



Graduate Student Survey: Executive Summary

Fall 2021

The Graduate Student Survey was administered during fall semester 2021. 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 15th, 2021 and ended on November 12th, 2021.

Instrument: In 2021, the survey instrument was revised to include new sections regarding clinical, internship, and field experiences, along with perceptions of learning in students' respective programs.

Sample: A total of 5,159 graduate students were enrolled in fall 2021. The final sample included 976 respondents, resulting in a 19% response rate. For each finding, "n" indicates the total number of responses to that item.

Demographic Details:

- 84% Female
- 29% Minority
- 69% Online Only

Key Findings:

- About 80% (n = 968) reported being satisfied with the academic advising they received
- About 84% (n = 712) reported that their primary advisor encourages them to attain their goals, while 81% (n = 665) reported that their advisor encourages them to take on challenging opportunities.
- Of students who have participated in clinical/internships/field experiences, 86% (n = 382) Reported being satisfied with the quality of the training they received, while 75% were satisfied with the overall quality of the placement experience.
- Of students who have participated in clinical/internships/field experiences, 84% (n = 381) reported that they had improved their skills and abilities with respect to interacting and working with people of different cultures, and 84% (n = 380) also reported that they improved their skills and abilities to recognize the skills and abilities of individuals from different cultures.
- About 82% of students reported that their educational experiences helped prepare them for their career, and 81% said that their experiences let them apply theories and concepts in the real world.
- About 82% reported being satisfied with their overall experience with The Graduate School Administration.
- About 96% reported that they find the electronic library full-text databases useful during their studies.
- Ninety-two percent said that faculty in their program treat graduate students with respect and collegiality.

Potential Areas of Improvement:

- About 30% reported that their primary advisor does not provide information about nonacademic career paths.
- Around 22% (n = 894) reported a neutral stance when asked if they felt that their educational experiences have a positive impact on the broader community and region.
- Forty-five percent (n = 820) of students reported financial stresses as being a major challenge, while 53% (n = 670) reported off-campus work commitments as being a major stressor.