



## MSU Graduate Exit Survey Results

2016 - 2017

*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 2016 - 2017 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 2016 - 2017, there were 920 students who were awarded a graduate degree and completed the survey. Of those 920 students, 796 gave permission for data results to be disseminated aggregately.

### Demographics

Of the 796 graduates responding to the survey, 70.7% represent White, 11.9% represent Black/African American, and 17.4% represents the other ethnicities. 4% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree from the Meridian Campus and 25.1% of the graduates obtained their MSU degree through Academic Outreach. 48.6% are female and 51.4% are male. 83.7% are U.S. Citizens and 16.3% are International students. 18.8% of the students graduated with a Doctoral degree, 3.4% of the students graduated with an Education Specialist degree, and 77.8% of the students graduated with a Master degree.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Did you graduate in the degree area/discipline in which you initially enrolled?	95.5%	4.5%
Have your career plans changed from what you intended when you first entered graduate school?	20.7%	79.3%

<b>What describes your immediate postgraduate plans?</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
Seeking employment	30.7%
Employed or accepted a position	52.1%
Seeking additional study	7%
Engaged in additional study/training	7.8%
Undecided	2.4%

## GENERAL QUESTIONS (CONT.)

<b>If you selected “Employed or accepted a position” above, please select type:</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
Education (PK-12)	15.5%
Education (University or College Faculty)	5.7%
Education (University or College Staff)	6.5%
Government	9.4%
Private Sector (Business/Industry)	16.5%
Other	3%
N/A	43.5%

<b>If you selected “Engaged in additional study/training” above, indicate the type of study:</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
Doctoral Study	11.2%
Postdoctoral Research Associate	1.5%
Traineeship	0.6%
Other Study	1.9%
N/A	84.8%

<b>Where do you intend to live/work/study immediately after receiving your degree?</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
At Mississippi State University	11.7%
In Mississippi	33.9%
Not in Mississippi but in the U.S.	50.4%
Not in the U.S.	4%

## 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	48.1%	44.1%	5.4%	1.9%	0.5%	4	4.4
Adequate frequency of course offerings	30.6%	44.4%	15.2%	8.2%	1.6%	4	3.9
Variety of courses that were taught	34.1%	45.4%	11.6%	7.2%	1.6%	5	4
Highly improved ability to communicate effectively	43.2%	45.1%	9.6%	1.3%	0.8%	7	4.3
Obtained the fundamental knowledge necessary to compete successfully in your field	48%	44.4%	5.4%	1.5%	0.6%	4	4.4
Acquired technical and research skills necessary for success	47.3%	44%	7%	1.1%	0.6%	7	4.4
Learned to analyze and evaluate competing or contradictory information or points of view on a variety of topics	47.8%	44.6%	6.3%	0.9%	0.4%	7	4.4
Gained a comprehensive understanding of professional ethics	48.2%	44.2%	6.6%	1%	0%	9	4.4
Opportunity for personal development of multicultural and global perspectives	39.7%	42.5%	15%	2.2%	0.5%	25	4.2
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students within your program	44.6%	42.6%	10%	2.4%	0.4%	15	4.3
Opportunities for intellectual enhancement through interaction and networking with other graduate students outside your program	32%	33.9%	24.2%	8.4%	1.5%	59	3.9
Value of providing on-campus graduate research symposium	29.5%	39.2%	27.7%	3%	0.6%	153	3.9
Availability of opportunities for volunteer or community service work	30.6%	38.9%	27.3%	2.4%	0.8%	133	4
Enhanced appreciation for cultural diversity	38.9%	39.9%	18.5%	1.9%	0.8%	54	4.1
Overall quality of program	45%	45.5%	6.3%	2.3%	0.9%	7	4.3
Overall quality of campus intellectual environment/experience	45.5%	45.2%	7.7%	0.9%	0.7%	51	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	51.8%	41.1%	4.7%	1.5%	0.9%	7	4.4
Faculty advising	47.1%	41.7%	6.8%	2.8%	1.5%	7	4.3
Mentoring received from major professor/graduate committee	51.8%	33.7%	9%	3.7%	1.7%	43	4.3
Thesis/dissertation direction	45.5%	35.3%	15%	3.2%	0.9%	264	4.2
Classrooms (including associated instructional technology)	38.2%	43.8%	11.2%	5.3%	1.5%	81	4.1
Laboratory facilities	36.6%	41.9%	15.5%	3.2%	2.8%	261	4.1
Laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	36.8%	41.4%	14.7%	4.2%	2.8%	253	4.1
Accessibility of laboratory equipment and/or research facilities	39.5%	41.9%	13.8%	2.9%	1.8%	247	4.1
Overall quality of instruction (delivery & learning outcomes)	45.7%	46.2%	5.4%	2.3%	0.5%	12	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	48.3%	40.8%	9%	1.6%	0.4%	50	4.3
Ability to access computer services and ITS support (i.e. On-Campus portal, blackboards, software, etc.)	47.5%	44.8%	6.1%	1.4%	0.1%	28	4.4
Ability to access on-campus computers	47.2%	42.2%	9.9%	0.5%	0.2%	161	4.4
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the <i>Bulletin of the Graduate School</i>	36.2%	43.3%	16.6%	2.9%	1%	73	4.1
Information about admission requirements, matriculation, and graduation provided through the Office of the Graduate School Website	36.3%	45.5%	14.4%	3.1%	0.7%	33	4.1
Overall informational value and user friendliness of the Office of the Graduate School Website	35.3%	46.3%	14.4%	3.1%	0.9%	31	4.1
Information and orientation activities provided at orientation for new graduate students (New Graduate Student Orientation)	37%	40.3%	18.9%	2.8%	1%	123	4.1
Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop	33.1%	37.6%	24%	3.8%	1.5%	325	4
Information provided at orientation for new international graduate students (“Find your Feet”)	38.9%	37%	21.5%	2.2%	0.5%	382	4.1
Departmental adherence to published policy and degree requirements being followed	40.6%	46.2%	9.7%	2.2%	1.3%	32	4.2
Information about current academic calendars and descriptions of grading policies and refund policies are easily accessible	41.3%	46.8%	9.9%	0.9%	1.2%	18	4.3
Recruitment materials and presentations are accurate representations of the institution’s practices and policies	39.3%	45.8%	12.3%	1.8%	0.8%	66	4.2
Services provided by the Office of the Graduate School	37.7%	45.3%	14.4%	1.6%	1%	30	4.2
Service to provide awareness of opportunities/resources to fund your education	35.6%	40.8%	16.3%	3.9%	3.4%	60	4

## 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.

<b>Quality of Student Life Services</b>	<b>% Strongly Satisfied</b>	<b>% Satisfied</b>	<b>% Neutral</b>	<b>% Dissatisfied</b>	<b>% Strongly Dissatisfied</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Resources provided through MSU Bookstore, Barnes & Noble	30.3%	44.4%	20.5%	3.8%	1%	113	4
Campus Dining Services	27.6%	39.3%	26.8%	4.9%	1.4%	285	3.9
Services and resources provided for financial aid	31.5%	41.4%	22.7%	3.2%	1.1%	171	4
MSU Police Department & Campus Security	38.2%	44.7%	14.5%	1.7%	0.8%	197	4.2
Office of Parking Services	24.2%	38.1%	21.1%	8.8%	7.7%	185	3.6
MSU Transit (Shuttle Services)	32.5%	44.2%	19.9%	2.8%	0.6%	289	4.1
Opportunities to attend athletic events on campus	43.9%	40.8%	13.1%	1%	1.2%	193	4.3
Access and services provided through the Student Health Center	43.7%	39.5%	14.5%	1.7%	0.5%	224	4.2
Student Health Insurance benefits	36.3%	36.3%	21.3%	4%	2.2%	341	4
Student Counseling Services	39.9%	36.3%	22.1%	1.6%	0.2%	352	4.1
Recreational sports and wellness resources (Sanderson Center/Intramural Clubs)	42.2%	42.2%	14.3%	1.1%	0.2%	244	4.3
Student Support Services/Disability Support Services	39.2%	37.7%	22.2%	0.7%	0.2%	395	4.1
The Graduate Student Association as an advocate and networking resource for graduate students	33%	35.9%	27.4%	2.8%	0.9%	227	4

## 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?	39.8%	25%	9.3%	2.8%	23.1%	417	2.4
During your graduate career, how many presentations did you make at regional conferences?	37.4%	23%	12.6%	6.3%	20.7%	351	2.5
During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you submit?	37.9%	26.4%	14.4%	7.5%	13.8%	351	2.3
During your graduate career, how many journal articles did you have accepted?	44%	31%	6%	9.5%	9.5%	409	2.1
During your graduate career, how many grants did you submit?	50.8%	16.9%	12.3%	6.2%	13.8%	460	2.2
During your graduate career, how many grants did you have awarded?	54.5%	23.6%	12.7%	3.6%	5.5%	470	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?	91.2%	8.8%
Would you recommend to others that they apply/enroll for study in your graduate degree area/discipline at MSU?	89.8%	10.2%
Would you recommend to any prospective graduate student that they strongly consider MSU?	91.6%	8.4%



**This Page Intentionally Left Blank**



**Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness**

Mississippi State University

269-A Allen Hall

P.O. Drawer EY

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: (662) 325-3920

Fax: (662) 325-3514

*[www.oire.msstate.edu](http://www.oire.msstate.edu)*