

Ph.D. Enrolled Student Survey (PhD-ESS) Inventory Document

University of Pennsylvania

Survey Instrument	Ph.D. Enrolled Student Survey (PhD-ESS)
Owner(s)	Vice Provost for Education
Sponsor(s)	Council of Graduate Deans and Council of Graduate Faculties
Study Population	All Ph.D. students enrolled during the Spring semester of an administration year
Invited Participants	Census
Invitation Signatory	Provost and Vice Provost for Education

Administration

The Ph.D. Enrolled Student Survey (PhD-ESS) is periodically administered to the census of doctoral students enrolled at Penn. The survey is administered via the web during the latter part of the spring semester and remains open for approximately one month.

Brief Description

The PhD-ESS collects information about a broad range of topics related to the doctoral student experience at Penn. While the majority of the survey is focused on gathering data about students' academic experiences, it also provides an opportunity for PhD students to register feedback about their satisfaction with Penn services as well as their impression of the quality of campus life.

The survey consists of 11 short sections: Overall Satisfaction; Resources and Services; Program Quality; Early Advice and Support Provided by Departments or Programs; Mentoring and Advising; Developing your Teaching; Department or Program Climate; Obstacles to Academic Success; Career Development; Revisiting Your Graduate Studies; Student Background and Demographics.

Many of the questions included on the PhD-ESS were developed in collaboration with peers from Ivy-Plus institutions.

Relationship to Other Instruments

Several questions on the PhD-ESS also appear on the annual Ph.D. Exit Survey. This allows for a comparison of attitudes and opinions during and after the process of completing a doctorate at Penn.

Institutional questions about culture and climate in the PhD-ESS are also included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. This allows for comparisons between graduate and undergraduate responses as well as between faculty and students.

Data gathered by the PhD-ESS can also be linked to additional information contained in the data warehouse, allowing for further analysis.

Survey Results

Each PhD-ESS administration results in an institutional summary report of selected questions. Intra-institutional comparisons are made possible through the creation of individual reports for each of the graduate schools & clusters. Summaries are also created by graduate group, gender, minority status and international status.

Penn's participation in a collaborative data exchange with other Ivy-Plus institutions allows for selected comparisons between Penn's results and those of peer institutions.

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Survey results assist in monitoring the quality of Ph.D. education at Penn. Program-level reports of survey data are used by Graduate Council of the Faculties during Penn's periodic review process of its various Ph.D. programs.

Distribution Plan

A top-level institutional summary, which provides basic frequency counts for each survey item is available by the Fall semester following the PhD-ESS administration. This summary is accessible to the Penn Community via the IR&A website.

As necessary, reports are generated for programs under review, and shared with the Office of the Provost. These reports are in turn shared with the Graduate Group Chair of the program under review, the appropriate Dean(s), and the Graduate Council of the Faculties.

Intra-institutional comparisons by graduate group cluster are shared with the Council of Graduate Deans and the Graduate Council of the Faculties. Summaries by gender, minority status, and international status are generated for the Office of the Provost. Lastly, as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Provost, results are shared with Faculty Committees dedicated to issues related to graduate education.

Only aggregated data are released to any constituent group. Any information that might uniquely identify individual doctoral students is suppressed by IR&A.