What our students are telling us

Andrea Golato, Associate Dean
Student Surveys

2009  Acclimation Survey (Pilot)
2010  Acclimation Survey
      Mid-program Survey
      Exit Survey
### Acclimation Survey (78)
- Expectation & Overall Satisfaction (6)
- Financial Support & Investment (8)
- Campus/ Community Resources (5)
- Program Fit & Climate (20)
- Requirements & Expectations (11)
- Advising (7)
- Research & Professional Development Opportunities (5)
- Your Future Plans (3)
- Reason for Leaving (4)
- Desired Employment Outcomes (2)
- Additional Degrees (4)
- Additional Comments (2)

### Mid-Program Survey (90)
- Status & Satisfaction (4)
- Financial Support & Investment (5)
- Work Outside of the University (3)
- Campus/ Community Resources (4)
- Program Fit & Climate (13)
- Program Climate---peers (7)
- Program Climate---faculty (6)
- Requirements & Expectations (11)
- Advising (1)
- Have Adviser (11)
- No Adviser (1)
- Mentor (2)
- Opportunities (2)
- Research & Professional Development Opportunities (4)
- Your Future Plans (3)
- Reason for Leaving (5)
- Additional Degrees (5)
- Desired Employment Outcomes (2)

### Exit Survey (86)
- Overall Satisfaction (7)
- Financial Support & Investment (6)
- Work (4)
- Other Financial Support (2)
- Campus/ Community Resources (3)
- Program Fit & Climate (7)
- Peers (7)
- Faculty (6)
- Advising (4)
- Advising/Mentoring (8)
- Requirements & Expectations (5)
- Time to Degree (6)
- Fellowship & Teaching (2)
- Research Experience (3)
- Opportunities (2)
- Future Plans (2)
- Additional Degrees (4)
- Future Employment (7)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Acclimation 2009</th>
<th>Mid-program 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Responses</strong></td>
<td>966</td>
<td>1158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>488 (50.52%)</td>
<td>565 (48.92%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>477 (49.38%)</td>
<td>590 (51.08%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Amer.</td>
<td>26 (2.73%)</td>
<td>38 (3.34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer. Indian /</td>
<td>4 (0.42%)</td>
<td>2 (0.18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaskan Native</td>
<td>63 (6.60%)</td>
<td>60 (5.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian / Pacific</td>
<td>19 (1.99%)</td>
<td>41 (3.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island</td>
<td>343 (35.95%)</td>
<td>404 (35.47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11 (1.15%)</td>
<td>19 (1.67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>488 (51.15%)</td>
<td>575 (50.48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Known</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citizen Type</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Alien</td>
<td>324 (33.61%)</td>
<td>267 (23.12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Permanent Resident (LPR)</td>
<td>17 (1.76%)</td>
<td>35 (3.03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Alien for IRS only-NR</td>
<td>19 (1.97%)</td>
<td>137 (11.86%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen</td>
<td>604 (62.66%)</td>
<td>714 (61.82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Citizen-Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Both samples are representative of the whole population.*

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Financial Background

- The most three significant sources of funding for graduate study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acclimation 2009</th>
<th>Mid-program 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Research Assistantship (27.43%)</td>
<td>(1) Research Assistantship (39.93%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Personal or Family Savings (26.19%)</td>
<td>(2) Teaching Assistantship (29.35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Teaching Assistantship (24.33%)</td>
<td>(3) Personal or Family Savings (19.52%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Being responsible for financially providing for any of the following persons

| | Acclimation 2009 | Mid-program 2010 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Frequency | Percentage | Frequency | Percentage |
| Spouse or partner | 134 | 13.87% | 233 | 20.17% |
| Children | 88 | 9.11% | 163 | 14.11% |
| Parents | 39 | 4.04% | 36 | 3.12% |
| Other family members | 21 | 2.17% | 19 | 1.65% |
| Not for any of the above | 688 | 71.22% | 754 | 65.28% |
Financial Background (Cont.)

- Amounts borrowed in student loans since starting current program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amounts Borrowed</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>67.37%</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>69.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 - $5,000</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4.01%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,001-$15,000</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>13.92%</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>7.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001-$25,000</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7.57%</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $25,000</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7.13%</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>10.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the 112 students,
(1) Female (61), Male (51)
(2) International (12), Domestic (100)
(3) Underrepresented (17), Non-underrepresented (95)
(4) Master (41), Ph.D. (71)
(5) Among them, 30 from the field of Education, 18 from the field of Business.
Financial Background (Cont.)

How much total outstanding debt do you have, including student loans, personal loans, credit card debt, or any other kind of debt related to your graduate education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Debt Category</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>53.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 - $15,000</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>16.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001-$40,000</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>14.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,001-$75,000</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>7.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,001 or more</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the 65 students
(1) Female (38), Male (27)
(2) International (7), Domestic (58)
(3) Underrepresented (11), Non-underrepresented (54)
(4) Master (14), Ph.D. (51)
(5) Among them, 20 from the field of Education, 10 from the field of Arts & Humanities

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Main factors contributing to respondent’s ability to complete the degree

- Financial support
- Mentoring/advising
- Family (non-financial support)
- Social environment/peer group support
- Program quality
- Professional/career guidance

www.phdcompletion.org/resources/index.asp#Presentations

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Advising

Overall satisfaction with advisers

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Mentoring

Is there anyone at the University, within or outside of your program, who you currently turn to for mentoring in your graduate career other than your adviser?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Acclimation 2009</th>
<th>Mid-program 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>445 (63.57%)</td>
<td>445 (53.42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>255 (36.43%)</td>
<td>388 (46.58%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who? Mid-program 2010

- Another faculty member: 59.73%
- A staff member: 4.42%
- An administrator: 3.32%
- A more experienced graduate student: 18.14%
- A post doc: 4.20%
- Other (please specify): 10.18%
Most Important Factors

In the next academic year (2009-2010)
- Select a different adviser
- Select a different program
- Select a different university
- Leave graduate school

Factors
- TA
- RA
- Satisfaction with adviser
- Student loans
- Fit of program academically
- Fit of program socially
- Solidarity among students
- Other fellowship or traineeship

If you could do it over again
- Select a different field or sub-field
- Select a different adviser
- Select a different program or degree at UI
- Select a different university
- Select a different thesis/research project
- Not go to graduate school
- Postpone beginning graduate school

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Advising: Why students not satisfied

**Acclimation Survey (GC 2009)**
- Advisers are not interested in spending time with their students
- Lack of availability and feedback from advisers
- Advisers and students have different styles
- Advisers are too busy with their own research
- Advisers have too many students
- Advisers and students have different research interests (not a right match)

**Mid Program Survey (GC 2010)**
- Advisers are not interested in spending time with their students
- Lack of availability and feedback from advisers
- Advisers and students have different styles
- Advisers are too busy with their own research
- Insufficient communication
- Adviser plays favorites
- Adviser lacks management skills
My adviser sees me as a source to advance his/her research

- Describes extremely well: 5 responses, 2.90%
- Describes very well: 4 responses, 5.28%
- Describes moderately well: 3 responses, 10.77%
- Describes slightly well: 2 responses, 9.63%
- Does not describe well at all: 1 response, 33.75%
- Missing data: 0 responses, 37.68%

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