

**Graduate Student Exit Survey
Summer and Fall 2007, Spring 2008
George Mason University**

Congratulations on your impending graduation from George Mason University! Your satisfaction and evaluation of your educational and student life experiences at Mason are important to us and will be used in educational planning. To contact the Office of Institutional Assessment: Mason Hall, D111, Phone: 703-993-8834 or E-mail: assessment@gmu.edu. We can be reached by mail at the address below.

Directions: Circle, mark, or write in the most appropriate response and return the completed survey to the Office of Institutional Assessment, George Mason University - MS 3D2, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. If you prefer to complete the survey online go directly to: <http://assessment.gmu.edu/surveys/2007-2008/letter-grad.cfm> or access the survey through our website at: <http://assessment.gmu.edu>. Once there click on "Graduating Student Exit Survey."

Part I. Background Information

1. Among the graduate schools that you considered, was George Mason University your:
a. ____ First choice b. ____ Second choice c. ____ Third choice or lower

2. Did you pursue your graduate degree primarily: a. ____ Full-time b. ____ Part-time

3. What was your employment status for most of your graduate education?
a. ____ Did not work d. ____ Other part-time job
b. ____ Worked occasionally e. ____ Full-time job
c. ____ Part-time graduate assistantship

4. What is your approximate level of indebtedness related to your graduate study?
a. ____ None e. ____ \$15,001-20,000
b. ____ \$5,000 or less f. ____ \$20,001-25,000
c. ____ \$5,001-10,000 g. ____ \$25,001-30,000
d. ____ \$10,001-15,000 h. ____ More than \$30,000

5. What are your employment plans after completing your graduate degree?
a. ____ I expect to continue with my current employer in my current position. e. ____ I will be self-employed.
b. ____ I expect to continue with my current employer in a new position. f. ____ I will look for employment.
c. ____ I expect to return to a previous employer in a new or previous position. g. ____ I will not be employed.
d. ____ I will begin a new position with a new employer.

6. When were you officially enrolled in your degree program (not including non-degree status)?
a. ____ 2001 or earlier c. ____ 2003 e. ____ 2005 g. ____ 2007
b. ____ 2002 d. ____ 2004 f. ____ 2006

7. Did you take courses for your program as a non-degree student?
a. ____ No
b. ____ Yes – if yes, how many credits did you receive?
i. ____ 1-6 credits iii. ____ 13-18 credits
ii. ____ 7-12 credits iv. ____ 19 or more credits

8. Did you transfer credits from another institution into your program?

- a. ____ No
- b. ____ Yes – if yes, how many credits did you transfer?
 - i. ____ 1-6 credits
 - ii. ____ 7-12 credits
 - iii. ____ 13-18 credits
 - iv. ____ 19 or more credits

9. Was the amount of time needed for you to graduate:

- a. ____ Less than originally expected
- b. ____ About the same as originally expected
- c. ____ More than originally expected
- d. ____ Unsure

If you selected “more than originally expected,” please answer the following questions:

9.1. How much did each of the following factors prevent you from progressing as you expected?	A great deal	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
Personal/Family Reasons				
a. Family obligations	4	3	2	1
b. The demands of my employment	4	3	2	1
c. Financial problems	4	3	2	1
d. Lack of motivation	4	3	2	1
e. Other personal reasons	4	3	2	1
Academic Reasons				
f. Lack of course availability	4	3	2	1
g. Inadequate advising	4	3	2	1
h. Difficulty in completing comprehensive/qualifying exams	4	3	2	1
i. Difficulty in my project, thesis, or dissertation research	4	3	2	1
j. Difficulty in fulfilling other degree requirements	4	3	2	1
Other				
k. Other, please specify:	4	3	2	1

9.2. From the above reasons (a – k), what was the **most important factor** that prevented you from progressing as expected? ____

Part II. Academic Program

10.a. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **faculty** in your graduate program:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	*NA/Don't know
Faculty					
The courses I took were well taught.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There is good communication between faculty and students regarding student needs, concerns, and suggestions.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There are many opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty in my department were interested in the welfare and professional development of graduate students.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty in my department were helpful and supportive in my search for professional employment.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty members were well qualified to teach their courses.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty were willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

10.b. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **students** in your graduate program:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	*NA/Don't know
Students					
The intellectual caliber of students in the program is high.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There are students from different social, cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds in my program.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
My program encourages student collaboration and teamwork.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Program activities foster a sense of intellectual community.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

10.c. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **academics** in your graduate program:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	*NA/Don't know
Academic Experiences					
My program has high academic standards.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
My program integrates current developments in my field.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Courses listed in the catalog are offered frequently enough for timely completion of the degree requirements.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
My program prepared me well for my profession.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
I would recommend my graduate program to prospective students.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
If I were starting over, I would enroll in this program again.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

**Not applicable*

Part III. Thesis/Project/Dissertation Experience

11. To graduate, what is the final culminating requirement of your program? (Do not include licensure exams)
Please select one.

- _____ Thesis/Dissertation
- _____ Culminating research project and/or research paper (not part of a thesis/dissertation)
- _____ Portfolio (not part of a thesis/dissertation)
- _____ Internship/practicum (not followed by other requirements)
- _____ Comprehensive exam (not followed by other requirements)
- _____ No culminating requirement (credits only)
- _____ Other: _____

If you selected a, b, c, or d, please answer the following:

11.1. To what extent are the following statements applicable to your principal advisor for your final culminating requirement?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA/Don't know
Was accessible	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Was interested in my research/project goals	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Discussed my research/project with me on a regular basis	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Critiqued my work in ways that helped my work progress	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Returned my work in a timely manner	4	3	2	1	NA/DK



Part IV. Satisfaction

12. How satisfied are you with the following in your department:	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	NA/Don't know
Academic advising	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Career counseling	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Mentoring (e.g., supporting professional development)	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Adequacy of departmental resources and support (e.g., work space, assistantships, access to computers)	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Communication about academic policies and procedures (sufficient and timely information and referrals)	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

13. If you selected “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” in any of the above, please explain: _____

Part V. Final Questions

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with your Mason experience? Please elaborate in the comments section below.
 a. _____ Very satisfied b. _____ Satisfied c. _____ Dissatisfied d. _____ Very dissatisfied

15. Please select one or more of the following categories and comment regarding your Mason experiences in the space provided.

a. _____ General comments	h. _____ Faculty, general
b. _____ Academic environment	i. _____ Quality of instruction
c. _____ Curriculum	j. _____ Students
d. _____ Resources (lab, Internet, library, bookstore, etc.)	k. _____ Campus environment
e. _____ Faculty–student communication	l. _____ Research experiences
f. _____ Quality of advising/mentoring	m. _____ University management (food, gym, parking, etc.)
g. _____ Staff	n. _____ Other: _____

Please enter your GMU student identification number which begins with the letter “G.”

Student identification number: G _____

GMU email address: _____@gmu.edu

Preferred email address after graduation: _____

Your G-number and email address are necessary for us to verify that only graduating graduate students have completed the survey. All individual responses are confidential and no report will identify you as an individual. Thank you for your participation!

This survey was prepared and distributed by the Office of Institutional Assessment
 Mason Hall, Room D111 • Phone: 703-993-8834 • E-mail: assessment@gmu.edu • <http://assessment.gmu.edu>