

## **Graduate Student Experience Survey (2009)**

### **Program Satisfaction, Satisfaction with Advisor and Departmental Climate Summary for College of Arts and Sciences – Social Sciences**

#### **Program Satisfaction:**

The tables show the proportions of students who rated their programs as Excellent on a 5-point scale, Excellent or Very Good combined on that scale, and Fair or Poor combined.

Reading across these tables History, Geography, Environmental Sciences Studies and Policy (ESSP) and Environmental Studies (ENV) were rated as the strongest programs, followed by International and Area Studies. Students in Political Science and Sociology rated their programs as only Fair or Poor on more items than other programs, and fewer students in those programs rated their programs as Excellent or Very Good.

Students in the Social Sciences division indicated a higher degree of program satisfaction in the following areas:

- ✓ Quality of the faculty
- ✓ Performance in keeping pace with trends and developments in the field
- ✓ Adequacy of training about professional ethics/professional integrity
- ✓ Opportunities to present research
- ✓ Intellectual community
- ✓ Overall program quality

The areas that generated the most dissatisfaction include the following:

- ✓ Space, facilities, and equipment
- ✓ Financial support for students
- ✓ Effort to promote a diverse, inclusive community

Other areas that warrant attention because fewer students assessed them as strong are:

- ✓ Preparation for teaching
- ✓ Clarity of evaluation criteria
- ✓ Fairness of evaluation criteria
- ✓ Processes for involving students in decisions that affect them

#### **Advisors:**

Student satisfaction with their advisors is generally high in the Social Sciences. Students in Geography, History, and International and Area Studies registered the most positive overall evaluations of their advisors. Students in Sociology expressed both relatively positive and relatively negative opinions about their advisors.

Students are most satisfied with their advisors in the following areas:

- ✓ Encouraging
- ✓ Respectful
- ✓ Providing valuable feedback to students
- ✓ Communicating effectively across cultural and linguistic boundaries

- ✓ Treating students equitably
- ✓ Helps develop professional relationships in the field
- ✓ Advice about getting work published or performed

Areas that warrant attention either because of lower expressed satisfaction or greater dissatisfaction include:

- ✓ Assistance with securing funding,
- ✓ Provision of timely feedback
- ✓ Makes me feel comfortable expressing concerns I have about graduate school.

### **Departmental Climate:**

We asked students to rate 13 positive descriptors of departmental climate, choosing from a 5-point scale from Very to Not at All. The first climate table shows the scores for the top rating, the second table shows the scores for the top two ratings, and the third shows those for the two bottom ratings.

Reading across these tables Environmental Science, Studies and Policy (ESSP), Environmental Studies (ENVS), Geography, History, International Studies emerge as departments with the highest ratings for departmental climate. Sociology has the most significant climate issues based on both a comparatively high number of negative and low number of positive scores. Students also signal concerns about departmental climate in Anthropology and Political Science.

Within the Social Sciences division departmental climates are perceived to be most positive in the following areas:

- ✓ Open to interdisciplinary inquiry
- ✓ Gender equitable
- ✓ Inclusive of students of all sexual orientations
- ✓ Family friendly
- ✓ Foster community among students
- ✓ Intellectually open
- ✓ Accommodating of students with disabilities
- ✓ Supportive

The areas of greatest perceived weakness in departmental climate within the Social Sciences are

- ✓ Racial inclusivity
- ✓ Diversity

**College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences**  
**PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THEIR PROGRAM AS "EXCELLENT" BY PROGRAM**

**Program Satisfaction**

(Total # of Respondents by Program)

	ANTH (24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
<b>Quality of the faculty</b>	17.6	13.3	41.2	56.6	72.1	28.8	10.2	18.8
<b>Program's performance in keeping pace with recent trends and developments in my field</b>	22.6	20.6	39.5	65.4	39.3	28.8	10.2	23.6
<b>Professional training and/or research opportunities in my program</b>	21.0	9.5	35.0	42.4	32.8	6.8	13.2	7.4
<b>Adequacy of preparation for my teaching</b>	7.6	15.0	23.7	22.9	29.0	6.8	13.2	15.0
<b>Quality of academic guidance and advising</b>	16.1	21.0	25.4	39.0	56.4	28.8	21.1	14.7
<b>Support for interdisciplinary inquiry</b>	15.6	5.2	72.9	32.7	44.6	50.7	18.1	14.7
<b>Clarity of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students</b>	3.8	5.5	7.9	9.8	28.5	22.0	6.6	8.1
<b>Fairness of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students</b>	3.8	15.9	23.7	18.5	49.9	20.5	9.9	8.1
<b>Adequacy of training about professional ethics/academic integrity</b>	8.4	15.9	7.9	36.1	51.1	28.8	23.5	14.3
<b>Opportunities to present my research, studio projects or performances</b>	24.0	42.0	58.8	66.3	33.4	20.5	7.3	33.1
<b>Intellectual community in the program</b>	12.3	19.5	57.1	71.7	54.3	15.1	10.2	18.8
<b>Financial support for graduate students</b>	16.9	20.0	39.5	19.5	38.1	8.3	21.1	0.0
<b>Space, facilities and equipment</b>	7.6	4.5	0.0	19.5	27.9	22.0	7.3	11.7
<b>Process for involving graduate students in program decisions that affect graduate students</b>	8.0	26.9	65.0	23.9	27.9	22.0	7.3	0.0
<b>Effort to promote a diverse, inclusive community</b>	3.8	16.9	31.6	43.4	32.8	22.0	14.5	4.0
<b>Overall Program Quality</b>	3.8	0.0	57.1	43.8	38.7	22.0	10.2	7.4

\*light green shading indicates that 33.3% or more of respondents rated their program as "Excellent."

\*\*dark green shading indicates that 50% or more of respondents rated their program as "Excellent."

**College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences**  
**PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THEIR PROGRAM AS "EXCELLENT" or "VERY GOOD" BY PROGRAM**

Program Satisfaction	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH(24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
<b>Quality of the faculty</b>	68.0	74.3	92.1	90.3	100.0	78.1	74.5	76.3
<b>Program's performance in keeping pace with recent trends and developments in my field</b>	65.5	73.0	84.2	84.9	88.2	57.6	47.8	58.3
<b>Professional training and/or research opportunities in my program</b>	45.5	61.6	68.3	66.3	65.6	56.1	30.7	22.4
<b>Adequacy of preparation for my teaching</b>	24.0	30.5	58.7	45.8	61.3	42.4	47.6	30.4
<b>Quality of academic guidance and advising</b>	53.2	46.0	50.8	67.3	88.1	64.4	41.2	40.1
<b>Support for interdisciplinary inquiry</b>	57.0	31.9	92.1	61.0	66.2	71.2	28.3	25.4
<b>Clarity of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students</b>	33.8	31.4	57.0	32.7	60.7	71.3	23.7	15.5
<b>Fairness of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students</b>	40.6	52.4	84.2	51.2	82.2	71.2	34.3	19.5
<b>Adequacy of training about professional ethics/academic integrity</b>	54.8	41.4	68.4	75.1	66.7	62.9	40.6	51.8
<b>Opportunities to present my research, studio projects or performances</b>	70.8	67.5	84.2	84.8	60.3	47.8	44.3	70.6
<b>Intellectual community in the program</b>	39.8	67.0	92.1	95.6	77.4	57.5	36.3	40.2
<b>Financial support for graduate students</b>	29.2	45.5	64.9	58.5	48.9	49.3	32.0	22.1
<b>Space, facilities and equipment</b>	19.9	35.9	23.7	46.8	71.0	42.5	28.1	34.5
<b>Process for involving graduate students in program decisions that affect graduate students</b>	20.3	57.0	100.0	47.8	54.3	49.3	17.5	15.4
<b>Effort to promote a diverse, inclusive community</b>	44.7	42.9	74.5	62.9	55.4	63.0	30.7	14.7
<b>Overall Program Quality</b>	54.0	59.3	92.1	85.0	76.3	78.1	40.8	36.8

\*light green shading indicates that 50% or more of respondents rated their program as "Excellent" or "Very Good."

\*\*dark green shading indicates that 75% or more of respondents rated their program as "Excellent" or "Very Good."

**College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences**  
**PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THEIR PROGRAM AS "FAIR" or "POOR" BY PROGRAM**

**Program Satisfaction**

(Total # of Respondents by Program)

	ANTH(24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
Quality of the faculty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	8.4
Program's performance in keeping pace with recent trends and developments in my field	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	14.1	16.0
Professional training and/or research opportunities in my program	13.0	11.0	7.9	0.0	34.4	13.6	41.5	34.2
Adequacy of preparation for my teaching	19.9	42.0	15.8	4.4	16.7	8.3	32.0	18.0
Quality of academic guidance and advising	20.7	22.0	15.8	5.4	5.9	13.6	30.3	34.5
Support for interdisciplinary inquiry	12.2	40.3	0.0	19.5	17.1	6.8	21.1	57.3
Clarity of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students	25.3	31.0	0.0	13.2	17.7	13.7	58.5	43.1
Fairness of evaluation criteria used to assess graduate students	9.3	21.0	0.0	4.4	5.9	6.8	41.0	29.7
Adequacy of training about professional ethics/academic integrity	16.9	37.5	0.0	9.8	11.2	0.0	17.5	18.8
Opportunities to present my research, studio projects or performances	4.6	16.5	7.9	4.4	11.8	6.8	28.0	11.4
Intellectual community in the program	8.4	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	29.0	38.6
Financial support for graduate students	46.4	15.9	9.6	23.9	39.3	28.8	38.3	51.9
Space, facilities and equipment	56.1	27.5	7.9	24.9	17.7	21.9	37.6	37.6
Process for involving graduate students in program decisions that affect graduate students	36.8	11.0	0.0	24.9	17.7	15.1	61.3	52.2
Effort to promote a diverse, inclusive community	43.1	29.1	15.8	14.2	10.8	8.3	23.8	51.1
Overall Program Quality	8.4	5.8	0.0	0.0	5.9	0	19.8	8

\*red shading indicates that 20% or more of respondents rated their program as "Fair" or "Poor."

College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO STRONGLY AGREED WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT THEIR ADVISOR

Advisor	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH (24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST(14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
Encourages me in my scholarly pursuits	57.8	57.0	65.0	50.5	65.1	76.4	40.4	59.4
Treats my ideas with respect	47.8	39.7	65.0	53.2	66.2	61.8	40.8	53.0
Provides valuable feedback on my work	66.2	57.0	36.9	70.7	83.3	76.4	54.6	78.9
Provides timely feedback on my work	58.6	39.7	45.6	75.1	60.9	67.5	36.9	52.2
Is available when I need help or advice	37.6	50.9	56.3	51.2	65.8	67.5	33.3	58.6
Communicates effectively with students across cultural and linguistics boundaries	61.6	45.8	47.5	66.3	77.4	76.4	53.9	83.5
Treats students in the department equitably	49.3	45.8	56.3	53.2	77.4	60.2	54.6	63.0
Has emphasized the importance of professional ethics	45.5	44.8	36.9	51.2	54.3	38.2	23.4	61.7
Helps me secure funding for my graduate studies, research or creative work	57.8	44.8	28.1	46.8	32.3	47.1	19.5	26.7
Helps me develop professional relationships with others in the field	49.3	57.0	38.8	57.6	77.4	69.1	43.6	62.2
Advises me about how to get my work published, performed, or shown	36.3	52.0	47.5	71.7	77.4	60.2	59.2	78.9
Encourages the expression of intellectual differences	54.0	39.7	38.8	49.7	71.5	44.0	51.8	63.0
Makes me feel comfortable talking about concerns I am facing in graduate school	54.0	45.8	47.5	56.6	43.6	52.9	23.9	45.0

\*light green shading indicates that 50% or more of respondents strongly agreed with the above dimensions about their advisor.

\*\*dark green shading indicates that 75% or more of respondents strongly agreed with the above dimensions about their advisor.

College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED OR STRONGLY DISAGREED WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT THEIR ADVISOR

Advisor	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH(24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INT'L ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
Encourages me in my scholarly pursuits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	8.0
Treats my ideas with respect	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	8.3
Provides valuable feedback on my work	4.6	6.1	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Provides timely feedback on my work	16.8	12.3	8.7	14.1	5.9	7.3	18.8	8.7
Is available when I need help or advice	16.0	0.0	17.5	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.4
Communicates effectively with students across cultural and linguistics boundaries	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4
Treats students in the department equitably	3.8	6.1	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	3.9	7.2
Has emphasized the importance of professional ethics	13.1	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Helps me secure funding for my graduate studies, research or creative work	3.8	12.3	26.2	8.8	11.8	7.3	14.9	33.4
Helps me develop professional relationships with others in the field	13.1	12.2	17.5	9.8	5.9	7.3	11.4	23.9
Advises me about how to get my work published, performed, or shown	16.9	0.0	8.7	8.8	5.9	14.7	10.3	16.7
Encourages the expression of intellectual differences	0.0	12.3	0.0	14.1	0.0	0.0	11.7	23.9
Makes me feel comfortable talking about concerns I am facing in graduate school	13.0	0.0	8.7	13.9	11.8	0.0	3.9	20.3

\*red shading indicates that 20% or more of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statements above about their advisor.

College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THE CLIMATE AS VERY MUCH LIKE THE DESCRIPTION (1 ON A 5 POINT SCALE)

Climate	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH (24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
<b>Welcoming</b>	13.9	24.6	65.0	18.5	38.1	28.8	18.1	4.0
<b>Respectful</b>	13.9	25.9	82.5	28.3	39.7	50.7	31.6	7.7
<b>Encouraging</b>	22.1	31.4	81.0	28.3	53.1	35.6	37.1	9.1
<b>Racially inclusive (race and ethnicity)</b>	20.7	20.0	23.7	51.2	47.8	42.4	13.9	10.7
<b>Gender equitable</b>	18.1	46.0	82.5	52.2	68.7	56.1	18.7	11.1
<b>Family-friendly</b>	16.9	31.0	50.9	70.7	71.5	42.4	21.3	11.4
<b>Diverse</b>	16.9	41.1	15.8	90.2	77.4	57.6	31.3	11.4
<b>Intellectually open to different theoretical, methodological or creative approaches</b>	16.1	20.5	66.7	46.8	49.5	49.3	18.1	11.8
<b>Accommodating for students with disabilities</b>	24.5	40.5	17.2	67.3	61.7	57.6	28.0	12.1
<b>Inclusive of students of all sexual orientations</b>	11.4	25.5	74.6	56.6	54.3	49.3	16.9	15.2
<b>Supportive</b>	16.1	41.1	90.4	89.3	77.4	64.4	28.0	22.1
<b>Fosters community among graduate students</b>	16.9	36.0	80.8	84.9	60.3	42.4	24.4	34.2
<b>Open to interdisciplinary inquiry</b>	40.6	40.5	90.4	65.4	60.9	50.7	44.5	37.5

\*light green shading indicates that 33.3% or more of respondents rated the climate as 1.

\*\*dark green shading indicates that 50% or more of respondents rated the climate as 1.



College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THE CLIMATE AS VERY MUCH LIKE OR LIKE THE DESCRIPTION (1 OR 2 ON A 5 POINT SCALE)

Climate	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH(24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
<b>Welcoming</b>	74.7	78.0	92.1	94.7	94.1	100.0	71.6	69.2
<b>Respectful</b>	70.5	83.5	100.0	94.6	94.1	93.2	78.9	63.2
<b>Encouraging</b>	70.9	73.0	100.0	89.2	94.1	100.0	52.8	43.4
<b>Racially inclusive (race and ethnicity)</b>	54.5	56.9	74.6	70.7	72.5	100.0	66.0	39.1
<b>Gender equitable</b>	83.1	72.5	92.1	94.6	77.3	93.2	69.0	38.2
<b>Family-friendly</b>	59.8	72.5	100.0	80.5	84.3	93.2	58.1	46.6
<b>Diverse</b>	38.4	45.6	50.8	42.4	54.8	78.1	42.2	15.4
<b>Intellectually open to different theoretical, methodological or creative approaches</b>	66.7	67.0	92.1	80.5	94.1	86.3	51.1	25.4
<b>Accommodating for students with disabilities</b>	55.8	67.9	82.9	66.3	83.1	79.5	85.2	12.9
<b>Inclusive of students of all sexual orientations</b>	66.7	61.5	100.0	94.7	78.6	86.3	89.8	70.6
<b>Supportive</b>	59.1	78.0	100.0	94.6	88.1	79.6	50.5	33.9
<b>Fosters community among graduate students</b>	54.0	62.5	100.0	100.0	71.1	72.7	57.5	73.0
<b>Open to interdisciplinary inquiry</b>	83.2	50.6	100.0	74.1	77.0	86.4	62.3	37.3

\*light green shading indicates that 50% or more of respondents rated the climate as 1 or 2.

\*\*dark green shading indicates that 75% or more of respondents rated the climate as 1 or 2.

College of Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED THE CLIMATE AS VERY MUCH NOT LIKE OR NOT LIKE THE DESCRIPTION (4 OR 5 ON A 5 POINT SCALE)

Climate	(Total # of Respondents by Program)							
	ANTH(24)	ECON (22)	ESSP and ENV (12)	GEOG (21)	HIST (20)	INTL ST (14)	POLSCI (31)	SOC (29)
<b>Welcoming</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.0	10.2	7.3
<b>Respectful</b>	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	14.7
<b>Encouraging</b>	4.6	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	26.8
<b>Racially inclusive (race and ethnicity)</b>	36.8	11.0	15.8	19.5	21.6	0.0	13.9	42.9
<b>Gender equitable</b>	3.8	11.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	6.8	6.6	24.6
<b>Family-friendly</b>	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	3.1	23.7
<b>Diverse</b>	26.2	21.4	15.8	14.1	22.6	0.0	20.5	48.2
<b>Intellectually open to different theoretical, methodological or creative approaches</b>	8.8	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.5	36.4
<b>Accommodating for students with disabilities</b>	4.9	5.5	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4
<b>Inclusive of students of all sexual orientations</b>	3.8	0.0	0.0	5.4	5.3	0.0	0.0	8.1
<b>Supportive</b>	8.4	5.5	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	13.8	16.0
<b>Fosters community among graduate students</b>	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	6.8	17.5	12.6
<b>Open to interdisciplinary inquiry</b>	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.5	26.5

\*red shading indicates that 20% or more of respondents rated the climate as 4 or 5.