

## 2008 OSU Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey

### Survey Report – Agricultural Economics

This survey targeted current OSU graduate students. The survey was administered online by the OSU office of University Assessment and Testing (UAT) in March and April 2008. UAT prepared this report; departments may request additional analysis by contacting UAT.

#### Survey Questions

Respondents were asked 42 Common Questions. Questions focused on student satisfaction in areas such as university services, the Graduate College, students' academic programs, and their overall experience at OSU.

#### Target Population / Response Rate – Agricultural Economics

	Degree		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Master's</u>	<u>Doctorate</u>	
Number in target population	37	30	67
Number of survey respondents	13	14	27
Response rate	35.1%	46.7%	40.3%



2008 OSU Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey  
Agricultural Economics Respondents

Q4. How satisfied are you with your relationships and interactions with faculty in your department?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	7	53.8	7	50.0
generally satisfied	5	38.5	5	35.7
generally dissatisfied	1	7.7	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	7.1
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	1	7.1

Q5. How would you rate your satisfaction with the overall quality of your academic program?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	4	33.3	4	33.3
generally satisfied	7	58.3	7	58.3
generally dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	1	8.3	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	1	8.3

Q6. With what specific aspects of your graduate program are you dissatisfied?\*

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\*Question only asked of those who responded 'generally dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' to Q5.

Q7. What are the main strengths of your academic program?

Access to faculty and the ability to integrate research into the program.

Entrance to AGECE program was well organized.

friendly, helpful, devoted faculty

Good relation teacher/student

good research, active graduate student association, friendly faculty.

I feel that a sense of collaboration is one of the strongest aspects of the AG ECON graduate department. Instead of working for a professor, students work with their advisors, and are treated with the respect rather than condescendingly. Professors maintain an open-door policy towards all graduate students, and are willing to go beyond the call of duty to meet with/explain any issue that falls in that professors specialization.

Offers variety of courses

research and class projects

The faculty in the Ag Econ Department are simply Amazing. They work hard to make sure students are learning and being challenged. Research is conducted in a fashion where students are able to learn, but are not completely on their own. Faculty work closely with Students to ensure success.

The primary areas of strength are research. Overall, several of the professors have much experience in this area and any graduate student can learn a great deal about research. We have many different persons who come to visit and present their research--this is an excellent strength.

The program is very applied to real world situations which gives me a great opportunity to after I graduate

The reason I stayed here was because of the strength of the faculty they are very generous with their time and are always willing to talk to students

This department has several renowned professors on its faculty, who offer excellent courses and encourage publication by requiring term papers that, ideally, become part of a thesis or dissertation. All the courses are well taught, and the professors are all available to assist with research questions and help students to be successful in their classes. The course offerings and requirements are excellent, and set to a high standard. The quantitative courses are rigorous.

We can learn more intuitive attitude to agricultural market and environment. We can learn better tools to understand the markets such as econometric method, advanced econometric, data analysis and survey, advanced production, etc. Many things are focused on research.

well designed courses, carrier oriented guidance

Q8. What are the main weaknesses of your academic program?

Additional programs geared towards job/PhD opportunities would be beneficial. Perhaps some guidance towards job positions specifically for MS students would be nice, as these jobs are generally not the same as undergraduate career services may be aware of.

due to graduate requirements, few options for elective, or other courses

For class that involves Math, may be need to focus more on interpretations of the material than just more Math.

I do not find any that can affect my studies and carrier

I don't see job market for international students

Lacking in economics of the futures market and professors working with this topic

Limited flexibility on class scheduling and research work.

Our program is good but we still have room for improvement. There are course gaps --I understand it is very difficult to design curriculum considering that several faculty come from various institutions which have already set in place a particular sequence. I would like to see more courses which offered in a particular speciality area (Econometrics, "Ag. Modeling", etc.) Not for credit workshops would be a nice addition[see:[http://elsa.berkeley.edu/eml/tsa\\_archive.shtml](http://elsa.berkeley.edu/eml/tsa_archive.shtml)]. etc. More teaching opportun

Perhaps I am naive, but I am not aware of any flaws.

some core classes are not offered from our own department.

Some of Curriculums are not so much deeper. Theory of economics are somewhat weak. Little chance of teaching.

the faculty assume that the students know more than they have been taught

The lack of adequate computers is the biggest weakness I can see. The processing speed of my computer greatly increases the time I have to spend crunching numbers.

There is a lot of emphasis to Oklahoma agricultural system. Me as an international student finds a lot of limitations.

**Advisors**

Q9. My advisor is generally available when I need to meet with him/her.	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
agree	9	75.0	8	66.7
agree somewhat	2	16.7	2	16.7
disagree somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
disagree	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	1	8.3	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	2	16.7

Q10. My advisor is willing to spend the time with me that I need.	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
agree	11	91.7	8	66.7
agree somewhat	0	0.0	2	16.7
disagree somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0
disagree	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	1	8.3	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	2	16.7

**Assistantships**

	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Q11. To what extent are opportunities available for financial support of graduate students in your department such as assistantships and scholarships?				
readily available	3	25.0	1	8.3
somewhat available	7	58.3	9	75.0
not available	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	2	16.7	2	16.7
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Q12. Do you currently have, or have you previously had a graduate assistantship?				
yes	8	66.7	11	91.7
no	4	33.3	1	8.3
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Q13. Is/Was your primary responsibility teaching?				
yes	0	0.0	1	9.1
no	7	100.0	10	90.9
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Q14. Is/Was your primary responsibility research?				
yes	7	100.0	10	100.0
no	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q15. Is/Was your primary responsibility something other than teaching or research?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
yes	0	0.0	1	9.1
no	7	100.0	10	90.9
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q16. How satisfied are you with the preparation and guidance your department provided you in your role as a teaching assistant?*	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	--	--	1	100.0
generally satisfied	--	--	0	0.0
generally dissatisfied	--	--	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	--	--	0	0.0
don't know	--	--	0	0.0
refused	--	--	0	0.0

\*Question only asked to those whose primary assistantship responsibility is/was teaching.

Q17. How adequate is or was your assistantship financial package (stipend, tuition waiver, etc.) in meeting your financial needs?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
adequate	5	62.5	2	18.2
somewhat adequate	2	25.0	6	54.5
not adequate	1	12.5	2	18.2
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	1	9.1

18. Do you have any comments about Teaching, Graduate, or Research Assistantships?

I PRACTICALLY ACT LIKE A BEGGAR FOR ME TO GET A ASSISTANTSHIP

I wish all the tuition were waived .

It's nice opportunity to develop confidence to work.

More is better but we should be more involved in teaching and research.

no

No problems thus far...

research assistantships are useful and provide quality real life experience

The graduate research assistantship I received is the reason I was able to attend graduate school.

There is not enough allocation of money to the AGECE department for students to work in these positions in the department.

**University Services**

Q19. How satisfied are you with the computing resources such as access to computers, email, and Internet?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	5	41.7	6	50.0
generally satisfied	6	50.0	5	41.7
generally dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	8.3
very dissatisfied	1	8.3	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q20. Not including library resources, how satisfied are you with the research resources such as facilities, equipment, and lab space?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	4	33.3	2	16.7
generally satisfied	6	50.0	8	66.7
generally dissatisfied	1	8.3	2	16.7
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	1	8.3	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q21. How satisfied are you with the library resources available to you?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	4	33.3	4	33.3
generally satisfied	7	58.3	7	58.3
generally dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	1	8.3
don't know	1	8.3	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0



Q22. Do you have any comments or recommendations about computing, research, or library resources at OSU?  
What could be improved to make it better?

All computers in labs should have conversion patches for windows vista

great

Library should have more copies of textbooks recommended for the course by the instructors especially when the recommended books are kept on reserve by the instructors.

no course books are available in the library.

Our library resources are quite limited for the graduate level of economics/ag economics fields. Both of these fields are quite vast and inter-related. Many times we must get key books on ILLS-this is helpful but, return times can be quite short and negotiating for extensions can be quite a hassle. I love our main campus library b/c we can find nooks /reserve rooms to study-yet, availability of graduate level materials for our fields are a challenge.

Some journals are not included in your library list.

the graduate computers are adequate for basic microsoft office functions and other low resource programs such as SAS or mathcad, however if the department expects its students to do processor or memory intensive programs, it needs to open up access to a server room or a bewulf cluster.

Diversity

Q23. OSU is a supportive campus toward those with diverse backgrounds.	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
agree	9	75.0	6	50.0
agree somewhat	2	16.7	3	25.0
disagree somewhat	1	8.3	1	8.3
disagree	0	0.0	1	8.3
don't know	0	0.0	1	8.3
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q24. Since you've been at OSU, have you experienced discrimination that was directed toward you?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	1	8.3	2	16.7
no	9	75.0	7	58.3
don't know	0	0.0	2	16.7
refused	2	16.7	1	8.3

Q25. Did you experience discrimination because of a disability?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	2	100.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q26. Did you experience gender discrimination?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	1	50.0
don't know	0	0.0	1	50.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

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Q27. Did you experience discrimination due to your nationality?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	1	50.0
no	1	100.0	1	50.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q28. Did you experience discrimination due to your race?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	1	100.0	2	100.0
no	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q29. Did you experience discrimination because of your religion?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	2	100.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q30. Did you experience discrimination because of your sexual orientation?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	2	100.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q31. Did you experience discrimination because of your enrollment status, full or part-time?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	2	100.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q32. Did you experience some other form of discrimination?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0	0	0.0
no	1	100.0	1	50.0
don't know	0	0.0	1	50.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

**Q33. If you experienced some other form of discrimination, on what basis did it occur?\***

\*To preserve anonymity, responses to Q33 are compiled at the college level (see appendix).

**Q34. Do you have any comments or recommendations about diversity at OSU?**

I appreciate the diversity present at OSU. I would like for OSU to have programs that leads to intermingling of International students with local students and residents.

I don't know why but many american students don't want to be friends with international students.

n/a

Not sure where to begin! I can say we are doing a great job in terms of international students-never in my life have I met so many students/faculty from all over the world! Domestic students whose backgrounds and families are from the US(pioneered states, etc) yet,they are minorities this needs improvement. Adding more minority faculty/administration would be one good step-many times minorities need supportive,strong,guiding,&highly educated role models-this would improve recruitment/retainment

**The Graduate College**

Q35. How satisfied are you with the helpfulness of the Graduate College staff in responding to your concerns and questions?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	5	41.7	3	25.0
generally satisfied	4	33.3	5	41.7
generally dissatisfied	1	8.3	1	8.3
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	2	16.7	3	25.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

**Q36. Do you have any comments or recommendations about the services provided by the Graduate College?**

I like how all forms are online--it is helpful!

It would be extremely helpful to have formatting examples for writing a thesis. There is gray areas when it comes to spacing and fonts, etc.

n/a

They were unsystematic and rude at times.

**Demographics**

Q37. Which of the following statements best describes where you have taken your graduate courses?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
primarily on the Stillwater (main) campus	12	100.0	12	100.0
primarily on the Tulsa campus	0	0.0	0	0.0
evenly split between the Stillwater and Tulsa campuses	0	0.0	0	0.0
primarily distance-format on neither campus	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0

Q38. How many credit hours have you taken in a distance learning format?* <i>Responses to this open-ended question were categorized by the Office of University Assessment and Testing.</i>	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
none	5	100.0	1	50.0
1-3 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
4-6 hours	0	0.0	1	50.0
7-9 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
10-12 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
13-15 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
16-24 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
25-30 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
> 30 hours	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0

\*Responses of 'none' may be underrepresented due to a large number of participants not responding to Q38.

### Graduate and Professional Student Government Association

Q39. Do you have any recommendations or suggestions about the mission and activities of the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA)?

It's a great organization, but nobody really knows about it, and graduate departments don't do enough to support it  
Its going on the right path.

No.

none

Spend less money on food and more money on creative activities for graduate students.

work more with private industry

**Career**

Q40. Which of the following best describes the employment setting for your future career plans?	Master's		Doctorate	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
private sector/industry	7	58.3	1	8.3
government	3	25.0	3	25.0
K-12 education	0	0.0	1	8.3
higher education	1	8.3	5	41.7
non-profit	1	8.3	0	0.0
other	0	0.0	1	8.3
undecided	0	0.0	1	8.3
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	0	0.0



**Overall Satisfaction**

Q41. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your experience as a graduate student at OSU?	Master's		Doctorate	
	n	%	n	%
very satisfied	6	50.0	2	16.7
generally satisfied	6	50.0	8	66.7
generally dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0
refused	0	0.0	2	16.7

**Q42. Do you have any final comments or recommendations about your experience as a graduate student at OSU?**

Going great

I should have been more active.

I'm not sure there is any program out there that is perfect but,we can certainly learn and improve by looking at what other schools are doing--especially for our areas of weakness. We need more fundrasing for our academic resources(e.g. expansion of field specific library collections, field specific workshops/labs,etc). I believe that as long as graduate students are presented with additional tools they will use them. We should take an approach of continual improvement not a veiw of deficiency.

Professors take students for granted as to whether they are familiar with the subject matter and the level at which a student may have had previous training.

**APPENDIX: Compiled Q33 responses (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources)**

Q33. If you experienced some other form of discrimination, on what basis did it occur?

For the most part, these are experienced at lower level echelons. E.g. A simple purchasing of a coffee, etc. Overall, it really does not matter what these individuals convey-b/c you have a higher level of manners, class, and education than these persons-however, it is an annoyance to encounter such ignorance.

\*

I was specifically told that i could not get a job because I was a white male and there for female american indian applications for the smae possition, who where admitedly much less qualified.

It is hard when your english is not perfect

When working for a lab course, some American students showed discrimination. They are still mean to this date and we as "outsiders" have learnt to just ignore and move on. But my stay otherwise has been very pleasant.

\*Statement has been omitted to protect student/faculty confidentiality. To review comments, please contact Chris Ray or Pam Bowers in UAT office.