Ph.D. Exit Survey

Summary of Responses for Academic Year 2017

(Summer 2016, Fall 2016, & Spring 2017)

University of Pennsylvania
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# 2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Group Respondent Representativeness (based on census file)

## University of Pennsylvania

### Ph.D Exit Survey: Respondent Representativeness

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### By School

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### By Race/Ethnicity

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### By Cluster

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Figure 2: First enrollment as a graduate student at Penn:

Figure 3: Degrees Awarded by Term:

Figure 4: Average Time to Degree (semester/year degree received - semester/year degree started):

Responses: 474

Responses: 475

Responses: 477

(Mean=6.04, Std=1.61)
Figure 5: Respondents by Gender:

- Male: 54%
- Female: 46%
- Transgender: 0%
- Other/Unknown: 25%

Responses: 477

Figure 6: Percent identifying as a gender or sexual minority:

- US citizen: 67%
- Permanent Resident: 3%
- International: 30%

Responses: 458

Figure 6: Question modified in AY 2016-17.
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Demographics

University of Pennsylvania

Figure 8: Respondents by Race:

- White non-Hispanic: 47%
- International: 33%
- Asian American/Pacific Islander: 10%
- Hispanic/Latino/a: 3%
- African American/Black: 2%
- Other/Unknown: 2%
- Two or more races: 1%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0%

Responses: 477

Figure 9: Respondents who are currently married or living with a long-term partner:

- 58%

Responses: 438

Figure 10: Respondents whose spouse or partner...

- is a Graduate student: 23%
- works outside the home: 85%

Responses: 255
*Figure 11: Respondents with children:

![Bar chart showing 16% of respondents have children.](image)

Responses: 450

**Figure 12: Of those with children, percent with kids in the following age ranges (indicate all that apply):**

- 0-2 years: 76%
- 3-5 years: 44%
- 6-12 years: 38%
- 13 and over: 33%

![Bar chart showing age range percentages.](image)

Responses: 72

**Figure 13: International respondents who plan to return to their country for professional employment within the next two years:**

![Bar chart showing 28% of respondents plan to return.](image)

Responses: 137

*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.*
Figure 14: Respondents self identified Socio-Economic Status:

- Low Income or Poor: 4%
- Working class: 16%
- Middle class: 36%
- Upper-middle or Professional-middle: 40%
- Wealthy: 3%

Responses: 446

*Figure 14a: Debt related to UNDERGRADUATE education:

- None: 72%
- < $20,000: 17%
- $20,001 - 40,000: 8%
- $40,001 - 60,000: 2%
- $60,001 - 80,000: 1%
- $80,001 - 100,000: 0%
- $100,001 or more: 1%

Responses: 460

*Question added in AY 2015-2016.
*Figure 15: Percent reporting program providing a formal orientation to help understand the process of completing your graduate degree:

- Yes, and I attended: 70%
- Yes, but I did not attend: 2%
- No: 8%
- I don’t remember: 20%

Responses: 472

*Figure 16: Effectiveness of orientation in helping to understand the process of completing graduate degree:

- Very ineffective (1): 7%
- Fairly ineffective (2): 12%
- Neither (3): 52%
- Fairly effective (4): 29%
- Very effective (5): 7%

(Group Mean= 3.99, Std= 0.90)

Responses: 332

*Figure 17: Respondents who received...

- Written expectations about their academic requirements and expected progress: 89%
- Formal assessment of their academic progress annually: 69%

Responses: 465

*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Academic

University of Pennsylvania

*Figure 17a: Percent reporting early formal academic assessment or exam to review overall academic progress:

First year: 42%
Second year: 39%
Third year: 8%
Fourth year or beyond: 1%
None: 9%

Responses: 469

*Figure 17b: Year of study in which coursework for Ph.D. completed:

First year: 9%
Second year: 43%
Third year: 38%
Fourth year or beyond: 10%

Responses: 468

*Figure 17c: Year of study in which Candidacy Exam completed:

First year: 5%
Second year: 32%
Third year: 29%
Fourth year or beyond: 32%
Did not take: 2%

Responses: 468

Figure 18: Value of Candidacy Exam (the last examination prior to dissertation research):

Group

(Group Mean= 2.96, Std= 0.91)

Not beneficial (1)  Somewhat beneficial (2)  Beneficial (3)  Very beneficial (4)

Responses: 460

Figure 19: Percent responding Candidacy Exam in its current form should be modified:

Yes  15%

No  63%

Don't know  22%

Responses: 464
*Figure 19a: Percent of respondents who...

- Met with a Dissertation advisor at least twice each year to establish expectations and to review progress: 93%
- Prepared an Annual Dissertation Report summarizing progress: 74%
- Met with a Dissertation Committee at least once annually: 78%

Responses: 464

*Questions added at the middle of 2014-2015 survey administration.
Figure 20: Obstacles to academic progress:

Group: 6) Immigration laws or regulations
(Group Mean = 2.72, Std = 0.59)

Group: 5) Course scheduling
(Group Mean = 2.71, Std = 0.50)

Group: 2) Family obligations
(Group Mean = 2.48, Std = 0.70)

Group: 4) Program structure or requirements
(Group Mean = 2.47, Std = 0.70)

Group: 3) Availability of faculty
(Group Mean = 2.44, Std = 0.69)

Group: 1) Financial commitments
(Group Mean = 2.39, Std = 0.75)

Average Responses per Item: 397
Figure 21: Number of faculty serving on Dissertation committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Faculty</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six or more</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses: 450

Figure 22: Respondents who received mentoring from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Mentoring</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Advisor</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty member WITHIN their Graduate Group</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty member OUTSIDE their Graduate Group</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses: 462
*Figure 23: Types of support received from Dissertation Advisor:

1) Selection of a dissertation topic: 92%
2) Dissertation research: 96%
3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation: 95%
4) Selection of academic career options: 78%
5) Selection of nonacademic career options: 42%
6) Search for employment or training: 66%

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 23a: TIMELINESS of assistance or support from Dissertation Advisor:

Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic
(Group Mean= 3.66, Std= 0.62)

- Not at all timely (1) 5%
- Not very timely (2) 21%
- Somewhat timely (3) 73%
- Very timely (4)

Group: 2) Dissertation research
(Group Mean= 3.57, Std= 0.67)

- Not at all timely (1) 4%
- Not very timely (2) 28%
- Somewhat timely (3) 66%
- Very timely (4)

Group: 4) Selection of academic career options
(Group Mean= 3.53, Std= 0.77)

- Not at all timely (1) 3%
- Not very timely (2) 7%
- Somewhat timely (3) 23%
- Very timely (4) 66%

Group: 6) Search for employment or training
(Group Mean= 3.52, Std= 0.81)

- Not at all timely (1) 5%
- Not very timely (2) 6%
- Somewhat timely (3) 21%
- Very timely (4) 68%

Group: 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation
(Group Mean= 3.48, Std= 0.81)

- Not at all timely (1) 4%
- Not very timely (2) 9%
- Somewhat timely (3) 23%
- Very timely (4) 65%

Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options
(Group Mean= 3.33, Std= 1.01)

- Not at all timely (1) 11%
- Not very timely (2) 7%
- Somewhat timely (3) 21%
- Very timely (4) 62%

Percent Responding:
- Group 1: 92%
- Group 2: 96%
- Group 4: 78%
- Group 6: 66%
- Group 3: 95%
- Group 5: 42%

Average Responses per Item: 354
Figure 23b: HELPFULNESS of assistance or support from Dissertation Advisor:

- **Group: 2) Dissertation research**
  - (Group Mean = 3.65, Std = 0.63)
  - Percent Responding: 96%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 5%
  - Not very helpful (2): 22%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 72%
  - Very helpful (4): 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

- **Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic**
  - (Group Mean = 3.65, Std = 0.64)
  - Percent Responding: 92%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 5%
  - Not very helpful (2): 22%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 72%
  - Very helpful (4): 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

- **Group: 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation**
  - (Group Mean = 3.56, Std = 0.73)
  - Percent Responding: 95%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 8%
  - Not very helpful (2): 22%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 68%
  - Very helpful (4): 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

- **Group: 6) Search for employment or training**
  - (Group Mean = 3.46, Std = 0.80)
  - Percent Responding: 66%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 3%
  - Not very helpful (2): 9%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 26%
  - Very helpful (4): 62% 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

- **Group: 4) Selection of academic career options**
  - (Group Mean = 3.41, Std = 0.84)
  - Percent Responding: 78%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 5%
  - Not very helpful (2): 9%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 27%
  - Very helpful (4): 59% 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

- **Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options**
  - (Group Mean = 3.08, Std = 1.07)
  - Percent Responding: 42%
  - Not at all helpful (1): 14%
  - Not very helpful (2): 12%
  - Somewhat helpful (3): 26%
  - Very helpful (4): 48% 0% 75% 50% 25% 0%

Average Responses per Item: 350
*Figure 24: Types of support received from mentor WITHIN the Graduate Group:

- 2) Dissertation research: 82%
- 4) Selection of academic career options: 76%
- 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation: 71%
- 6) Search for employment or training: 59%
- 1) Selection of a dissertation topic: 53%
- 5) Selection of nonacademic career options: 39%

Responses: 200

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Faculty - Mentor WITHIN the Graduate Group (other than Dissertation Advisor)

University of Pennsylvania

Figure 24a: TIMELINESS of assistance or support from mentor WITHIN the Graduate Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Not very timely (2)</th>
<th>Somewhat timely (3)</th>
<th>Very timely (4)</th>
<th>Percent Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group: 2) Dissertation research</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td></td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.75, Std= 0.46)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td></td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.73, Std= 0.59)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group: 3) Advice writing &amp; revising the dissertation</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.68, Std= 0.62)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group: 4) Selection of academic career options</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.64, Std= 0.61)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group: 6) Search for employment or training</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.64, Std= 0.70)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Group Mean= 3.53, Std= 0.79)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Responses per Item: 122
Figure 24b: HELPFULNESS of assistance or support from mentor WITHIN the Graduate Group:

- **Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic** (Group Mean= 3.71, Std= 0.69)
  - Not at all helpful: 4%
  - Not very helpful: 16%
  - Somewhat helpful: 80%
  - 53% Responding

- **Group: 2) Dissertation research** (Group Mean= 3.71, Std= 0.51)
  - Not at all helpful: 3%
  - Not very helpful: 24%
  - Somewhat helpful: 74%
  - 82% Responding

- **Group: 4) Selection of academic career options** (Group Mean= 3.70, Std= 0.60)
  - Not at all helpful: 3%
  - Not very helpful: 21%
  - Somewhat helpful: 75%
  - 76% Responding

- **Group: 6) Search for employment or training** (Group Mean= 3.69, Std= 0.68)
  - Not at all helpful: 3%
  - Not very helpful: 16%
  - Somewhat helpful: 78%
  - 59% Responding

- **Group: 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation** (Group Mean= 3.66, Std= 0.67)
  - Not at all helpful: 4%
  - Not very helpful: 18%
  - Somewhat helpful: 75%
  - 71% Responding

- **Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options** (Group Mean= 3.63, Std= 0.75)
  - Not at all helpful: 4%
  - Not very helpful: 5%
  - Somewhat helpful: 16%
  - Somewhat helpful: 75%
  - 39% Responding

Average Responses per Item: 122
*Figure 25: Types of support received from mentor OUTSIDE the Graduate Group:

1) Selection of a dissertation topic: 51%
2) Dissertation research: 83%
3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation: 66%
4) Selection of academic career options: 67%
5) Selection of nonacademic career options: 29%
6) Search for employment or training: 52%

Responses: 103

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 25a: TIMELINESS of assistance or support from mentor OUTSIDE the Graduate Group:

- Group: 6) Search for employment or training
  (Group Mean= 3.85, Std= 0.36)
  Not at all timely (1): 15%
  Not very timely (2): 85%
  Percent Responding: 52%

- Group: 2) Dissertation research
  (Group Mean= 3.72, Std= 0.48)
  Not at all timely (1): 26%
  Not very timely (2): 73%
  Percent Responding: 83%

- Group: 4) Selection of academic career options
  (Group Mean= 3.70, Std= 0.50)
  Not at all timely (1): 26%
  Not very timely (2): 72%
  Percent Responding: 67%

- Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic
  (Group Mean= 3.69, Std= 0.51)
  Not at all timely (1): 27%
  Not very timely (2): 71%
  Percent Responding: 51%

- Group: 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation
  (Group Mean= 3.63, Std= 0.70)
  Not at all timely (1): 3%
  Not very timely (2): 22%
  Not very timely (3): 72%
  Percent Responding: 66%

- Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options
  (Group Mean= 3.61, Std= 0.67)
  Not at all timely (1): 3%
  Not very timely (2): 29%
  Somewhat timely (3): 68%
  Percent Responding: 29%

Average Responses per Item: 56
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Faculty - Mentor OUTSIDE the Graduate Group

University of Pennsylvania

Figure 25b: HELPFULNESS of assistance or support from mentor OUTSIDE the Graduate Group:

![chart](chart.png)

- Group: 3) Advice writing & revising the dissertation
  - (Group Mean = 3.84, Std = 0.51)
  - 8% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 89% Very helpful (4)
  - 66% Responding

- Group: 2) Dissertation research
  - (Group Mean = 3.80, Std = 0.43)
  - 17% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 81% Very helpful (4)
  - 83% Responding

- Group: 6) Search for employment or training
  - (Group Mean = 3.79, Std = 0.46)
  - 17% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 81% Very helpful (4)
  - 52% Responding

- Group: 1) Selection of a dissertation topic
  - (Group Mean = 3.75, Std = 0.59)
  - 15% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 81% Very helpful (4)
  - 51% Responding

- Group: 4) Selection of academic career options
  - (Group Mean = 3.70, Std = 0.50)
  - 26% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 72% Very helpful (4)
  - 67% Responding

- Group: 5) Selection of nonacademic career options
  - (Group Mean = 3.64, Std = 0.70)
  - 3% Not at all helpful (1)
  - 73% Very helpful (4)
  - 29% Responding

Average Responses per Item: 57
Debt related to UNDERGRADUATE education:

Figure 26: Amount borrowed to finance your doctoral education:

Figure 27: Borrowing by year of study (indicate all that apply):

*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.
*Figure 28: Respondents receiving financial support by category (indicate all that apply):*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Support Categories</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University or school fellowship</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assistant or equivalent</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside fellowship</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign government</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate funds</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

1 Results shown only when N is greater than 3.
Figure 29: Familiarity with criteria used to allocate financial support:

(Figure 29: Group Mean= 1.74, Std= 0.81)

Responses: 460

Figure 30: To the best of your knowledge, has financial support for students in your program been fairly allocated?

(Figure 30: Group Mean= 3.19, Std= 0.91)

Responses: 451
Figure 34: Attended activities and/or used services of the Graduate Student Center:

Responses: 464

*Figure 31: Career Services usage by year of study (indicate all that apply):

Responses: 477

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
**Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.
**Figure 32: Number of Career Services programs attended:**

- **Programs on academic careers**
  - None: 50%
  - One or two: 35%
  - Three or four: 11%
  - Five or more: 4%

- **Programs on non-academic employment**
  - None: 56%
  - One or two: 30%
  - Three or four: 9%
  - Five or more: 5%

Responses: 429

**Figure 33: Frequency of use/attendance of Career Services offerings:**

- **Group: 4) Email listservs of job/fellowship/internship announcements, event announcements**
  - (Group Mean = 2.01, Std = 1.11)
  - Never (1): 46%
  - Occasionally (2): 22%
  - Sometimes (3): 18%
  - Frequently (4): 15%

- **Group: 3) Resources for doctoral students on Career Services website**
  - (Group Mean = 1.78, Std = 0.91)
  - Never (1): 50%
  - Occasionally (2): 27%
  - Sometimes (3): 18%
  - Frequently (4): 5%

- **Group: 1) Individual counseling session and email contact with counselors**
  - (Group Mean = 1.47, Std = 0.77)
  - Never (1): 67%
  - Occasionally (2): 22%
  - Sometimes (3): 8%
  - Frequently (4): 3%

- **Group: 2) Academic Job Search Handbook**
  - (Group Mean = 1.44, Std = 0.80)
  - Never (1): 73%
  - Occasionally (2): 15%
  - Sometimes (3): 9%
  - Frequently (4): 4%

Average Responses per Item: 429

*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.*
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Support - Career Services

University of Pennsylvania

*Figure 32a: HELPFULNESS of Career Services programs:

Group: Programs on academic careers
(Group Mean = 3.11, Std = 0.67)

Group: Programs on non-academic employment
(Group Mean = 3.06, Std = 0.77)

Average Responses per Item: 178

*Figure 33a: HELPFULNESS of Career Services programs:

Group: 1) Individual counseling session and email contact with counselors
(Group Mean = 3.18, Std = 0.86)

Group: 3) Resources for doctoral students on Career Services website
(Group Mean = 3.11, Std = 0.73)

Group: 4) Email listservs of job, fellowship, internship announcements, event announcements
(Group Mean = 2.98, Std = 0.80)

Group: 2) Academic Job Search Handbook
(Group Mean = 2.91, Std = 0.86)

Average Responses per Item: 169

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 35: Respondents presenting research in organized seminars, colloquia, or conferences sponsored by their Graduate Group:

*Figure 36: Number of research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) made ON CAMPUS during graduate studies (not including presentations given in class or in regularly-scheduled not-for-credit lab meetings):

*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.
*Figure 36a: Number of research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) made AWAY from campus (regional, national, or international):

**Figure 37: Among those making presentations AWAY from campus, percent receiving funds for travel by source (indicate all that apply):

*Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.

**Question was phrased differently and two new funding sources (A research grant & Other institutional funds) were added beginning in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 38: Based on research conducted while a doctoral student, number of scholarly articles, books, or book chapters authored or co-authored that have been published or accepted for publication:

Responses: 448

Figure 38a: Number of others currently under review:

Responses: 422

*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 39: Respondents serving as a graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) at any point during doctoral studies:

Responses: 464

*Figure 40: HELPFULNESS of being a Teaching Assistant (TA) with respect to professional development and training:

responses: 374

*Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.
*Figure 41: Number of semesters serving as a Teaching Assistant (TA):*

Responses: 375

*Figure 41a: Number of semesters teaching as a lecturer (with primary responsibility for the class):*

Responses: 329

*Question was organized differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.*
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Teaching and Research

University of Pennsylvania

*Figure 42: Respondents who received teaching preparation or training as a Teaching Assistant (TA):

![Bar chart showing 65% of respondents received teaching preparation or training as a Teaching Assistant (TA). Responses: 380]

**Figure 43: Types of teaching preparation or training (indicate all that apply):

![Bar chart showing the distribution of types of teaching preparation or training. 77% received school level teaching workshop or orientation, 41% received department level teaching workshop or orientation, and 7% received other. Responses: 246]

*Figure 44: HELPFULNESS of teaching preparation or training:

- Not at all helpful (1)
- Not very helpful (2)
- Somewhat helpful (3)
- Very helpful (4)

Group: Department level
(Group Mean= 3.13, Std= 0.80)

Group: School level
(Group Mean= 2.80, Std= 0.81)

![Bar chart showing the helpfulness of teaching preparation or training by department and school level. Average Responses per Item: 143]

*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.

**Question was phrased differently beginning in AY 2013-2014.
*Figure 45: Teaching experiences while a doctoral student at Penn (indicate all that apply):

9) I held office hours, meeting with students individually
78%

2) I was a grader for a course and also met with students during office hours
59%

3) I led review sessions for groups of students
56%

6) I taught a section of a course as a teaching assistant
43%

5) I led semester-long discussion sections
41%

1) I was a grader for a course with little or no student contact
26%

4) I led semester-long labs
21%

7) I taught or co-taught an independent seminar as a teaching assistant
14%

8) I co-taught a course

Responses: 477
University of Pennsylvania

Figure 46: Respondents serving as a Research Assistant (RA) during doctoral studies:

![Bar chart showing 49% of respondents served as a Research Assistant.](image)

Responses: 464

Figure 47: HELPFULNESS of being a Research Assistant (RA) with respect to professional development and training:

![Bar chart showing helpfulness of being a Research Assistant.](image)

(Group Mean= 3.63, Std= 0.62)

Responses: 222

Figure 48: Number of semesters serving as a Research Assistant (RA):

![Bar chart showing number of semesters served as a Research Assistant.](image)

Responses: 219

*Questions added in AY 2013-2014.
**Response categories were modified beginning in AY 2013-2014.
Figure 49: Immediate professional plans:

1) Returning or continuing in my predoctoral employment: 4%
2) Found a job: 61%
3) Negotiating with one or more organizations: 5%
4) Seeking a position but no specific prospects: 20%
5) Pursuing another degree: 4%
6) Other: 5%

Responses: 460

Figure 50: Best description of OBTAINED position:

Postdoctoral fellow/trainee: 47%
Non-academic position: 24%
Tenure-track faculty: 17%
Researcher at center/lab/institute: 7%
Non-tenure-track faculty: 5%
Administrative academic position: 0%
Other academic position: 0%

Responses: 302

*‘Non-academic position’ category is included in AY 2013-2014 report.*
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Future - Students who have OBTAINED a position

University of Pennsylvania

Figure 51: Among OBTAINED positions, percent of obtained positions in field of academic training:

86%

Responses: 282

Figure 52: Position consistent with long-term professional goals:

86%
5%
8%

Responses: 302

Figure 53: Obtained positions by category:

1) Research university, doctoral-granting
8) Business/industry
58%
22%
5%

3) College, four-year
5%

5) Non-profit institution/organization
5%

6) National or federal government
3%

2) University, masters-granting
4%

9) Other
2%

7) State or local government
1%

4) Junior college/community college

Responses: 299
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Future - Students who have OBTAINED a position

Table 1: Top Five Employers Name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employers Name</th>
<th>Number Employed¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania, University</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton University</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location of Top Five Employers WITHIN the USA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number Employed in each State¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location of Employers OUTSIDE the USA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number Employed in each Country³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Results shown only when N is greater than 3.
Figure 55: Among those SEARCHING for a position during next year, best description of position:

- 2) Postdoctoral fellow/trainee: 38%
- 1) I am not yet sure: 30%
- 3) Tenure-track faculty: 17%
- 4) Non-tenure-track faculty: 10%
- 5) Researcher at center/lab/institute: 3%
- 6) Administrative academic position: 1%
- 7) Other academic position: 1%
- 8) Non-academic position: 1%

Responses: 71

Figure 56: Among those SEARCHING for a position during next year, desired job sector:

- 1) Research university, doctoral-granting: 40%
- 8) Business/industry: 24%
- 3) College, four-year: 11%
- 9) Other: 10%
- 5) Non-profit institution/organization: 6%
- 2) University, masters-granting: 4%
- 6) National or federal government: 3%
- 4) Junior college/community college: 1%
- 7) State or local government: 1%

Responses: 89

*‘Non-academic position’ category is included in AY 2013-2014 report.
2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Ultimate Future Goal

*Figure 56a: ULTIMATE career goal:

- **1) Tenure-track faculty**: 57%
- **6) Non-academic position**: 24%
- **3) Researcher at center/lab/institute**: 12%
- **2) Non-tenure-track faculty**: 3%
- **5) Other academic position**: 2%
- **4) Administrative academic position**: 1%

Responses: 444

*Figure 56b: ULTIMATE career sector:

- **1) Research university, doctoral-granting**: 54%
- **8) Business/industry**: 24%
- **3) College, four-year**: 8%
- **6) National or federal government**: 4%
- **9) Other**: 4%
- **5) Non-profit institution/organization**: 3%
- **2) University, masters-granting**: 2%
- **4) Junior college/community college**: 0%
- **7) State or local government**: 0%

Responses: 448

Figure 57: Overall satisfaction:

- **Group: 4) Overall academic experience**
  - Group Mean = 4.08, Std = 0.97
  - Very dissatisfied: 6%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 11%
  - Neither: 42%
  - Generally satisfied: 38%

- **Group: 6) Overall experience**
  - Group Mean = 4.08, Std = 0.92
  - Very dissatisfied: 6%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 20%
  - Neither: 46%
  - Generally satisfied: 36%

- **Group: 2) Quality of graduate-level courses**
  - Group Mean = 3.99, Std = 0.96
  - Very dissatisfied: 8%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 20%
  - Neither: 49%
  - Generally satisfied: 31%

- **Group: 3) Overall quality of graduate-level teaching**
  - Group Mean = 3.97, Std = 0.93
  - Very dissatisfied: 7%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 13%
  - Neither: 49%
  - Generally satisfied: 30%

- **Group: 5) Overall student life experience**
  - Group Mean = 3.90, Std = 1.08
  - Very dissatisfied: 4%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 8%
  - Neither: 16%
  - Generally satisfied: 39%
  - Very satisfied: 33%

- **Group: 8) Preparation for candidacy/comprehensive examinations (coursework, seminars, labs, reading courses, etc.)**
  - Group Mean = 3.89, Std = 1.03
  - Very dissatisfied: 3%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 8%
  - Neither: 16%
  - Generally satisfied: 43%
  - Very satisfied: 31%

- **Group: 7) The opportunities to collaborate across disciplines**
  - Group Mean = 3.85, Std = 1.13
  - Very dissatisfied: 4%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 8%
  - Neither: 20%
  - Generally satisfied: 32%
  - Very satisfied: 35%

- **Group: 1) Graduate Group advising**
  - Group Mean = 3.82, Std = 1.14
  - Very dissatisfied: 6%
  - Generally dissatisfied: 9%
  - Neither: 13%
  - Generally satisfied: 41%
  - Very satisfied: 31%

*Response categories were changed beginning in AY 2013-2014.*
*Figure 58: Satisfaction with support provided during graduate education and dissertation research:

- **Group: 4) Library and electronic resources**
  
  *(Group Mean= 4.43, Std= 0.91)*

- **Group: 1) Financial support**
  
  *(Group Mean= 4.11, Std= 1.05)*

- **Group: 5) Laboratory, clinical, or studio facilities**
  
  *(Group Mean= 4.04, Std= 1.09)*

- **Group: 2) Computer resources/Information Technology (IT)**
  
  *(Group Mean= 4.01, Std= 1.06)*

- **Group: 3) Personal work space [e.g., desk, office]**
  
  *(Group Mean= 3.77, Std= 1.29)*

---

*Response categories were changed beginning in AY 2013-2014.*
Figure 59: If you were to start your graduate career again, would you...

Group: pursue your Ph.D. at Penn again?
(Group Mean= 4.08, Std= 1.01)

Group: recommend Penn to someone considering your field of study?
(Group Mean= 4.06, Std= 1.07)

Group: pursue a Ph.D. again?
(Group Mean= 3.97, Std= 1.10)

Figure 60: The decision to pursue a Ph.D. again at Penn is primarily based on (Probably and Definitely yes only):

1) Graduate group experience
2) Penn experience
4) Prospects of future opportunities and earnings
3) Current employment opportunities in your field
6) Other
5) New interests in some other field

Responses: 341

Figure 60a: The decision NOT to PURSUE a Ph.D at Penn again is primarily based on (Probably and Definitely not only):

1) Graduate group experience
2) Penn experience
4) Prospects of future opportunities and earnings
5) New interests in some other field
3) Current employment opportunities in your field
6) Other

Responses: 42
Figure 61: Frequency of conversations with students and post docs who differ with respect to:

- Group: 3) in nationality
  (Group Mean= 3.42, Std= 0.82)

- Group: 2) in race or ethnicity
  (Group Mean= 3.33, Std= 0.90)

- Group: 5) in religious beliefs
  (Group Mean= 3.14, Std= 0.94)

- Group: 4) in sexual orientation
  (Group Mean= 3.06, Std= 0.96)

- Group: 1) in academic discipline (i.e., graduate programs)
  (Group Mean= 2.93, Std= 0.97)

- Group: 7) in economic backgrounds
  (Group Mean= 2.90, Std= 0.96)

- Group: 6) in political beliefs
  (Group Mean= 2.40, Std= 1.05)

Average Responses per Item: 451
Figure 62: Level of agreement with the following statements:

- **Group: 5) Students are respected here regardless of sexual orientation**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.34, Std = 0.67)

- **Group: 1) I feel free to express my political beliefs on campus**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.26, Std = 0.79)

- **Group: 2) I feel free to express my religious beliefs on campus**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.25, Std = 0.78)

- **Group: 6) Students are respected here regardless of gender**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.22, Std = 0.74)

- **Group: 4) Students are respected here regardless of race or ethnicity**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.18, Std = 0.79)

- **Group: 3) Students are respected here regardless of economic or social class**
  
  (Group Mean = 3.10, Std = 0.83)

Average Responses per Item: 444
Figure 63: Impression of the Penn Community:

Figure 64: Level of agreement with the following statements:

*Question added in AY 2013-2014.
**2016-17 Ph.D. Exit Survey: Campus Life and Penn Community**

*Figure 65: Perceived frequency of cheating, including plagiarism at Penn:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never (4)</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes (3)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often (2)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Often (1)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group: (Group Mean= 3.57, Std= 0.56)

Responses: 450

*Figure 66: Perception of whether sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Penn is problematic:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all (5)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little (4)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat (3)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very (2)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely (1)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group: (Group Mean= 3.84, Std= 1.02)

Responses: 435

*Figure 66a: Extent of knowledge about sexual assault/misconduct at Penn:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Level</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all (1)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little (2)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat (3)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very (4)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely (5)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group: 2) Where to get help if you or a friend experienced sexual assault or misconduct at Penn (Group Mean= 2.38, Std= 1.07)

Group: 1) How sexual assault and sexual misconduct are defined at Penn (Group Mean= 2.29, Std= 1.06)

Group: 3) Where to make a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct at Penn (Group Mean= 2.26, Std= 1.11)

Group: 4) What happens when a student reports an incident of sexual assault at Penn (Group Mean= 1.98, Std= 1.02)

Average Responses per Item: 440

*Question added in AY 2015-2016.*
*Figure 66b: Awareness of services provided by the following:

- Student Health Service (SHS) 94%
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (LGBT Center) 85%
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) 83%
- Division of Public Safety/Special Services (DPS) 72%
- Graduate Student Center (GSC) 41%
- Family Resource Center at Penn 41%
- Penn Women's Center (PWC) 38%
- Title IX Coordinator 23%
- Sexual Violence Investigative Officer 16%
- Office of Student Conduct (OSC) 14%
- International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) 11%
- Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs 9%
- Student Intervention Services (SIS) 8%
- Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education 7%
- Office of the Chaplain 2%
- None of the Above

Average Responses per Item: 437

*Question added in AY 2015-2016.