

**Office of  
Planning and Institutional Research  
Institutional Research**



Executive Summary 2010-2011  
Graduating Masters and Doctoral Student Survey

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE *GRADUATING MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENT SURVEY* SUMMER 2010 - SPRING 2011

This report summarizes the main findings from the SUMMER 2010 - SPRING 2011 Florida International University *Graduating Masters and Doctoral Student Survey*, a Continuous Quality Improvement study conducted by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. This survey was adapted from a prototype survey developed by the SUS Accountability Committee on Survey Activity (Legg, Final Report, 1992). The survey was designed to measure graduates' satisfaction with and attitudes about Florida International University. The survey design assured respondents of their anonymity in an attempt to facilitate candor.

The *Graduating Masters and Doctoral Student Survey* was distributed to 2,649 individuals who were members of the graduating classes of Summer 2010, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. The survey was returned by 313 graduates, for a response rate of approximately 12%. The comprehensive survey asked questions about the graduates' satisfaction with Florida International University in various domains such as the quality and availability of faculty in their major, the quality of research produced in the graduate program, the quality and availability of academic advising by university advising staff and faculty members, and the quality of the libraries. The survey also questioned graduates about the frequency of use and quality of services such as Recreational Services, and Health Services.

Eight principal indicators have been singled out as the most reliable measures of the graduates' satisfaction with FIU and have been summarized below. **(Note: The responses were rounded to the nearest percent and may not add up to the totals)**

- *Overall Satisfaction With Graduate Program:* 92% of the graduates indicated that they were satisfied with their graduate program (33% very satisfied, 59% satisfied).
- *Research Facilities Were Available in My Program:* 72% of the graduates rated positively their overall academic experience (23% excellent, 49% good ratings).
- *Quality of Research in My Program:* 77% of students of graduates rated positively the quality of research in their program (24% excellent, 53% good)
- *Quality of Instruction in My Program:* 86% of students of graduates rated positively the quality of instruction in their program (35% excellent, 51% good)
- *Coursework Availability in My Program:* 72% of graduates rated positively the coursework availability in their program (20% excellent, 52% good)

- *Availability of Faculty to Assist with My Research:* 78% of graduates rated positively the availability of faculty to assist with research (38% excellent, 40% good)
- *Felt Challenged:* 94% of the graduates agreed that they had been challenged to do the best that they could (63% most of the time, 31% some of the time).
- *Recommend FIU:* 87% of the graduates reported that they would recommend FIU to a friend or relative considering their graduate program (47% without reservations, 40% with reservations).

#### Items With the Highest Correlations

- To the extent that graduating respondents rated highly the quality of instruction in their program, they also rated highly the availability of courses ( $r = .56, p < .001$ ).
- To the extent that graduating respondents believed they had been challenged to do the best, they also agreed they would recommend FIU ( $r = .56, p < .001$ ).
- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed they were satisfied with their graduate program, they also agreed they would recommend FIU ( $r = .600, p < .001$ ).
- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed research facilities were available, they were also overall satisfied with the quality of research in their program ( $r = .70, p < .001$ ).

#### ***Strongest Correlates of Desiring Intellectual Challenges***

- Extent of agreement that they would recommend FIU to a friend or relative ( $r = .56, p < .001$ ).
- Extent of agreement they were satisfied with their graduate program ( $r = .44, p < .001$ ).
- Extent of agreement that they rated highly the quality of instruction in their program ( $r = .42, p < .001$ ).
- Extent of agreement they rated highly the quality of research in their program ( $r = .36, p < .001$ ).