

Miami University Assessment

Graduate Students' Professional Development

In the Spring of 2005, 605 Miami University graduate students (51.6% response rate) participated in an online Graduate Student Survey (GSS). The 74-question survey was designed to assess graduate students' experiences and satisfaction in the following areas: support from their graduate program, students' professional development, coursework, student life, university resources and support, students' experiences during enrollment and their first year of graduate school, and graduate program requirements.

General Satisfaction

Overall, participants reported being fairly satisfied with their experiences as a graduate student at Miami University. More than 75% of students reported being satisfied with Miami University, their department, their specific graduate program, their advisor, and the faculty in their graduate program. Less than 1% of respondents reported that they were "very dissatisfied" with the faculty in their program.

Professional Development

Overall, 68.0% of participants were satisfied with the career preparation and guidance that they received at Miami University. The survey addressed three areas of professional development: research, teaching, and professional internships and placements.

Research

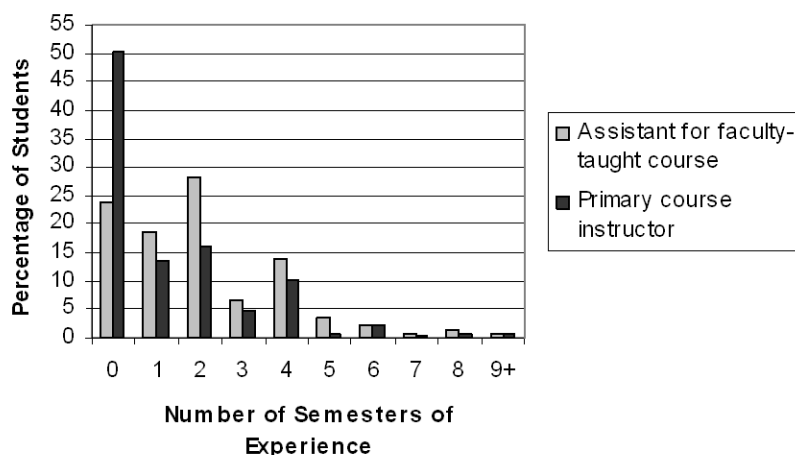
A total of 76.2% of the participants have been involved in research since entering graduate school at Miami. 49.9% of the respondents have presented their research in a departmental or program seminar, colloquia, or other similar setting; 37.7% of respondents have delivered a talk or presented a poster at a national or regional scholarly meeting or conference; only 21.6% have published an article or book chapter as either a sole author or in collaboration with others. Among those students who have been involved in research at Miami, 78.3% were satisfied with how well, overall, their program was preparing them for scholarly research.

Teaching

67.0% of respondents have either assisted with a faculty member's course or been a primary instructor for an undergraduate course since entering their graduate program at Miami. (See figure.) Among those students, 62.9% were satisfied with how well their program was preparing them for college

teaching. 73.5% of these students indicated that their department provides training in teaching skills; 59.0% stated that this training occurred prior to their having full responsibility for a course. However, only 47.7% of these students agreed that teaching assistants in their program were appropriately prepared and trained before entering the classroom.

Graduate Student Teaching Experience



Professional Internships

38.2% of the respondents indicated that one of the objectives of their graduate program was providing students with professional internships or placements (on- or off-campus). Among those students, 75.7% were satisfied with how well, overall, their program was preparing them for their professional work. 76.4% agreed that they developed the administrative and human relations skills necessary for success in their profession. However, only 47.3% agreed that there were adequate opportunities to acquire professional experience through supervised practice.

Additional Results

The results presented here, as well as many additional findings from the GSS, were shared with both the Graduate Council and the Council of Academic Deans during the Fall, 2005 semester. The divisional deans were also provided with the results for individual departments (when available). If you have additional questions about this brief or the GSS, please contact Andrea Bakker, Coordinator of Assessment, at bakkerai@muohio.edu or 529-1567.