

2011-2012 GRADUATE STUDENT EXIT SURVEY Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

Key Findings:

Graduate students who earned their degrees during the 2011-2012 academic year (AY):

- Indicated high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (88% very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their programs (79% very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated less highly their satisfaction with social life on campus (56% very satisfied or satisfied) and the ability to receive help or assistance when needed (e.g., 58% strongly agreed or agreed that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues; 60% strongly agreed or agreed that it was easy to get assistance when needed).

Overall, 76% of AY 2011-2012 graduate degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Seventy percent strongly agreed or agreed that they would recommend UMass Dartmouth to future graduate students.



THE SURVEY

As part of the online application for graduation, students are asked to complete an exit survey that asks about their satisfaction with their university experience and their participation in co-curricular activities. Overall, 292 AY 2011-2012 graduate degree earners responded to the graduate student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 73.7%)¹. This brief details the principal findings from the survey (note: responses are based on the number of students responding to the relevant survey items).

GENERAL SATISFACTION

- The percentage of AY 2012 graduate degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”² was:
 - 88% for the overall quality of academic instruction
 - 77% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
 - 69% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
 - 63% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
 - 62% for the availability of financial support for graduate students
 - 56% for social life on campus

CAMPUS SERVICES

- 60% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed”³ that it was easy to get assistance when they had a problem or question that needed to be resolved.

What Graduate Students Had to Say About Their UMD Experience:

“I think UMass Dartmouth is far more accommodating to the needs of graduate students than any other college or university in the area.”

“The quality of my education was great but essentially every one of your offices is run in the worst way.... Whenever I needed help I never knew whom to e-mail because everyone just sent me to someone else and didn't really help me out at all.”

“... the quality of classrooms, HVAC, and research space was unacceptable 90% of the time.”

^{1/} Response rate is approximate due to the inclusion of some students who had a degree confirm date outside of AY 2012 (about 13% of confirmed degree earners who took the survey).

^{2/} Satisfaction rating options were as follows: very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, neither dissatisfied nor satisfied, satisfied, and very satisfied.

^{3/} Agreement rating options were as follows: strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree nor agree, agree, strongly agree.

ACADEMICS

- 55% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they felt like there was someone or somewhere they could turn to on campus if they were struggling academically.
- 73% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 79% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience in their program.



- Among AY 2012 graduate degree earners who completed or were in the process of completing a thesis or dissertation:
 - 70% were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their understanding of how to complete a successful thesis or dissertation study.

What Graduate Students Had to Say About Their UMD Experience:

“UMass provided me with a great graduate studies experience. I will definitely recommend this program to future students.”

“I have found the professors extremely approachable and interested in students’ learning.”

“I’m satisfied with the overall experience and quality. As for recommending UMass Dartmouth, I tell people it’s the best deal around.”

STUDENT LIFE

- 58% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues.
- 24% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners participated in student clubs/ organizations.
- 52% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners had an interest in attending campus events or activities.

OVERALL RATING

- 76% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 70% of AY 2012 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass Dartmouth to future graduate students.

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