AIDE Survey #3 AIDE/AAU Doctoral Exit Survey WebVersion

Consent
Dear [url("fname")][url("lname")],

Thank you for completing this survey and helping improve our doctoral programs. The purpose of this survey is twofold, serving both local and national needs. First, the data are used for the Assessment of the Illinois Doctoral Experience (AIDE), which reviews each University of Illinois doctoral program, once every five years. Feedback from all graduates of each program is critical for these reviews. Additionally, the Association of American Universities has requested data from some multiple-choice questions on this survey to facilitate cross-institutional comparisons.

The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential. Only university-level assessment staff – not your department or program – will have access to your identifiable data. Your data may be combined with existing administrative data (e.g., student funding, demographics, grades) to help us better understand the factors that help or hinder progress through doctoral programs. However, only aggregated results will be shared with your program and included in reports. Individual responses and student comments will not be shared with program leaders, faculty or staff. Your name and identifying information will not be associated with any data provided to the Association of American Universities.

Your feedback on this survey will not affect your relationship with the University of Illinois in any way, and you may skip any questions you feel uncomfortable answering.

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study or any concerns or complaints, please contact the University of Illinois Institutional Review Board at 217-333-2670 (collect calls will be accepted if you identify yourself as a research participant) or via email at irb@illinois.edu. If you have questions about the survey, including questions about confidentiality, you may contact the relevant Graduate College staff at DocExperience@illinois.edu.

I thank you in advance for your time and willingness to help us improve graduate education at Illinois and across the nation.

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko,
Dean, Graduate College
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I have read and understood this letter. I understand that I may skip questions that I am uncomfortable answering.

Please click on the "Continue" button below to proceed to the survey.
1. How satisfied are you with your educational experience in the [url("pgmName")]] doctoral program?

- Not at all satisfied
- Slightly satisfied
- Moderately satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Extremely satisfied

2. How satisfied are you with the quality of the relationship you had with your primary faculty advisor?

(This is the person who formally served as your academic advisor or research supervisor. If you had co-advisors, answer in reference to the person with whom you worked most closely.)

- Not at all satisfied
- Slightly satisfied
- Moderately satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Extremely satisfied

3. How often did you receive guidance or feedback from your primary faculty advisor?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Once a semester
- Once a year
- Never

4. Other than course grades and results of written or oral examinations, did your doctoral program provide a formal assessment of your academic progress at least annually?

- Yes
- No
Departmental Environment

5. How collegial (collaborative, friendly) was the environment in the [url("pgmName")] doctoral program?

- Extremely collegial
- Very collegial
- Moderately collegial
- Slightly collegial
- Not at all collegial

6. How well did the [url("pgmName")] doctoral program prepare you to begin a career in your discipline?

- Extremely well
- Very well
- Moderately well
- Not very well
- Not well at all

Student Loans

7. Student Loan Debt Before Doctoral Program
   How much student loan and related education debt did you have before you began your UI doctoral program?

- I had no student loan debt before I began
- $1 - $20,000
- $20,001 - $40,000
- $40,001 - $60,000
- $60,001 - $80,000
- $80,001 - $100,000
- $100,001 - $150,000
- More than $150,000
- I don't know
8. Student Loan Debt During Doctoral Program
How much additional student loan and related education debt did you accumulate to finance your UI doctoral program?
Don't count any loan debt you accumulated before beginning your doctoral program.

- I did not accumulate any additional loan debt
- $1 - $20,000
- $20,001 - $40,000
- $40,001 - $60,000
- $60,001 - $80,000
- $80,001 - $100,000
- $100,001 - $150,000
- More than $150,000
- I don't know

Resources Provided

9. Please rate the adequacy of support you were provided during your doctoral education and dissertation research in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Not applicable to me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library and electronic research resources</td>
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<td>Your personal work space [e.g., desk or office]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information technology (IT) resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory, clinical, studio or other physical facilities</td>
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</table>

Requirements and Expectations
10. Which of the following did the [url("pgmName")]] department or program provide during your doctoral studies? 
*Check all that apply.*

- Program or departmental newsletter, wiki, blog, or social networking site
- Your own mailbox
- An active graduate student organization and/or social events for graduate students in your program/department
- A colloquium/seminar series or other regular gathering, where faculty and students discuss topics in your program or research area
- A lounge to which graduate students have access
- My program/department provided none of the above

**Formal Expectations**

11. How well did you understand the *formal requirements* for successful completion of your doctoral program *(e.g., required courses, examinations, dissertation)*?

Not well at all  
Not very well  
Moderately well  
Very well  
Extremely well

12. Choose the one source from which you received the most information about the *formal requirements* of the [url("pgmName")]] doctoral program:

- My academic advisor
- Other faculty members in my program or department
- Other graduate students in my program or department
- Program or department staff *(e.g., graduate secretary)*
- Faculty, graduate students or staff members outside my program/department
- Program or department website or print materials
- Some other source *(Please specify:)*
13. How well did you understand the informal or unspoken expectations for successful completion of your doctoral program (e.g., expectations for participating in colloquia, presenting and publishing research, applying for fellowships, or interacting with other students and faculty)?

- Not well at all
- Not very well
- Moderately well
- Very well
- Extremely well

14. Choose the one source from which you received the most information about the informal expectations of the [url("pgmName")]) doctoral program:

- My academic advisor
- Other faculty members in my program or department
- Other graduate students in my program or department
- Program or department staff (e.g., graduate secretary)
- Faculty, graduate students or staff members outside my program/department
- Program or department website or print materials
- Some other source (Please specify:)

Instruction and Coursework

15. Please rate the quality of instruction you received in your courses:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor
16. How much did your coursework prepare you to pursue your dissertation research?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- Not at all

**Advising and Mentoring**

17. How helpful was the advice you received from your dissertation/thesis advisor in each of these areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Not very helpful</th>
<th>Not at all helpful</th>
<th>Not applicable--I did not receive advice on this</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selection of a dissertation topic</td>
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<td>Your dissertation research</td>
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<td>Academic career options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search for employment or training</td>
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</table>

18. Was there another faculty member whom you considered to be a mentor (i.e., a faculty member who gave you advice about your education, career development, or other matters of concern to you as a graduate student)?

- Yes
- No
Was that faculty member in your program/department?

- Yes
- No

How helpful was the advice you received from your mentor in each of these areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Not very helpful</th>
<th>Not at all helpful</th>
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</table>

Program Faculty Feedback and Support
19. Please select the best answer to each of the following questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>A moderate amount</th>
<th>A lot</th>
<th>A great deal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To what extent did program faculty provide constructive feedback to you?</td>
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<td>To what extent did program faculty treat you with respect?</td>
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<td>To what extent did program faculty support you in the career path of your choosing?</td>
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<td>To what extent did program faculty encourage and support your <em>presentation</em> of scholarly work?</td>
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<tr>
<td>To what extent did program faculty encourage and support your <em>publication</em> of scholarly work?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To what extent did program faculty keep your best interests in mind?</td>
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</table>

**Teaching Assistantships**

20. Were you a teaching assistant (TA) at any time during your graduate studies?

- Yes
- No

How helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful
- Not at all helpful
For how many different semesters were you a TA?

- 1 semester
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13 or more semesters

Did you receive training in instructional methods at any time during your graduate studies?

- Yes
- No

How helpful was this training?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful
- Not at all helpful

Research Assistantships
21. Were you a research assistant (RA) at any time during your graduate studies?

- Yes
- No

How helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful
- Not at all helpful

For how many different semesters were you an RA?

- 1 semester
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13 or more semesters

Fellowships
22. Did you ever have a full-time fellowship (with funding of at least $12,000 per year and no other employment held during that time)?

- Yes
- No

How helpful was your fellowship with respect to your professional development?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful
- Not at all helpful

For how many different semesters did you hold a full-time fellowship?

- 1 semester
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13 or more semesters

Presentations

- Yes
- No
23. How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make on campus during your graduate studies?

*Don’t count presentations given in class or in regularly scheduled not-for-credit lab meetings.*

None  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 or more
24. How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make at any regional, national, or international meetings?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 or more

When you presented at those meetings, did you receive institutional or research funds for travel?

- Yes, my travel was fully funded
- Yes, most of my travel expenses were funded
- Yes, some (less than half) of my travel expenses were funded
- No, my travel was not funded at all

Publications
25. How many scholarly works that you authored or co-authored during your doctoral program have been published or accepted for publication so far (e.g., peer reviewed articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings)?

None
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20 or more
Of those *published or accepted* scholarly works, on how many were you listed as the first or solo author?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 or more
26. How many other scholarly works are currently under review?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 or more
Of those *submitted* scholarly works, on how many were you listed as the *first or solo author*?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 or more

**Collaborators**

27. While working on scholarly publications and other products (*e.g.*, *grant proposals, artistic performances*) during your doctoral program, who were your major collaborators? *Check all that apply.*

- My primary faculty advisor (*including research director*)
- Other faculty within my department/program
- Faculty outside of my department/program
- Graduate students in my program
- Graduate students outside of my program
- No one -- I primarily worked alone
- Someone else (*Please specify:*)
28. Rate the extent to which the following factors were an obstacle to your academic progress.  
*If you experienced any other major challenges not listed here, please list them at the bottom of the table.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obstacle</th>
<th>A major obstacle</th>
<th>A minor obstacle</th>
<th>Not an obstacle</th>
<th>Not applicable to me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work or financial commitments</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching responsibilities</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family obligations</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of faculty</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program structure or requirements</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>Course scheduling</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration laws or regulations</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program climate regarding racial, ethnic, gender, or sexual minorities</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</table>

Enter another option

Enter another option

Enter another option

29. Which of the following would have most improved your satisfaction with the advising you received during your program (including from your advisor and program faculty/staff)?  
*Choose up to three.*

- More personal encouragement/support
- More program guidance *(e.g., coursework, qualifying examinations)*
- More career/professional advice *(jobs, networking)*
- More teaching/pedagogical guidance
- More research guidance *(including dissertation, publishing)*
- *Nothing – I was fully satisfied with the advising I received*
30. Would you recommend your program to someone interested in pursuing a doctorate in your discipline?

- Definitely would not
- Probably would not
- Might or might not
- Probably would
- Definitely would

31. Did you ever consider leaving the [url("pgmName")]) doctoral program to join a different program, either on campus or at another university?

- No
- Yes, sometimes
- Yes, frequently

Why did you consider leaving the [url("pgmName")]) doctoral program?

32. Please rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your academic experience at UI</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your student life experience at UI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your overall experience at UI</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
33. What is the status of your postgraduate plans (in the next year)?

- Returning to, or continuing in, predoctoral employment
- Have signed a contract or made a definite commitment for employment or for a "postdoc"
- Negotiating with one or more specific organizations
- Seeking a position but have no specific prospects
- Other full-time degree program (e.g., MD, DDS, JD, MBA, etc.)
- Do not plan to work or study (e.g., family commitments, etc.)
- Something else (Please specify:)

Which of these two best describes your postgraduate plans (within the next year)?

- Employment
- "Postdoc" or further training
What best describes the principal employer will you be working for (or training with) in the next year?

**EDUCATION**
- U.S. Research University (other than medical school)
- U.S. 4-year college or university (other than medical school)
- U.S. medical school (including university-affiliated hospital or medical center)
- U.S. university-affiliated research institute
- U.S. community or two-year college
- U.S. preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system
- Foreign educational institution

**GOVERNMENT**
- U.S. federal government
- U.S. state government
- U.S. local government
- U.S. military
- Foreign government

**PRIVATE SECTOR (other than educational institutions)**
- Industry (for profit)
- Not-for-profit organization

**OTHER**
- Self-employed
- Unknown at this time
- Other (Please specify:)

**Final Comments**
34. We would like to hear any additional comments or information you have to share about your experiences in the [url("pgmName")]] doctoral program.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your experience and opinions are very important to the review committee. For more information on the review of doctoral programs on campus, please go to:
http://www.grad.illinois.edu/aide

If you have any questions or feedback about the survey, please email us at DocExperience@illinois.edu.

You will receive email confirmation of your completion of this survey very shortly. You may close your browser window now.