

**Graduate Student Exit Survey  
Summer and Fall 2008, Spring 2009  
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](mailto: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/2008-2009/letter-grad.cfm> or access the survey through our website at: <http://assessment.gmu.edu>. Once there click on "Student Exit Surveys."

**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. \_\_\_\_ Graduate assistantship
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Full-time job
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Part-time job
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Worked occasionally
  - e. \_\_\_\_ Did not work
4. When were you officially enrolled in your degree program? (Do NOT include non-degree status.)
  - a. \_\_\_\_ 2001 or earlier
  - b. \_\_\_\_ 2002
  - c. \_\_\_\_ 2003
  - d. \_\_\_\_ 2004
  - e. \_\_\_\_ 2005
  - f. \_\_\_\_ 2006
  - g. \_\_\_\_ 2007
  - h. \_\_\_\_ 2008
5. 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:**

5.1. How much did each of the following factors prevent you from progressing as you expected?

|  | A great deal | A fair amount | A little | Not at all |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|
|--|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|

| <i>Personal/Family Reasons</i>   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 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. Health issues   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| e. Lack of motivation  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| f. Military deployment   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| g. Other personal reasons  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <i>Academic Reasons</i>  |   |   |   |   |
| h. Lack of course availability   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| i. Inadequate advising   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| j. Difficulty in completing comprehensive/qualifying exams   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| k. Difficulty in my project, thesis, or dissertation research  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| l. Difficulty in fulfilling other degree requirements  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <i>m. Other, please specify:</i> _____   |   |   |   |   |
| From the above reasons (a – m), what was the <b>most important factor</b> that prevented you from progressing as expected? _____ |   |   |   |   |

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

## Part II. Academic Program

| 7.1. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about <b>faculty</b> in your graduate program: | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | *NA/Don't know |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Faculty</b>   |                |       |          |                   |                |
| 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 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          |

| 7.2. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about <b>students</b> in your graduate program: | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | *NA/Don't know |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Students</b>   |                |       |          |                   |                |
| The intellectual caliber of students in my 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          |

| 7.3. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about <b>academics</b> in your graduate program: | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | *NA/Don't know |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Academic Experiences</b>  |                |       |          |                   |                |
| 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 Experiences

8. Which of the following are **required** in your degree program? (*Select ALL that apply.*)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Thesis/Dissertation
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Culminating **research paper** (not part of a thesis/dissertation)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Culminating **research project** (not part of a thesis/dissertation)
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Culminating/capstone **project**
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ **Portfolio**
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehensive/proficiency **exam**
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ **Internship/practicum, or field experiences**
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ International experiences

8.1. Which of the above is the **final** culminating requirement **for graduation**?

- \_\_\_\_\_ No culminating requirement (completion of required credit hours only)
- \_\_\_\_\_ One of the above requirements (Check the requirements below. You may select more than one)

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| a. | b. | c. | d. | e. | f. | g. | h. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have a principal advisor for your culminating requirement, please answer the following:**

8.2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about 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. Information Technology and University Libraries

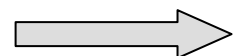
9. To what degree did the following types of technology facilitate your learning experience at Mason?

|  | A great deal | A fair amount | A little | Not at all | NA*/Don't know |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| Course management systems (e.g. WebCT, Blackboard)                   | 4            | 3             | 2        | 1          | NA/DK          |
| Technology enhanced classrooms (e.g. Innovation Hall and Research I) | 4            | 3             | 2        | 1          | NA/DK          |
| Wireless connection on campus  | 4            | 3             | 2        | 1          | NA/DK          |
| Specialized software for my discipline                               | 4            | 3             | 2        | 1          | NA/DK          |
| Student computing labs   | 4            | 3             | 2        | 1          | NA/DK          |

10. How satisfied are you with the following university library services?

|  | Very satisfied | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Very dissatisfied | NA*/Don't know |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| E-resources (online databases, e-journals, e-books)                        | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| Library collections in my field of study                                   | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| Library technologies (library computers, off-campus access to e-resources) | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| The librarian who works with my field/area of study (liaison librarian)    | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| Quality of library staff assistance  | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| University Libraries Thesis/Dissertation Services                          | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| Interlibrary loan services   | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |

\* Not applicable



**Part V. Satisfaction**

| 11. 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/specialized programs) | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |
| Communication about academic policies and procedures (sufficient and timely information and referrals)                      | 4              | 3         | 2            | 1                 | NA/DK          |

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

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**Part VI. Final Comments**

13. 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

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

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

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**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 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](mailto:assessment@gmu.edu) • <http://assessment.gmu.edu>