Graduate Student Exit Survey

Welcome MIT Graduating Student,

The purpose of this survey is to gather your opinions on your graduate education. The information obtained from you and other students will help us identify strategies to improve graduate and professional education and co-curricular support.

The survey is entirely voluntary and you may answer as few or as many questions as you wish. All of your responses will be kept strictly confidential.

Your participation is very important and greatly appreciated!

Enter the Survey >>
(You will need MIT Web Certificates to enter the questionnaire.)

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact gradstudentsurvey@mit.edu.

Educational Status

In which degree program(s) are you currently enrolled? (choose all that apply)

☐ S.M.
☐ M.B.A.
☐ M.Arch.
☐ M.C.P.
☐ M.Eng.
☐ Ph.D.
☐ Sc.D.
☐ Eng.
Other (please specify) [_____]

What is your primary department?
[Select Department... ▼]

What is your primary program or discipline?
[_____]

When did you first enroll in your current program?

Semester	Year
○ Fall	○ 1999 or earlier
○ Spring	○ 2000
○ Winter	○ 2001
○ Summer	○ 2002
	○ 2003
	○ 2004
	○ 2005
	○ 2006

When did you or will you receive your degree?

Semester	Year
○ Fall	○ 2003
○ Spring	○ 2004
○ Winter	○ 2005
○ Summer	○ 2006
	○ 2007
	○ 2008

Satisfaction with Program, Quality of Interactions, and Coursework

Please rate the following dimensions of your program.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
The intellectual quality of the faculty	○	○	○	○	○
The intellectual quality of my fellow graduate/professional students	○	○	○	○	○
The relationship between faculty and graduate/professional students	○	○	○	○	○

Program's ability to integrate recent developments in my field	○	○	○	○	○
Program space and facilities	○	○	○	○	○
Overall quality of graduate level teaching by faculty	○	○	○	○	○
Amount of financial support	○	○	○	○	○
Quality of academic advising and guidance	○	○	○	○	○
Helpfulness of staff members in my department or program	○	○	○	○	○
Assistance in finding employment	○	○	○	○	○
The opportunity to interact across disciplines	○	○	○	○	○
Academic standards in my program	○	○	○	○	○
Overall program quality	○	○	○	○	○

If you were to start your graduate/professional career again,

	Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe	Probably	Definitely
would you select this same university?	○	○	○	○	○
would you select the same field of study?	○	○	○	○	○
would you recommend this university to someone considering your program?	○	○	○	○	○
would you recommend this university to someone in another field?	○	○	○	○	○

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Ambivalent	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Students in my program are treated with respect by faculty.	○	○	○	○	○
Faculty members are willing to work with me.	○	○	○	○	○
Rapport between faculty and students in my program is good.	○	○	○	○	○
My own relationships and interaction with faculty are good.	○	○	○	○	○
There are tensions among faculty that affect students.	○	○	○	○	○
Financial support for students in my program is distributed fairly.	○	○	○	○	○
Students in my program are collegial.	○	○	○	○	○
My relationships and interaction with other students in my program are good.	○	○	○	○	○
Overall, the climate of my program is positive.	○	○	○	○	○
Program activities foster a sense of intellectual community.	○	○	○	○	○
Program content supports my research/professional goals.	○	○	○	○	○
Program structure encourages student collaboration or teamwork.	○	○	○	○	○
Program structure provides opportunities to take coursework outside my own department.	○	○	○	○	○
Program structure provides opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary work.	○	○	○	○	○
Amount of coursework seems appropriate to the degree.	○	○	○	○	○

How would you rate your department on each of the following?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Availability of area courses I needed to complete my program	○	○	○	○	○
Quality of instruction in my courses	○	○	○	○	○
Encouragement to take courses outside my program	○	○	○	○	○

Overall, the quality of course work in my program	○	○	○	○	○

Financial Support

Please indicate the form(s) of support you received while you were enrolled in your program.
(check all that apply)

☐	U.S. government fellowship
☐	U.S. government traineeship
☐	Foreign government fellowship
☐	External (to university) nongovernment fellowship
☐	University funded fellowships
☐	Graduate research assistantship
☐	Graduate teaching assistantship
☐	Other part-time research employment
☐	Other part-time teaching employment
☐	Residence assistantship
☐	Full tuition scholarships or waivers
☐	Partial tuition scholarships or waivers
☐	Other campus employment
☐	Off campus employment
☐	Employee benefit or employer funding
☐	Loans, savings, or family assistance

General Assessment

Overall, how would you rate the quality of:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
your academic experience at this university?	○	○	○	○	○
your student life experience at this university?	○	○	○	○	○
your graduate/professional program at this university?	○	○	○	○	○
your overall experience at this university?	○	○	○	○	○

Personal Demographics

Gender
○ Male   ○ Female

What is your present citizenship status?
○ U.S. citizen
○ U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) and citizen of another country
○ Citizen of another country with a student visa or other nonimmigrant visa
　 Please specify country: [   ]

To which racial or ethnic group do you belong? (Mark all that apply)
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Asian
☐ Black or African American
☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ White
☐ Other, please specify [   ]

Post Graduation Plans and Retrospective Assessment

Which of the following best describes the current state of your employment plans immediately after you complete your degree?

- ○ Employed or have a definite job offer related to my most recent degree
- ○ Employed, but not in my field
- ○ Negotiating with one or more specific organizations (in or out of field)
- ○ Under consideration for a position but have not received final word (in or out of field)
- ○ Seeking employment in my field, no offer at this time
- ○ In military service
- ○ Scholarship commitment
- ○ Paid to volunteer work for the Peace Corps, Vista, etc.
- ○ Not seeking employment immediately

Which of the following best describes your expectation for employment immediately after you complete your degree at MIT?
- ○ Postdoctoral researcher or fellow
- ○ Researcher, academic setting
- ○ Researcher, nonacademic setting (e.g., national lab/industry/medical center)
- ○ Tenure track faculty position
- ○ Non-tenure track faculty position
- ○ Secondary school teaching position
- ○ Manager or administrator
- ○ Finance, Accounting
- ○ Marketing, Sales
- ○ Engineer, Manufacturing
- ○ Management information systems, Programmer
- ○ Medical professional
- ○ Writer, Journalist, Artist, Musician
- ○ Lawyer
- ○ Analyst
- ○ Clergy
- ○ Other (please specify) [   ]
- ○ Not sure
- ○ Not applicable (e.g., I plan to enroll in another degree or certificate program)

Since entering this graduate program, have you changed your mind about the type of position you expect to have after you graduate?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

If Yes, please describe. [   ]

Do you expect the position indicated above to be directly related to your graduate/professional training?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not sure
- ○ Not applicable

How would you categorize the employer you expect/hope to work for immediately after you complete your graduate degree?
- ○ U.S. federal government, or your home country if not the U.S.
- ○ State or local government
- ○ Industry or business
- ○ Nonprofit organization or foundation
- ○ College or university
- ○ Community or junior college
- ○ Elementary, secondary, or special focus school
- ○ Self-employed, private practice, or consultant
- ○ Hospital or clinic
- ○ Other type of employer (please specify) [   ]
- ○ Not sure
- ○ Not applicable (e.g., I plan to enroll in another degree or certificate program)

Since entering this graduate program, have you changed your mind about the type of employer for whom you expect to work?
- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

If Yes, please describe. [   ]

Where would the employer you expect to work for most likely be located?
- ○ Inside the U.S.
- ○ Outside the U.S.
- ○ Not applicable

Which aspect of your graduate/professional program pleased you the most?

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[text area box]
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Were there aspects of your graduate/professional program that you found problematic?

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[text area box]
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What changes would you recommend in your graduate/professional program in the future?

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[text area box]
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PhD, MA, MS Candidates

Program Support

Please indicate whether you participated (if applicable) in any of the following activities during your graduate experience and mark your level of satisfaction if you engaged in the listed activity.

	Participated in activity?				If "Yes," how satisfied were you?				
	Yes	No	Not applicable		Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Neutral	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied
taken a course, workshop, or orientation on teaching?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on preparing for candidacy examinations?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on the process required to select a thesis advisor?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received feedback on your research?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on the standards for academic writing in your field?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on writing grant proposals?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on publishing your work?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on career options within academia?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice on career options outside academia?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
received advice about research positions?	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○

Research Experience

Presentations and Publications

	Occurs in your department/program				If "yes," number of times you were involved				
	Yes	No	Don't know		0	1	2	3	4+
Seminars/colloquia at which students present their research	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
Departmental funding for students to attend national or regional meetings	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
Attend national scholarly meetings	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
Deliver any papers or present a poster at national scholarly meetings	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
Co-authored in refereed journals with your program faculty	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○
Published as sole or first author in a refereed journal	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○

Advisor and Dissertation (Doctoral Students Only)

Dissertation advisors engage in a variety of mentoring activities. For each of the following statements, indicate the extent that it DESCRIBES THE BEHAVIOR of your dissertation advisor or chair.

My dissertation advisor:	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Ambivalent	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
was knowledgable about formal degree requirements	○	○	○	○	○	○
was available to me for consultation	○	○	○	○	○	○
served as my advocate when necessary	○	○	○	○	○	○
helped me secure financial support for my graduate work	○	○	○	○	○	○
considered me a source of labor to advance his/her research	○	○	○	○	○	○
gave me constructive feedback on my work	○	○	○	○	○	○
returned my work promptly	○	○	○	○	○	○
promoted my professional development	○	○	○	○	○	○
provided information about multiple career paths	○	○	○	○	○	○
would support me in any career path I might choose	○	○	○	○	○	○
assisted me in my search for employment	○	○	○	○	○	○
overall, performed the role well	○	○	○	○	○	○

How helpful was/were your advisor(s) for each of the following activities?

	Not at all helpful	Not very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful
Preparing for written qualifying exams	○	○	○	○
Preparing for the oral qualifying exam	○	○	○	○
Finding a dissertation topic	○	○	○	○
Writing a dissertation prospectus or proposal	○	○	○	○
Doing research for the dissertation	○	○	○	○
Writing the dissertation	○	○	○	○

Did the university and/or your program provide coaching and workshops for students writing doctoral dissertations?
○ Yes   ○ No   ○ Don't know

Did you attend workshops for students writing doctoral dissertations?
○ Yes   ○ No

If NO, please skip to the end of this page and select FINISH to save your entries.

What did you find useful about the dissertation workshops?

What other kinds of workshops should be made available to students writing doctoral dissertation?

Thank you very much for your participation!

Thank you for filling out the Graduate Student Exit Survey!

You are now done with the full survey. You may return to the survey while it is open to edit or complete your answers.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact gradstudentsurvey@mit.edu.