

2012-2013 GRADUATE STUDENT EXIT SURVEY Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

Key Findings:

Graduate students who earned their degrees during the 2012-2013 academic year (AY):

- Indicated *high* levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (82% very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their programs (75% very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated *less highly* their satisfaction with social life on campus (60% very satisfied or satisfied) and the availability of needed help or assistance (e.g., 58% strongly agreed or agreed that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues; 63% very satisfied or satisfied with the availability of financial assistance for graduate students).

Overall, 74% of AY 2012-2013 graduate degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Sixty-eight 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, 272 AY 2012-2013 graduate degree earners responded to the graduate student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 63.7%)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 2013 graduate degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”² was:
 - 82% for the overall quality of academic instruction
 - 81% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
 - 71% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
 - 71% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
 - 63% for the availability of financial support for graduate students
 - 60% for social life on campus

What Graduate Students Had to Say About Their UMD Experience:

“I received a great educational experience that surely prepared me for a great career.”

“Each department has separate 'rules' that make it very hard and frustrating to fix a problem within the system. They need to work together. This miscommunication made it difficult to enjoy being a student.”

“I had a very positive experience at the University. [It offers] an excellent value for the quality of education received.”

CAMPUS SERVICES

- 65% of AY 2013 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.

^{1/} Response rate is approximate due to the inclusion of some students who had a degree confirm date outside of AY 2013 (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

- 58% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they felt like there was somewhere or someone they could turn to on campus if they were struggling academically.
- 68% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 75% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience in their program.



- Among AY 2013 graduate degree earners who completed or were in the process of completing a thesis or dissertation:
 - 79% 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:

“It has been an extremely wonderful and gratifying experience attending UMass Dartmouth for my undergraduate and graduate degrees.”

“Classes were ... not offered frequently enough.”

“As a graduate commuter, I felt very disconnected from the University.”

“...members of [my] department have been very accommodating and helpful.”

STUDENT LIFE

- 58% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues.
- 24% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners participated in student clubs/organizations.
- 57% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners had an interest in attending campus events or activities.

OVERALL RATING

- 74% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 68% of AY 2013 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass Dartmouth to future graduate students.

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