

## 2014-2015 GRADUATE STUDENT EXIT SURVEY Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

### Key Findings:

Graduate students who earned their degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year (AY):

- Indicated high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (89% were very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their programs (85% were very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated less highly their satisfaction with social life on campus (68% were very satisfied or satisfied), the frequency of class offerings in their program (64% were very satisfied or satisfied), and the availability of needed help or assistance (e.g., 67% strongly agreed or agreed that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues; 63% were very satisfied or satisfied with the availability of financial support for graduate students).

Overall, 77% of AY 2014-2015 graduate degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Seventy-three 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, 296 AY 2014-2015 graduate degree earners responded to the graduate student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 63.5%)<sup>1</sup>. 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 2015 graduate degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”<sup>2</sup> was:
  - 89% for the overall quality of academic instruction
  - 86% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
  - 76% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
  - 73% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
  - 63% for the availability of financial support for graduate students
  - 68% for social life on campus

#### What Graduate Students Had to Say About Their UMassD Experience:

“I’m satisfied with UMass Dartmouth. There is always scope for improvement and I would love to see UMassD in top 50 best business schools in the world!!”

“UMASS Dartmouth provided me with all the exposure I need to be successful in life. I am completely satisfied with my experience in UMass Dartmouth.”

“My experience here at UMass Dartmouth has been extraordinary in many ways. The faculty and students are truly remarkable.”

### CAMPUS SERVICES

- 74% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed”<sup>3</sup> 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 2015 (about 9% 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

- 77% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they felt like there was someone or someone they could turn to on campus if they were struggling academically.
- 74% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 85% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience in their program. Comparatively, 64% were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the frequency of class offerings in their program.



- Among AY 2015 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 UMassD Experience:**

“Great program. Instructors engaged and knowledgeable, material edifying and challenging. Will miss being a part of the program.”

“It would be beneficial to have access to computers and library services at the offsite locations.”

“UMass Dartmouth does an excellent job empowering students so that they may pursue their goals by showing them what to learn and how to learn.”

“Some of my curriculum was very redundant. Availability of classes was often extremely inconvenient for working students.”

“UMass Dartmouth has given me the strength and confidence to face the world!”

## STUDENT LIFE

- 67% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they received sufficient help with any personal or social issues.
- 31% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners participated in student clubs/ organizations.
- 63% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners had an interest in attending campus events or activities.

## OVERALL RATING

- 77% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 73% of AY 2015 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass Dartmouth to future graduate students.

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