

Results of the First-Ever Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey

The Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey was conducted in 2007 for the first time by a large group of Ontario universities to assess the views and experiences of their students.

The areas covered included satisfaction with the program, the faculty and the institution chosen; support received for professional skills development; quality of the research experience; financial status; and quality of student and social life.

Survey Profile

About 40,000 master's and doctoral students received the questionnaire and 42% responded. Of the respondents:

- 62% were in master's programs with the remaining pursuing doctoral studies;
- 88% were full-time students; and
- 55% were women.

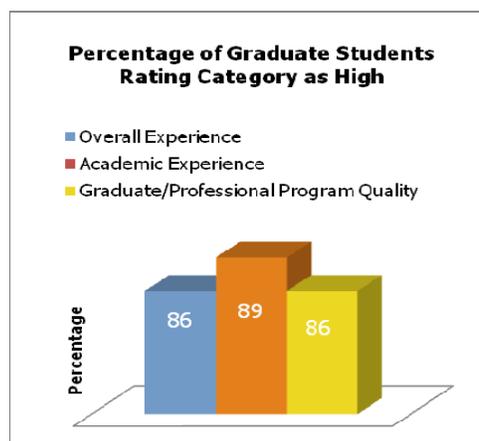
The academic fields with the most student responses were social sciences (19.8%), engineering (16.2%), health sciences (13.8%), humanities (11.2%) and business management (9.9%).

Key Findings

The survey's key findings are:

- 76% would either definitely or probably recommend their university to someone considering their program. Students at both the master's and doctoral levels provided similar responses.
- 71% would either definitely or probably select the same university if they were to start their studies again. Again, responses did not change with the level of studies.
 - 96% gave a high rating (defined as excellent, very good or good) to the intellectual quality of their faculty.
 - 90% either strongly agreed or agreed that their thesis/dissertation advisor performed their role well (for programs including a thesis or dissertation).

- 86% gave a high rating (defined as excellent, very good or good) to the overall experience at their university. Here too, both master's and doctoral students provided similar responses.
 - 89% rated the quality of their academic experience as high.
 - 86% gave a high rating to their graduate/professional program.
 - 80% felt their ability to conduct independent research was high.
 - 78% awarded a high rating to their student life experience.



- Students received financial support from multiple sources, including graduate teaching (50%) and research assistantships (38%), university-funded fellowships (36%), and federal and provincial scholarships (each 17%).
- Some items that received "poor" ratings from more than 10% of respondents included "student office space," "career services," "professional skills development" and "financial aid office."

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DECEMBER 2007