

2017-2018 GRADUATE STUDENT EXIT SURVEY

Data on Student Satisfaction and Co-curricular Participation

Key Findings:

Graduate students who earned their degrees during the 2017-2018 academic year (AY):

- Indicated high levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of academic instruction (88% were very satisfied or satisfied) and their overall experience in their programs (88% were very satisfied or satisfied).
- Rated less highly their satisfaction with the frequency of class offerings in their program (70% were very satisfied or satisfied), social life on campus (67% were very satisfied or satisfied), and the availability of financial support for graduate students (e.g., tuition support, graduate research/teaching assistantships) 60% were very satisfied or satisfied.
- Overall, 87% of AY 2017-2018 graduate degree earners were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth. Eighty-two 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, 476 AY 2017-2018 graduate degree earners responded to the graduate student exit survey (a response rate of approximately 83.7%)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 2017-2018 graduate degree earners who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” or “satisfied”² was:
 - 88% for the overall quality of academic instruction
 - 87% for the feeling of personal safety on campus
 - 81% for the overall quality of instructional spaces
 - 78% for the maintenance (upkeep) of campus buildings and grounds
 - 67% for social life on campus
 - 60% for the availability of financial support for graduate students

What Graduate Students Had to Say About Their UMassD Experience:

“Best experiences of my life . The time spent at UMass Dartmouth will always be cherished.”

“I completed my undergrad and now my MBA here, it was a fun time and I would highly recommend it.”

“It was a great experience. I learnt a lot of new things and developed myself in so many different ways.”

“UMass Dartmouth is the best and I feel I made good decision by choosing this university. Thank you so much for all the help.”

CAMPUS SERVICES

- 74% of AY 2017-2018 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 2018 (about 4% 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

- 76% of AY 2018 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.
- 83% of AY 2018 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that UMass Dartmouth had prepared them to enter the work force or further their studies.
- 88% of AY 2018 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience in their program. Comparatively, 70% were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the frequency of class offerings in their program.
- Among AY 2018 graduate degree earners who completed or were in the process of completing a thesis or dissertation:
 - 85% 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:

“It has been a pleasure to be both an undergraduate and graduate student at UMass Dartmouth.”

“Overall UMass was a blessing for me and assisted me in achieving my goals and objectives.”
“I appreciated having this high-quality institution in my “backyard”.”

“I am happy that I chose UMass Dartmouth for Graduate school.”

“The professors and course materials have been excellent - very knowledgeable, helpful, and are excellent teachers.”

“UMass Dartmouth is a great place to learn if you like to interact with professors. They are really helpful and are readily available.”

“Faculty are kind, knowledgeable and caring people....”

OVERALL RATING

- 87% of AY 2018 graduate degree earners were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at UMass Dartmouth.
- 82% of AY 2018 graduate degree earners “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend UMass Dartmouth to future graduate students.

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