

Survey Instrument	Ph.D. Exit Survey
Owner(s)	Vice Provost for Education
Sponsor(s)	Council of the Graduate Faculties and Graduate Deans
Study Population	All Ph.D. Recipients
Invited Participants	All Ph.D. Recipients
Invitation Signatory	Provost
Administration	Ongoing

Brief Description

Originally entitled the "Survey of Doctoral Student Opinion," Penn's current Ph.D. Exit Survey was developed by the Office of the Provost in 1995. The Ph.D. Exit Survey gathers a wide variety of information from recent Penn doctoral recipients. Both the content and format of the current instrument have been influenced by similar survey initiatives at peer institutions. Survey results assist in monitoring the quality of Ph.D. education at Penn. Program level reports of survey data are regularly used by the Graduate Council of the Faculties during Penn's periodic review process of its various Ph.D. programs.

Prompted by the collaborative efforts of a number of institutions that belong to the Association of American Universities (AAU), Penn updated the Ph.D. Exit Survey in 2007 to include a set of core questions. The current survey contains approximately 70 questions, at least 6 of which are common to all participating AAU institutions.

Relationship to Other Instruments

Beginning in 2007, institutional questions about culture and climate were incorporated into the Penn Ph.D. Exit Survey. Such questions are also included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. The use of common survey questions across institutional instruments allows for comparisons to be made between the attitudes of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as between faculty and students.

Penn's participation in the collaborative data exchange with other AAU institutions (AAUDE) allows for selected comparisons between Penn's results and the results of peer institutions.

Survey Results

Each year, data collected from new doctoral recipients results in an institutional summary report of the responses. Intra-institutional comparisons are made possible through the creation of individual reports for each of the graduate clusters. Summaries by gender, minority status, and international status are also generated. As necessary, program level reports are created for program review. An important component of producing annual reports is the ability to see how responses change for various groups over time.

Distribution Plan

Each year, a new top level institutional summary report is made available to the entire Penn community via the IR&A website.

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

Intra-institutional comparisons by graduate group cluster are shared with Council of Graduate Deans as well as with the Council of Graduate 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 graduate education related issues.

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