Focus on Student Surveys

This newsletter highlights important findings from the recent Student Experience Survey. There was robust participation from students, with 37% of the doctoral students (1022 responses) and 38% of the master’s students (245 responses) completing the survey. Several areas were covered in the survey, including program satisfaction, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the impacts of COVID-19. These data provide us with information on current students’ experience and satisfaction and a robust baseline for future studies. The full reports are available on the OIRE website (doctoral report and master’s report). Contact us at institutionalresearch@gc.cuny.edu with questions and to find out how we can help with your data needs.

Program Satisfaction

OIRE News Highlights:

- This spring, OIRE developed the Internal Data Portal for EOs, APOs, directors, and administrators (access via the OIRE webpage). Dashboards and reports are available on feeder schools, alumni outcomes, diversity information, and students’ progress.
- Stay tuned for upcoming findings on our recent Graduate Center doctoral graduates! OIRE is analyzing six years of data from NSF’s Survey of Earned Doctorates.
- We have updated our website, including our data dashboards, external reports, and information on many other areas relevant to students, faculty, and staff.

Previous OIRE newsletters are available here.

- Students are mostly satisfied with the diversity of the student body and staff in their programs. They are less satisfied with the diversity of their faculty.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Both doctoral and master’s students feel there is value and respect for all types of differences in their programs.
- The majority of doctoral and master’s students report a culture of inclusion in their classrooms, including accommodations for students with disabilities and encouragement of diverse students to work together.

Impacts of COVID-19

- More than two-thirds of doctoral students report that their research was disrupted by COVID.
- Postgraduate plans, including for employment and further education, were impacted by COVID, particularly for master’s students.
- In general, master’s and doctoral students are satisfied with their instructors’ flexibility and availability during COVID-19, and the effectiveness and quality of remote instruction.
- Of all areas of support during COVID, students are least satisfied with support for mental health.

Climate

- Most doctoral and master’s students would recommend their programs to others and are satisfied with the quality of their education.
- Students generally agree that their advisers are available. However, a third of the master’s students feel they do not receive constructive feedback on their progress towards their degree.
- For doctoral students, there is a slight decline in satisfaction with advising, program quality, and skills gained as students progress from Level 1 to Level 3.
- Doctoral students report high levels of scholarship, with 78% presenting at conferences and 50% writing journal articles.

Satisfaction with Diversity

- Doctoral students are mostly satisfied with respect for differences and there is a classroom culture of inclusion.
- In contrast, a third of master’s students feel their degree is not inclusive for all types of differences.

COVID-19 Impacts

- Research was disrupted: 69%
- Timeline for completing degree changed: 58%
- Postgrad plans changed: 47%
- Funding was reduced or suspended: 31% Doctoral, 15% Master's

Student Satisfaction with Support During COVID-19

- Mental health support: 59%
- Instructor availability: 91%
- Effectiveness of remote instruction: 79%
- Overall quality of instruction: 85%