 | 4.1  |
| Accessibility of laboratory equipment and/or research facilities | 39.5               | 40.6      | 17.3    | 1.9          | 0.7                   | 255 | 4.2  |
| Overall quality of instruction (delivery & learning outcomes)    | 43.6               | 47.9      | 7       | 1.3          | 0.2                   | 8   | 4.3  |

### Quality of Academic Resources and Services

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with academic resources and services. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

| Quality of Academic Resources and Services   | Strongly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Strongly Dissatisfied | NA  | Mean |
|--|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Resources and services provided by University Libraries  | 42.7               | 47.1      | 8.1     | 1.5          | 0.5                   | 48  | 4.3  |
| Ability to access computer services and ITS support (i.e. On-Campus portal, blackboards, software, etc.)                           | 45.1               | 46.6      | 6       | 1.5          | 0.7                   | 25  | 4.3  |
| Ability to access on-campus computers  | 45.4               | 44.2      | 8.8     | 1.2          | 0.5                   | 177 | 4.3  |
| Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Bulletin of the Graduate School       | 35.2               | 43.2      | 16.7    | 4.1          | 0.8                   | 66  | 4.1  |
| Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Office of the Graduate School Website | 35.8               | 46.1      | 13.4    | 3.8          | 1                     | 27  | 4.1  |
| Overall informational value and user friendliness of the Office of the Graduate School Website                                     | 35.4               | 46.1      | 14.6    | 3.3          | 0.6                   | 27  | 4.1  |
| Information and orientation activities provided at orientation for new graduate students (New Graduate Student Orientation)        | 33.2               | 43.2      | 19.3    | 3.3          | 1                     | 123 | 4    |
| Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop   | 32.9               | 40        | 22.1    | 3.2          | 1.8                   | 320 | 4    |
| Information provided at orientation for new international graduate students ("Find your Feet")                                     | 36.1               | 39.9      | 21.3    | 1.6          | 1.1                   | 376 | 4.1  |
| Departmental adherence to published policy and degree requirements being followed  | 38.5               | 47.1      | 12.5    | 1.3          | 0.6                   | 27  | 4.2  |
| Information about current academic calendars and descriptions of grading policies and refund policies are easily accessible        | 41.2               | 47.1      | 9.1     | 1.9          | 0.7                   | 18  | 4.3  |
| Recruitment materials and presentations are accurate representations of the institution's practices and policies                   | 38.6               | 45.9      | 13.8    | 0.9          | 0.8                   | 65  | 4.2  |
| Services provided by the Office of the Graduate School   | 37                 | 46.7      | 13.5    | 1.8          | 1                     | 35  | 4.2  |
| Service to provide awareness of opportunities/resources to fund your education   | 35                 | 42.5      | 16.9    | 3.9          | 1.7                   | 58  | 4.1  |

### Quality of Student Life Services

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the quality of student life services. If they had no experience with the services, they were to indicate NA. The table below shows the percentage of responses across different levels of satisfaction as well as the mean response (out of a 5-point Likert scale).

| Quality of Student Life Services  | Strongly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Strongly Dissatisfied | NA  | Mean |
|---|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Resources provided through MSU Bookstore, Barnes & Noble                                      | 29.5               | 46.5      | 19.5    | 3            | 1.6                   | 121 | 4    |
| Campus Dining Services  | 25.8               | 42.1      | 24.3    | 5.8          | 1.9                   | 293 | 3.8  |
| Services and resources provided for financial aid   | 30.3               | 44        | 21.2    | 3            | 1.4                   | 200 | 4    |
| MSU Police Department & Campus Security   | 36.1               | 46.5      | 15.9    | 0.7          | 0.8                   | 223 | 4.2  |
| Office of Parking Services  | 24.9               | 36.8      | 20.4    | 10.3         | 7.7                   | 204 | 3.6  |
| MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)  | 34.7               | 41.7      | 19.5    | 1.9          | 2.1                   | 314 | 4    |
| Opportunities to attend athletic events on campus   | 44.7               | 42.1      | 11.9    | 0.3          | 1                     | 207 | 4.3  |
| Access and services provided through the Student Health Center                                | 39.9               | 44.1      | 12.8    | 1.9          | 1.2                   | 251 | 4.2  |
| Student Health Insurance benefits   | 35                 | 38.8      | 20.3    | 4            | 1.9                   | 353 | 4    |
| Student Counseling Services   | 36.4               | 39.9      | 22.4    | 0.9          | 0.4                   | 368 | 4.1  |
| Recreational sports and wellness resources (Sanderson Center/Intramural Clubs)                | 40.7               | 43.4      | 12.9    | 1.4          | 1.6                   | 262 | 4.2  |
| Student Support Services/Disability Support Services  | 39.5               | 40.2      | 19.4    | 0.5          | 0.5                   | 399 | 4.2  |
| The Graduate Student Association as an advocate and networking resource for graduate students | 30.8               | 38.6      | 25.3    | 3.3          | 1.9                   | 250 | 3.9  |

### Research and Scholarships

| Research and Scholarships  | One  | Two  | Three | Four | Five or more | NA  | Mean |
|--|------|------|-------|------|--------------|-----|------|
| During your graduate career, how many presentations did you make at international conferences? | 37.2 | 25.6 | 16.3  | 8.7  | 12.2         | 655 | 2.3  |
| During your graduate career, how many presentations did you make at regional conferences?      | 37.1 | 22.8 | 13.3  | 7.1  | 19.7         | 533 | 2.5  |
| During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you submit?                         | 39.5 | 23.3 | 16.6  | 4.7  | 15.8         | 574 | 2.3  |
| During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you have accepted?                  | 48.6 | 25.1 | 10.9  | 3.3  | 12           | 644 | 2    |
| During your graduate career, how many grants did you submit?                                   | 48.7 | 20.5 | 14.5  | 6    | 10.3         | 710 | 2.1  |
| During your graduate career, how many grants did you have awarded?                             | 50.5 | 26.8 | 11.3  | 3.1  | 8.2          | 730 | 1.9  |

### Overall Experience and Recommendations

|  | Yes  | No  |
|--|------|-----|
| If I had to do it over again, I would choose to attend MSU for graduate study?                                 | 90.3 | 9.7 |
| Would you recommend to others that they apply/enroll for study in your graduate degree area/discipline at MSU? | 90.4 | 9.6 |
| Would you recommend to any prospective graduate student that they strongly consider MSU?                       | 90.7 | 9.3 |