

2010 OSU Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey

Survey Report – Animal Science

This survey targeted current OSU graduate students. The survey was administered online by the OSU office of Assessment and Testing (UAT) in March and April 2010. UAT prepared this report; departments may request additional analysis by contacting the OUAT.

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 – Animal Science

	Degree		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Master's</u>	<u>Doctorate</u>	
Number in target population	25	0	25
Number of survey respondents	17	0	17
Response rate	68.0%	0.0%	68.0%

Graduate Program

OSU Degree

Master's

Q1. To what extent are you involved in research or other scholarly activities, such as presentations, professional conferences, and publications?		
	n	%
very involved	12	70.6
somewhat involved	4	23.5
not involved	1	5.9
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q2. To what extent does your department provide travel support for scholarly activities, such as research, presentations, professional conferences, or publications?		
	n	%
full support	5	29.4
some support	9	52.9
no support	1	5.9
don't know	2	11.8
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q3. How satisfied are you with the availability of the course offerings in your program, such as frequency of class offerings, spaces available, etc.?		
	n	%
very satisfied	1	5.9
generally satisfied	15	88.2
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q4. How satisfied are you with your relationships and interactions with faculty in your department?		
	n	%
very satisfied	6	35.3
generally satisfied	10	58.8
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q5. How would you rate your satisfaction with the overall quality of your academic program?		
	n	%
very satisfied	3	17.6
generally satisfied	13	76.5
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

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

The MS assistantship level. This may seem like a cliché response, easy to ignore, but for a factual comparison, after you take out the semester's fees, I am living below the federal poverty level. I know my program has enough money to pay me a bit more; it's just a matter of allocating it properly.

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

Good research.
 Helpful in finding classes to take and with research.
 I view the main strength of the Animal Science Department as the kind people who work there who are always willing to lend assistance. From professors to custodial staff, this department creates an atmosphere unique to campus which makes it an amazing place to conduct research in the pursuit of my degree.
 Lots of well rounded experiences - both laboratory and field work.
 Professors tend to be very courteous and close to students, they like to be involved with students.
 The access to state of the art facilities.
 The Department of Animal Science provides a very broad educational opportunity that also remains focused on my specific program. Within the department the entire group works well together no matter the species, or research project.
 Varied coursework and a wide range of research projects in which to participate.
 Very good professors that are knowledgeable and want to help students.
 Very well known and fairly decent facilities.

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

At times student faculty interaction.
 Courses are very general there are not many courses that offer specific specialties.
 Faculty and students are often ignorant of, or sometimes hostile towards, progress or anything that may be considered different, "out of the box," etc. And, again, the minimum assistantship level is far lower than comparable programs at other universities, enough so that some of us are living below the federal poverty level after fees are paid each semester. I would like more courses to choose from (i.e. muscle biology).
 Limited interaction with faculty - would be nice to have some more input and stronger relationships with advisors. Also, classes are generally good, but it would be nice to have more of a challenge in some of the courses.
 More in depth classes could be offered.
 Need to let students know more of the deadlines in advance and where to find them.
 None.
 The primary weakness of the Animal Science Department is the lack of graduate student funding. We have very low salaries compared to other departments on campus which makes living tight. It also makes it very competitive during the application process.
 There is a lot of pressure to be academically successful, conduct your own project thoroughly, assist with other graduate students' projects and have a normal life. With all of those "pressures" it is hard to find enough time for it all.

Advisors

Master's		
Q9. My advisor is generally available when I need to meet him/her.		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
agree	11	64.7
agree somewhat	5	29.4
disagree somewhat	0	0.0
disagree	1	5.9
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q10. My advisor is willing to spend the time with me that I need.		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
agree	12	70.6
agree somewhat	4	23.5
disagree somewhat	1	5.9
disagree	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Assistantships

Master's		
Q11. To what extent are opportunities available for financial support of graduate students in your department such as assistantships and scholarships?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
readily available	4	23.5
somewhat available	11	64.7
not available	1	5.9
don't know	1	5.9
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q12. Do you currently have, or have you previously had a graduate assistantship?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	15	88.2
no	2	11.8
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q13. Is/Was your primary responsibility teaching?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	5	33.3
no	9	60.0
don't know	1	6.7
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q14. Is/Was your primary responsibility research?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	14	93.3
no	1	6.7
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q15. Is/Was your primary responsibility something other than teaching or research?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0
no	15	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q16. How satisfied are you with the preparation and guidance your department provided you in your role as a teaching assistant?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	2	40.0
generally satisfied	3	60.0
generally dissatisfied	0	0.0
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q17. How adequate is or was your assistantship financial package (stipend, tuition waiver, etc.) in meeting your financial needs?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
adequate	1	6.7
somewhat adequate	9	60.0
not adequate	5	33.3
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Q18. Do you have any comments about Teaching, Graduate, or Research Assistantships?

Assistantships should be tailored to student necessities.
 Do not know, never had one.
 I know I've said this several times, but the assistantships either need to be increased, or our duties need to be decreased so that we can take side jobs.
 It is frustrating as a graduate student here that we get paid so little when the university is at the top of their game in research and teaching. Other universities that do not have the quality of program that we have are paying their graduate students more money for the same job and they do not get the equivalent education. This also makes it hard when trying to recruit quality students to come to OSU.
 It's a very small amount of money as compared to other universities both larger and smaller for students in my degree.
 My assistantship is just barely enough to get by on a day to day basis. I came back to school to get my masters and had a job in the "real" world so it was a bit of a shock when I got my first paycheck and realized just how much of a pay cut I had taken.
 The assistantships are great. More funding would be helpful.
 The assistantships should be updated so that today living expenses are taken into consideration.
 The communication between new, incoming students, their department and the university system as a whole needs reevaluation. It is increasingly difficult for incoming grad students to determine what financial assistance they will receive, what is available to them and any limitations that may exist. This is particularly true of the current stipend and its effect on available unsubsidized loans.

University Services

Master's

Q19. How satisfied are you with the computing resources, such as access to computers, email, and internet?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	7	41.2
generally satisfied	9	52.9
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q20. Not including library resources, how satisfied are you with the research resources, such as facilities, equipment, and lab space?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	5	31.3
generally satisfied	10	62.5
generally dissatisfied	1	6.3
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
not applicable	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q21. How satisfied are you with the library resources available to you?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	4	23.5
generally satisfied	11	64.7
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	1	5.9
prefer not to answer	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?

It's very hard to research journal articles through the library. The site is set up horribly.
 More journals and books should be available for free.
 No.
 They are very helpful and easy to use.

Diversity

Master's		
Q23. OSU is a supportive campus toward those with diverse backgrounds.		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
agree	7	41.2
agree somewhat	6	35.3
disagree somewhat	2	11.8
disagree	0	0.0
don't know	2	11.8
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q24. Since you have been at OSU, have you experienced discrimination that was directed toward you?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	1	5.9
no	15	88.2
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	1	5.9

Master's		
Q25. Did you experience discrimination because of a disability?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q26. Did you experience gender discrimination?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q27. Did you experience discrimination due to your nationality?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	1	100
no	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q28. Did you experience discrimination because of your race?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	1	100
no	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q29. Did you experience discrimination because of your religion?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q30. Did you experience discrimination because of your sexual orientation?		
	n	%
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q31. Did you experience discrimination because of your enrollment status, full- or part-time?		
	n	%
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's		
Q32. Did you experience some other form of discrimination?		
	n	%
yes	0	0.0
no	1	100
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

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

*Responses to this question have been compiled at the college level.

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

Attending OSU has given me the opportunity to interact with international students that I would have never gotten to know. I think the diversity at OSU is great.
 Diversity is very complex, but should address students and not where they are from. If you look at school diversity there is a difference in country origins and student numbers.
 Educate the student body that there is huge strength in diversity and different ideas. I'm not sure about other areas, but my department can be weak in this aspect.
 I am tired of hearing about diversity!

The Graduate College

Master's		
Q35. How satisfied are you with the helpfulness of the Graduate College staff in responding to your concerns and questions?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	3	17.6
generally satisfied	10	58.8
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	3	17.6
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Q36. Do you have any comments or recommendations about the services provided by the Graduate College?
 Need to focus on making paperwork, forms, etc. easier and more user friendly for students.
 Prefer not to answer.
 They are always helpful.

Demographics

Master's		
Q37. Which of the following statements best describes where you have taken your graduate courses?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
primarily on the Stillwater campus	17	100
primarily on the Tulsa campus	0	0.0
evenly split between Stillwater and Tulsa	0	0.0
primarily distance-format on neither campus	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Master's

Q38. How many credit hours have you taken in a distance learning format?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
None	2	100
1-3 hours	0	0.0
4-6 hours	0	0.0
7-9 hours	0	0.0
10-12 hours	0	0.0
13-15 hours	0	0.0
16-24 hours	0	0.0
25-30 hours	0	0.0
More than 30 hours	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0

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)?

- Advertise more. Many individuals are not aware of the activities. Email is great, but a lot of people don't read them.
- GPSGA needs to be recognized as an independent organization from SGA, as this organization more appropriately speaks for the graduate student population.
- No.
- Seem to be doing well but should stand as their own organization.

Career

Master's

Q40. Which of the following best describes the employment setting for your future career plans?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
private sector/industry	6	37.5
government	0	0.0
K-12 education	0	0.0
higher education	5	31.3
non-profit	0	0.0
other	1	6.3
undecided	4	25.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

Overall Satisfaction

Master's		
Q41. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your experience as a graduate student at OSU?		
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
very satisfied	5	29.4
generally satisfied	11	64.7
generally dissatisfied	1	5.9
very dissatisfied	0	0.0
don't know	0	0.0
prefer not to answer	0	0.0

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

I absolutely love going to graduate school at OSU. GO POKES!!
 Keep doing what you're doing.