UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Graduate Student Survey

Executive Summary

Fall 2022

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About the Survey

The Graduate Student Survey was administered during fall semester 2022. The purpose of the survey is to gather educational experiences of graduate students at USA. All currently enrolled graduate students were invited via email to participate in the survey. Reminder emails were sent to non-respondents every three days until the close of the survey. The survey was launched October 17, 2022 and ended on November 13, 2022.

Sample: A total of 4,972 graduate students were enrolled in fall 2022. The final sample included 940 respondents, resulting in a 19% response rate. For each finding, "n" indicates the total number of responses to that item.

Demographic Details

- 79% Female
- 30% minority
- 62% online only

Strengths

Academic Advising

- About 80% (n = 930) reported being satisfied with the academic advising they received, and 80% (n = 936) also reported that this advising helped them progress in their program.
- About 77% (n = 634) reported their advisor encourages them to take on challenging opportunities, and about 81% (n = 676) reported that their advisor encourages them to attain their goals.
- About 84% (n = 694) agreed that their primary advisor models good professional relationships; 80% (n = 643) said their advisor advocates for them; and about 86% (n = 632) reported that their advisor creates an environment where all group members are treated equally.

Thesis/Dissertation Advisor

- Of the students doing a thesis or dissertation, 90% (n = 121) reported that their thesis advisor helps them to design and implement their research; 90% (n = 113) reported their advisor provides feedback promptly on thesis drafts; about 85% (n=110) reported their advisor helps them with transition into a role as a professional or academic in their field.
- Also of the students doing a thesis or dissertation, 92% (n = 113) said their advisor encourages them to submit their work for publication; about 93% (n = 107) said their advisor encourages them to present their work at conferences; about 87% (n=105) reported their advisor collaborates with them on research for presentation or publication; and about 94% (n = 99) reported their advisor gives the appropriate level of credit to them for their research contributions.

Library Resources

- About 95% (n = 836) reported finding the electronic library full-text databases useful during their studies, and
- About 90% (n = 831) reported finding the library reference and interlibrary loan services useful.
- About 90% (n = 833) reported that faculty in their program treat graduate students with respect and collegiality, and 90% (n = 827) also reported that faculty in their program manage their methodological or ideological disagreements in a professional manner.

Clinical Placements/Field Experiences/Internships/Externships

- Of the students completing clinical placements/field experiences, internships, or externships, about 81% (n = 381) reported being satisfied with the quality of training they received, and about 85% (n = 384) reported being satisfied with their opportunities to integrate new knowledge into practice.
- Of the students completing clinical placements/field experiences/internships/externships, about 80% (n = 378) reported being satisfied with the flexibility available to complete their placement requirements; about

80% (n = 377) reported being satisfied with the opportunities to work in a setting of their choice; and about 80% (n = 376) also reported being satisfied with the overall quality of the placement experience.

- After completing clinical placements/field experiences/internships/externships, students reported significant improvement in their skills and abilities with respect to interacting and working with people of difference cultures (87%; n = 384), recognizing the skills and abilities of individuals from different cultures (88%; n = 380), communicating effectively in writing (86%; n = 380), communicating effectively through speaking (88%; n = 380), and leading others when working in groups (82%; n = 365).

Program of Study/Graduate School

- 80% (n = 861) reported that their experiences in their program of study help prepare them for their career.
- 84% (n = 751) reported being satisfied with the Graduate admissions process, and 80% (n = 721) reported being satisfied with Graduate School administration overall.

Potential Areas of Improvement

Academic Advising

- In regard to their primary advisor, about 21% (n = 690) reported that their advisor does not provide information about academic career paths, while 34% (n = 579) said their advisor does not provide information about non-academic career paths.
- About 26% (n = 624) said their advisor does not help them to develop professional relationships.

Thesis/Dissertation Advising

- Of the students doing a thesis or dissertation, about 22% (n = 90) said their advisor does not asks them to co-author scientific publications.
- About 39% (n = 819) reported that faculty in their program sometimes allow their methodological or ideological disagreements to impact negatively on their relationships with students.

Field Experiences/Internships/Externships

- Of the students completing clinical placements/field experiences/internships/externships, about 22% (n = 356) reported being dissatisfied with the distance of the placement site from their home area.