

## 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 as part of the data collection for the Ph.D. Completion Project's study of doctoral completion and attrition. Demographic information will be submitted separately from the exit survey that follows (beginning on page 2). 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 domestic 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 for students who are either completing or withdrawing from doctoral programs. The purpose of this survey is to improve the doctoral experience for current and future students and to enable faculty and administrators to better understand the factors that contribute to doctoral degree completion or withdrawal.

### 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 the 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)

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### 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 completing your Ph.D. or are you withdrawing from your Ph.D. program?  
 Completing  Withdrawing
2. What are the main factors that contributed to either your ability to complete your doctoral degree or your decision not to complete your doctoral degree? (check all that apply):
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial support                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring/advising                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (non-financial) support        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social environment/peer group support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program requirements                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Program quality                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/career guidance          | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal circumstances                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please briefly explain): _____ |  |
- 

If you are completing your Ph.D. degree, please skip to question #7

3. Please briefly describe your primary reason for withdrawing:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you withdrawing prior to advancing to candidacy?  
 Yes  No
5. Are you eligible for an “en route” master’s degree from this program when you withdraw?  
 Yes; Did you petition for, or receive, the degree?  Yes  No  
 No
6. Do you intend to reenroll in this program or enroll in another degree program in the near future?  
 Yes;  At this university?  At another university?  
 No

**B. SELECTION/ADMISSIONS**

*Please consider your admission to and enrollment in your Ph.D. program when responding to the following questions:*

7. Did you visit the campus before enrolling in the doctoral program?  
 Yes  No
8. Were you aware of any formal orientation workshops or sessions that were devoted to graduate student issues?  
 Yes, university orientation; Did you attend?  Yes  No  
 Yes, department or program orientation; Did you attend?  Yes  No  
 No
9. Did you receive or are you aware of a “Graduate Student Handbook,” or other orientation guide (either printed or online)?  
 Yes  No
10. Were the requirements of your program presented to you in clear, written form?  
 Yes  No
11. Was information about Ph.D. completion and/or attrition (withdrawal) rates included on the program website or in other orientation materials?  
 Yes; Did this affect your decision to enroll?  Yes  No  
 No

### C. ADVISING & MENTORING

Please reflect on the academic advising and mentoring you received when responding to the following questions:

12. Did you have an academic advisor who was readily available to meet or converse with you during the following stages of your doctoral career? (Y or N for each of below):
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coursework                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation writing stage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary exams (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation defense       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Qualifying exams (if applicable)  |   |
13. Did you receive regular feedback from your advisor and/or program about your academic progress?
- Yes  No
14. 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 #17)
15. Are you satisfied with the quality of the relationship between you and your mentor(s)?
- Yes  No
16. What were the most valuable things/tools you received from your mentor(s)? (check all that apply):
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/Pedagogical guidance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Research guidance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career/Professional guidance          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please briefly explain): _____ |  |
- 
17. Would any of the following have helped you to develop a relationship with a mentor or to improve your level of satisfaction with your mentor(s)? (check all that apply):
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More time                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Research guidance             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality of time                | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/Pedagogical guidance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career/Professional guidance          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please briefly explain): _____ |  |
- 

### D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

18. Did you receive financial support (e.g., grants, scholarships, or stipends) other than personal savings or student loans to support your doctoral study?
- Yes  No (skip to question #23)
19. Were you guaranteed multi-year financial support at the time of admission?
- Yes; How many years of financial support? \_\_\_\_\_
- No
20. What were the primary form(s) of non-loan financial support that you received (check all that apply):
- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> University or department fellowship or scholarship                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private or external, nationally competitive (non-university) fellowship or scholarship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private or external, locally competitive (non-university) fellowship or scholarship    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Assistantship (TA) stipend  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Assistantship (RA) stipend  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work study   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |
21. Were you satisfied with the amount of financial support that you received during your program?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
22. If you were supported by a Teaching or Research Assistantship, do you feel that your assistantship:  
 TA: \_\_\_\_\_ increased; \_\_\_\_\_ decreased; or \_\_\_\_\_ did not affect the length of your doctoral program?  
 RA: \_\_\_\_\_ increased; \_\_\_\_\_ decreased; or \_\_\_\_\_ did not affect the length of your doctoral program?
23. How much did you borrow related to your doctoral study?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I did not take student loans \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 or less  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,001 - \$15,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15,001 - \$25,000  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25,001 - \$35,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35,001 or more

**E. CURRICULAR PROCESSES & PROCEDURES, AND PROGRAM ENVIRONMENT**

Please consider the Ph.D. program requirements and overall environment when responding to these questions:

24. Please rate the collective difficulty of program coursework from 1-5 (1=too easy; 5=too difficult): \_\_\_\_\_
25. Were program expectations *clearly articulated* during the following stages of your doctoral career? (Y, N, or n/a [not applicable] AND optional comments, for each of below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Coursework \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Preliminary examinations (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Qualifying examinations (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation writing stage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation defense: \_\_\_\_\_
26. Were program expectations *appropriate* (in terms of work load, difficulty, etc.) during the following stages of your doctoral career? (Y, N, or n/a [not applicable] AND optional comments, for each of below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Coursework \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Preliminary examinations (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Qualifying examinations (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation writing stage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation defense: \_\_\_\_\_
27. 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 opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No
28. Does your graduate program sponsor events that (Y or N for each of below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Allow for informal conversation and interaction *between faculty and students*?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Allow for informal conversation and interaction *among students*?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Include guest speakers from outside the program or university?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Allow for informal conversation and interaction between guest speakers and graduate students?
29. Do students create their own informal events that are open to all students in the program? (e.g. sports teams, evening or weekend social events, etc.):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Do Not Know
30. Does your graduate program have (Y or N for each of below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A student lounge that is frequently visited by students?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Offices for graduate students in the graduate program? If yes, \_\_\_\_\_ shared \_\_\_\_\_ private  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mailboxes for graduate students?

**F. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

31. Did your graduate program provide you with research opportunities designed to prepare you for dissertation research before the conclusion of your coursework?  
 Yes  No
32. Have you had the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary teams or participate in interdepartmental reading-groups?  
 Yes  No
33. Have you published on your research while in this program? (check all that apply):  
 Yes, at least once individually  Yes, at least once with faculty co-author(s)  
 Yes, at least once with student co-author(s)  No, I have not published
34. Does your doctoral program or university offer travel grants for presenting your work at conferences?  
 Yes  No

### G. CAREER PLACEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

35. If you plan to move into the employment sector, in which area(s) do you anticipate working?  
 Full-time academic faculty  Part-time academic faculty  
 Academic non-faculty research  Academic administrative  
 Government  Industry/Corporate  
 Non-profit  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
36. Will you pursue employment related to your research field or degree?  
 Yes  No
37. Did you have access to a job placement officer or other placement resources (e.g. a designated faculty or staff member who advises on CVs, job interviews, etc.)?  
 Yes; Please rate the helpfulness of these resources from 1-5 (1=not helpful; 5=very helpful): \_\_\_\_\_  
 No
38. Did you participate in one or more of the following? (Y or N for each of below):  
 Preparing Future Faculty or similar program; Was it helpful?  Yes  No  
 Activities for non-academic career development; Were they helpful?  Yes  No  
 Not aware of these types of workshops or courses.

### H. FINAL QUESTIONS

What was the most positive aspect of your graduate program?

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What was the least positive aspect of your graduate program?

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

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