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Western Washington University 1994 Survey of Masters Graduates

Western Washington University. Office of Survey Research

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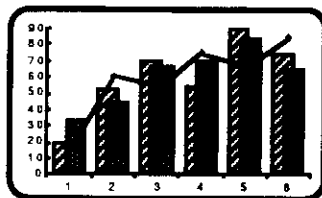
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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1994 SURVEY OF MASTERS GRADUATES



**Office of Survey Research
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington 98225-9081
Spring, 1994**

Thank you for your assistance with this important project. The information you provide will be used to improve education and student life at Western.

Your participation is extremely important to the validity of this study. We very much appreciate your prompt reply.

All questionnaires are guaranteed complete confidentiality.

To return your survey, fold it in half and insert it in the postage-paid return envelope provided. Thanks!

First, we would like to ask some questions about your educational plans and employment.

1. Which of the following *best* describes your educational plans for the foreseeable future?
(Please circle the number corresponding to your answer and then follow the skip directions.)

- 1. I am currently enrolled in a college or university program. ==> **Continue with Q. 2**
- 2. I plan to enter a college or university within *ten* years. ==> **Skip to Q. 3**
- 3. I do not plan to enroll in a college or university or am uncertain. ==> **Skip to Q. 4**

2. Please record the information below, describing the program in which you are enrolled.

College or University: _____	
_____	_____
Major Field	Degree Sought

3. What is the highest degree you plan to complete within the next ten years? (Write in "same" if identical to question 2)

Degree: _____	Field: _____
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4. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- 1. Employed for pay ==> **Continue with question 5**
- 2. Self-employed ==> **Continue with question 5**
- 3. Unemployed, looking for work ==> **Skip to question 13, on page 3**
- 4. Not looking for work at this time ==> **Please indicate why you are not looking for work, then skip to question 13, on page 3**

4a. Why you are not looking for work:

5. What is the nature of your work?
(e.g. accountant, teacher) _____

6. Various departments at Western would like to know who hires their graduates. If you are willing, would you please indicate the name of your employer, the kind of business or industry you work in (e.g. health, banking), and the city in which your employment is located.

_____ Employer Name		
_____ Industry	_____ City / State	

7. How many hours per week do you normally work? _____ Hours per week

8. When did you begin this job: _____ month _____ 19 _____ year

9. Is your job in the same field as your Master's degree, in a related field, or in a different field?

1. same 2. related 3. different 9. don't know

10. Please indicate your total annual income before deductions, rounded to the nearest \$1,000. (All answers are confidential.)

\$ _____ thousand

11. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your job?

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. The amount you earn	1	2	3	4	9
b. Your job security	1	2	3	4	9
c. Your opportunity for advancement	1	2	3	4	9
d. The kinds of daily work you do	1	2	3	4	9
e. How important and worthwhile your work is	1	2	3	4	9
f. The self-fulfillment you receive from the job	1	2	3	4	9
g. The entire job, overall	1	2	3	4	9

12. Compared to co-workers who received Masters degrees from schools other than Western, how well prepared were you, overall, for your present job? (Circle "9" if you have no co-workers with Masters degrees from other schools.)

1. Much better 2. Somewhat better 3. Same 4. Somewhat Worse 5. Much worse 9. N.A.

Now we have some questions about your experiences at Western.

13. When did you first enter your Masters program at Western?

Year: 19 Quarter: _____

14. From what college or university did you receive your undergraduate degree?

College or University: _____

15. When did you receive your undergraduate degree? Year: 19 _____

16. Was your undergraduate degree in the same field as your Masters degree?

1. Yes --> skip to question 18
2. No

17. What was your undergraduate major? _____

18. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your Masters program at Western?:

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. The quality of instruction	1	2	3	4	9
b. Departmental/faculty advising concerning careers	1	2	3	4	9
c. How well you were prepared for work in your field	1	2	3	4	9
d. How well you were prepared for continued graduate study in your field (if applicable)	1	2	3	4	9
e. How thoroughly your curriculum covered the field	1	2	3	4	9
f. Support you received for your thesis (if applicable)	1	2	3	4	9

19. How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided by your Masters program at Western for each of the following:

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. Getting involved in faculty projects	1	2	3	4	9
b. Pursuing internships or other experiential courses	1	2	3	4	9
c. Developing informal relationships with professors	1	2	3	4	9
d. Financial support for graduate students	1	2	3	4	9

20. During your Master's program, how satisfied were you with

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. Libraries at Western	1	2	3	4	9
b. Professors at Western	1	2	3	4	9
c. Western/Bellingham as a place to live	1	2	3	4	9
d. Non-academic student facilities at Western	1	2	3	4	9
e. Computer labs and other facilities at Western	1	2	3	4	9
f. Western Washington University, in total	1	2	3	4	9

21. Please indicate how many hours per week you typically studied while you were actively pursuing your Masters degree at Western.

<u>0-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35-39</u>	<u>40+</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

22. What proportion of your Masters course work did you take on Western's main campus?

1 . All 2 . Most 3 . Half 4 . Some 5 . None

23. During your first and second years as a graduate student at Western, how many quarters did you receive TA funding, RA funding, or work study funding? (Exclude summers, for a total of six quarters during the two years.)

TA:	1	2	3	4	5	6	quarters	9. Don't Recall
RA:	1	2	3	4	5	6	quarters	9. Don't Recall
Work Study	1	2	3	4	5	6	quarters	9. Don't Recall

24. On average, during your first and second years as a graduate student at Western, how many hours per week did you work for pay, not including TA, RA, or work study? (Please exclude Summer quarters.)

_____ Hours per Week

25. When you completed your Masters degree, what was the total you or your family owed for loans taken entirely to finance your education?

(Please round to the nearest \$500.) TOTAL LOANS: \$_____ . 00

26. Often, Masters graduates complete many more credits than the minimum required for the Masters degree at Western. Did you take the minimum or more than the minimum?

- 1 . The minimum number of credits required --> **Skip to question 28**
- 2 . Fewer than 15 credits above the minimum --> **Skip to question 28**
- 3 . More than 15 credits above the minimum --> **continue with question 27**

27. Please briefly indicate the major reason(s) why you took more credits than minimally required.

28. Looking back on your graduate program from your present vantage point, what would you say were the one or two most positive qualities of the education you received?

29. What changes would you most recommend to improve your Masters program for future students?

30. If you could repeat your Masters program, what changes would you make in your own decisions or practices?

Thank you for helping with this important project.

To return your survey, fold it in half and use the postage-paid envelope provided with the survey.

Sequence Number: _____ (this number is essential for our record keeping. It will not compromise the confidentiality of your questionnaire.)