

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



**Executive Summary 2012-2013
Survey of Graduating Masters and Doctoral Students**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE GRADUATING MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENT SURVEY SUMMER 2012 - SPRING 2013

This report summarizes the main findings from the SUMMER 2012 - SPRING 2013. 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.

As of the Summer 2011 term, the *Graduating Masters and Doctoral Student Survey* became part of graduation packet. Students were asked to fill out the survey upon submitting their graduation application. The students who were assessed were from the graduating classes of Summer 2012, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013. Three-thousand one-hundred fifty two students completed the survey. 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 Counseling and Psychological Services, 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)**

- *Felt Challenged*: 96% of the graduates agreed that they had been challenged to do the best that they could (70% most of the time, 26% some of the time).
- *Recommend FIU*: 95% of the graduates reported that they would recommend FIU to a friend or relative considering their graduate program (61% without reservations, 34% with reservations).
- *Overall Satisfaction with Graduate Program*: 94% of the graduates indicated that they were satisfied with their graduate program (43% very satisfied, 52% satisfied).
- *Opportunity to Interact with Faculty in my Program*: 89% of graduates rated the availability of faculty to assist with research positively (51% excellent, 38% good)
- *Quality of Instruction in My Program*: 87% of graduate students rated the quality of instruction in their program positively (41% excellent, 46% good)

- *Quality of Research in My Program:* 86% of graduate students rated the quality of research in their program positively (36% excellent, 50% good)
- *Research Facilities Were Available in My Program:* 84% of the graduates rated their overall academic experience positively (34% excellent, 50% good)
- *Coursework I Needed Was Available in My Program:* 83% of graduates rated the coursework availability in their program positively (46% excellent, 37% good)

Items with the Highest Correlations

- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed research facilities were available in their program, they were also satisfied with the quality of research in their program ($rs = .74, p < .001$).
- To the extent that graduating respondents were satisfied with the quality of research in their program, they also were satisfied with the quality of instruction ($rs = .59, p < .001$).
- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed they were satisfied with their graduate program, they were also satisfied with the quality of instruction ($rs = .57, p < .001$).
- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed they were satisfied with their graduate program, they also agreed they would recommend FIU to a friend or relative ($rs = .53, p < .001$).
- To the extent that graduating respondents agreed there was an opportunity to interact with faculty in their program, they also felt the quality of instruction in their program was positive ($rs = .53, p < .001$).

Strongest Correlates of Desiring Intellectual Challenges

Graduates who felt they had desiring intellectual challenges also:

- Felt prepared to pursue life-long learning ($rs = .68, p < .001$).
- Felt they learned to listen more closely to others ($rs = .62, p < .001$).
- Felt they improved their ability to conceptualize and solve problems ($rs = .61, p < .001$).