

Graduate Exit Survey Summary 2018-19

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 2018-19 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 2018-19 there were 952 students who were awarded a graduate degree and completed the survey. Of those 952 students, 814 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

Demographics

Of the respondents, 3.4% obtained their degree from the Meridian Campus and 28.4% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree through Academic Outreach. 50.7% were female and 49.3% were male. 81.9% were U.S. Citizens and 16.2% were international students. 18.3% of the students graduated with a Doctoral degree, 2.7% of the students graduated with an Education Specialist degree, and 79% of the students graduated with a Master degree.

Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.1
Asian	1.6
Black or African American	10
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2
White	67.1
Hispanic	2.8
International	0
Multiracial	0.7
Unknown	16.5

General Questions

	Yes	No
Did you graduate in the degree area/discipline in which you initially enrolled?	96.1	3.9
Have your career plans changed from what you intended when you first entered graduate school?	18.8	81.2

What describes your immediate postgraduate plans?	Percent
Seeking employment	26.9
Employed or accepted a position	53.6
Seeking additional study	5.7
Engaged in additional study/training	10.3
Undecided	3.6

If you selected "Employed or accepted a position" above, please select type:	Percent
Education (PK-12)	13.4
Education (University or College Faculty)	5.4
Education (University or College Staff)	6.4
Government	7.1
Private Sector (Business/Industry)	20.4
Other	4.1
N/A	43.2

If you selected "Engaged in additional study/training" above, indicate the type of study:	Percent
Doctoral study	11.9
Postdoctoral Research Associate	2.5
Traineeship	0.7
Other Study	2.2
N/A	82.7

Where do you intend to live/work/study immediately after receiving your degree?	Percent
At Mississippi State University	11.2
In Mississippi	31
Not in Mississippi but in the U.S.	54.1
Not in the U.S.	3.8

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	48	46.3	4.3	1	0.4	0	4.4
Adequate frequency of course offerings	34.6	44.3	11.3	7.5	2.2	2	4
Variety of courses that were taught	37.1	43.7	11.3	6.4	1.5	0	4.1
Highly improved ability to communicate effectively	43.7	45.1	9.5	1.1	0.6	2	4.3
Obtained the fundamental knowledge necessary to compete successfully in your field	49.9	43.9	4.2	1.8	0.2	5	4.4
Acquired technical and research skills necessary for success	49.3	42.6	6.7	1	0.4	5	4.4
Learned to analyze and evaluate competing or contradictory information or points of view on a variety of topics	49.7	42.8	6.4	0.7	0.4	3	4.4
Gained a comprehensive understanding of professional ethics	51.2	40.5	7.3	0.5	0.5	6	4.4
Opportunity for personal development of multicultural and global perspectives	42.3	38.8	16.1	2	0.8	25	4.2
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students within your program	45.6	39.7	10.7	3.2	0.7	10	4.3
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students outside your program	34.5	32.4	23	7.3	2.8	61	3.9
Value of providing on-campus graduate research symposium	35	35.3	26.4	2.3	1	200	4
Availability of opportunities for volunteer or community service work	33.1	36.1	25.4	4.6	0.8	177	4
Enhanced appreciation for cultural diversity	38.7	41.2	16.5	2.5	1.1	67	4.1
Overall quality of program	45.8	45.3	5.3	2.8	0.7	0	4.3
Overall quality of campus intellectual environment/experience	44.3	46.3	7.8	1.2	0.4	69	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	55.2	37.6	4.8	2.1	0.4	2	4.5
Faculty advising	54.3	33.7	9.1	2.2	0.6	4	4.4
Mentoring received from major professor/graduate committee	55.4	28.7	12.1	3	0.8	40	4.4
Thesis/dissertation direction	48.5	33.5	13.9	3.3	0.9	261	4.3
Classrooms (including associated instructional technology)	38.7	44.2	11.7	4.4	1	86	4.2
Laboratory facilities	38.2	39	16.9	4.3	1.7	280	4.1
Laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	38.5	40.9	14.4	4.3	1.9	274	4.1
Accessibility of laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	42.9	39.2	13.9	3.1	0.9	273	4.2
Overall quality of instruction (delivery & learning outcomes)	48.9	43.1	5.9	1.7	0.2	5	4.4

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	44.6	44.7	8.7	1.6	0.4	47	4.3
Ability to access computer services and ITS support (i.e. On-Campus portal, blackboards, software, etc.)	46.2	44.6	7.5	1.4	0.3	29	4.4
Ability to access on-campus computers	46.7	42.7	9.8	0.8	0	189	4.4
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Bulletin of the Graduate School	35	45.8	16.3	2.6	0.3	91	4.1
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Office of the Graduate School Website	37.5	46	13.2	3	0.3	43	4.2
Overall informational value and user friendliness of the Office of the Graduate School Website	37.4	47.2	11.6	3.4	0.5	38	4.2
Information and orientation activities provided at orientation for new graduate students (New Graduate Student Orientation)	38.2	39.7	18.6	2	1.4	175	4.1
Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop	34.9	39.6	19.2	4.4	1.9	339	4
Information provided at orientation for new international graduate students ("Find your Feet")	40.5	37.7	18.9	2.3	0.7	379	4.1
Departmental adherence to published policy and degree requirements being followed	42.5	45.2	11.2	0.9	0.1	38	4.3
Information about current academic calendars and descriptions of grading policies and refund policies are easily accessible	42.3	45	11	1.4	0.3	17	4.3
Recruitment materials and presentations are accurate representations of the institution's practices and policies	40.7	45.3	12.3	1.5	0.1	84	4.2
Services provided by the Office of the Graduate School	39.4	46.3	12.1	1.7	0.5	43	4.2
Service to provide awareness of opportunities/resources to fund your education	37.6	37.8	18	5.1	1.5	74	4

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	32.8	42.4	21.3	2.6	0.9	165	4
Campus Dining Services	30.6	40	23.2	5.3	0.8	327	3.9
Services and resources provided for financial aid	33.9	40.3	21.2	3.8	0.7	239	4
MSU Police Department & Campus Security	37	45.4	16	1.2	0.3	239	4.2
Office of Parking Services	25.8	34.5	17	9.5	13.2	214	3.5
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	35.5	40.2	18.9	4.1	1.4	301	4
Opportunities to attend athletic events on campus	44.9	42.1	12	0.5	0.5	230	4.3
Access and services provided through the Student Health Center	43.7	38.9	12.9	3.2	1.3	256	4.2
Student Health Insurance benefits	35.6	33.3	22.9	4.4	3.8	342	3.9
Student Counseling Services	41.9	34.8	22	0.9	0.4	368	4.2
Recreational sports and wellness resources (Sanderson Center/Intramural Clubs)	43.2	43	11.8	1.5	0.6	288	4.3
Student Support Services/Disability Support Services	41.4	34.5	23.4	0.5	0.2	403	4.2
The Graduate Student Association as an advocate and networking resource for graduate students	32.2	36.8	26.8	3.1	1.1	265	4

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?	42.1	23.6	11.8	6.2	16.3	636	2.3
During your graduate career, how many presentations did you make at regional conferences?	30.4	20.3	14.3	7.3	27.6	528	2.8
During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you submit?	43.1	19.1	12.2	8.8	16.8	552	2.4
During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you have accepted?	38.6	22.8	13.9	7.6	17.1	656	2.4
During your graduate career, how many grants did you submit?	53.3	23.7	4.4	2.6	15.8	700	2
During your graduate career, how many grants did you have awarded?	62.4	18.3	5.4	5.4	8.6	721	1.8

Overall Experience and Recommendations

	Yes	No
If I had to do it over again, I would choose to attend MSU for graduate study?	91	9
Would you recommend to others that they apply/enroll for study in your graduate degree area/discipline at MSU?	91.8	8.2
Would you recommend to any prospective graduate student that they strongly consider MSU?	92.4	7.6