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Exit Survey of Graduate Students Completing Degrees Fall 2014 Through Summer 2015, Descriptive Statistics

John M. Krieg

Western Washington University, john.krieg@wwu.edu

Beth Hartsoch

Western Washington University, beth.hartsoch@wwu.edu

Chris Stark

Western Washington University, chris.stark@wwu.edu

Office of Survey Research, Western Washington University

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EXIT SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
COMPLETING DEGREES FALL 2014 THROUGH
SUMMER 2015

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2015-05

John Krieg
Beth Hartsoch
Chris Stark

September, 2015

OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH WESTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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2015 EXIT SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETING DEGREES FALL 2014 THROUGH SUMMER 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2015 Exit Survey of Graduate Students Completing Degrees continues the Office of Survey Research's (OSR) survey of graduate students first initiated in 2009. The current survey was administered at the end of each quarter to students completing their graduate degree. This report summarizes responses from students who graduated in Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015, and Summer 2015. Of the 257 recipients of this degree during this time, OSR received valid responses from 198, a response rate of 77.0%.

With the help of the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, this survey was designed to elicit information on program satisfaction, the frequency and scope of academic interaction on and off campus, barriers to success, and plans for the future. OSR uses a mixture of online and telephone survey methodologies and links survey results with Western's student records thus expanding their usefulness to researchers and university decision makers. The survey was launched with an e-mail invitation to potential respondents about four weeks prior to the end of each quarter. Follow up e-mail reminders were sent approximately every four days for the subsequent two weeks. Phone call reminders were placed to all non-respondents. The survey was closed immediately prior to commencement exercises.

As with any survey, readers should be concerned with sample selection bias; that is bias which arises because survey respondents are not a random selection of the population of survey recipients. While sample selection bias for Western's graduate exit survey is mitigated through proper survey techniques and limited by a high response rate, its presence should continually be kept in mind when evaluating results. Section A of this document presents basic descriptive statistics that compare all graduates with those who responded to the survey. At the university level, these comparisons reveal that the average respondent is similar to the average graduate. For instance, 13% of respondents are minorities while 12% of graduates are minorities. Similarities also occur for average age at graduation (30.3 years for respondents, 29.9 years for graduates), the number of credit hours attempted (68.6 for respondents and 66.4 for graduates), the average graduate GPA (3.82 for respondents and 3.80 for graduates), and the quarter of graduation.

Section B of this report presents all questions asked. Section C presents these questions broken down by college. Section D presents results from questions submitted by the University Library. In the past, these reports decomposed questions to the department level. OSR has ceased this practice and will replace them with a searchable electronic database posted on our website.

While we leave it to the reader to determine what is interesting in the survey, here we highlight some of the findings. The first set of questions is geared to understanding students' background and general satisfaction with their Western graduate school experience. Immediately prior to beginning their Western graduate program 37% of students were in an undergraduate program, 35% were employed in a field related to their graduate program, and 25% were employed in a field different than their program. Results are very similar to prior surveys.

Seventy-six percent of students claimed that, if given the opportunity, they would “probably” or “definitely” select Western again for graduate study, an increase by two percentage points relative to the prior year and by seven percentage points relative to the 2013 survey. Seventy-seven percent would “probably” or “definitely” recommend Western to someone considering graduate school, a similar amount to the prior year.

Survey questions also relate to a student’s academic program. For instance, 75% of students reported that the level of academic challenge was “very” or “extremely” important to them and 73% of students claimed they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the level of academic challenge. Perhaps the largest disparity occurred among the 56% of students who claimed that the “quality of instruction” was “extremely important” to them but only 34% of students said they were “very satisfied” with the quality of instruction.

Working as a teaching assistant remains an important component of Western’s graduate program. Fifty-three percent of respondents reported working as a TA in some capacity while pursuing their graduate degree. In their most recent TA position, respondents reported working an average of 19 hours per week, a substantial increase over the prior year. Nineteen percent of graduate students taught an independent section of an undergraduate class; among these the median graduate student repeated this experience 4 times while in Western’s graduate program.

The average graduate accumulates just over \$15,600 in debt from their graduate program, about a 5% decrease over the past year. This average obscures the nearly forty percent of students who leave Western without incurring any additional academic debt from their graduate studies. The average debt incurred for graduate students who do borrow is slightly over \$26,400. There is large variation in amounts of student debt incurred between colleges. Graduates of CHSS incurred about 40% more debt than CBE students who, in turn, accumulate about 30% more than students in CST.

Among all graduate students, about two-fifths hope to work in a school or community college and about one-quarter hope to work in business or industry. The remainders are fairly evenly split between non-profit employment, government employment, and pursuing further graduate study. Among those pursuing employment, at the time our survey was conducted, 47% had already received an offer of employment and 68% of those had accepted an offer. Of these, 88% percent had jobs in their field of study.

As with all of OSR’s surveys of Western students, the data from this survey is available to campus researchers upon request.

A. Comparison of all Graduates and Respondents

A.1. Graduate Characteristics

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	28	81	80	28	37	257
% Male	61%	43%	28%	39%	54%	42%
% Minority*	18%	16%	15%	4%	3%	12%
% Graduated Fall 2014	7%	12%	11%	21%	30%	15%
% Graduated Winter 2015	4%	31%	4%	32%	3%	16%
% Graduated Spring 2015	89%	31%	79%	21%	49%	54%
% Graduated Summer 2015		26%	6%	25%	19%	16%
Mean Age, Quarter of Graduation	27%	34%	29%	29%	27%	30%
Median Age, Quarter of Graduation	24%	30%	26%	29%	26%	27%
Graduate Hours Attempted	62%	71%	73%	54%	55%	66%
Graduate Hours Completed	62%	70%	71%	50%	51%	65%
Graduate GPA	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

A.2. Respondent Characteristics

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	63	21	25	198
% Male	60%	27%	24%	43%	56%	42%
% Minority*	15%	17%	16%	5%	4%	13%
% Graduated Fall 2014		6%	8%	19%	24%	10%
% Graduated Winter 2015	5%	32%	5%	29%		16%
% Graduated Spring 2015	95%	36%	81%	24%	56%	58%
% Graduated Summer 2015		26%	6%	29%	20%	16%
Mean Age, Quarter of Graduation	28%	34%	29%	29%	28%	30%
Median Age, Quarter of Graduation	25%	30%	26%	28%	28%	28%
Graduate Hours Attempted	66%	72%	73%	51%	55%	67%
Graduate Hours Completed	66%	72%	73%	51%	55%	67%
Graduate GPA	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

* Includes students identified as black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American. Does not include caucasian, other/unknown, or international.

B. University-Level Responses

Attending Graduate School

B.1. Please indicate your response to the following.

	N	Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe	Probably	Definitely
If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select WWU?	197	4%	8%	13%	36%	40%
If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select the same field of study?	197	1%	5%	12%	24%	58%
Would you recommend Western to someone considering your program?	197	3%	7%	11%	22%	55%

B.2. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western?

N	197
Undergraduate student	37%
Employed in a field related to your program	35%
Employed in a field unrelated to your program	25%
Other	4%

B.2.a. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.2.) (N =8) (Responses included: AmeriCorps Position (2), self-employed in related field, stay at home mom, miscellaneous, employed in related field and undergraduate, housewife.) (Text responses available on request.)

Academic Program

B.3. For each of the following, please rate both the importance of, as well as your satisfaction with that aspect of your program.

B.3.a. Importance

	N	Not important	A little important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
Level of academic challenge	195		3%	22%	55%	20%
Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field	195		3%	19%	37%	41%
Professional training opportunities	194	2%	7%	19%	30%	42%
Research opportunities	195	6%	14%	33%	27%	21%
Quality of research conducted	194	6%	8%	27%	36%	23%
Quality of instruction	195	1%	2%	9%	33%	56%
Quality of advising	194	2%	5%	18%	29%	46%
Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment	195	1%	8%	30%	37%	24%
Overall quality of the degree program	195		2%	10%	37%	52%

B.3.b. Satisfaction

	N	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Level of academic challenge	194	1%	5%	21%	48%	25%
Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field	194	1%	9%	19%	44%	27%
Professional training opportunities	194	4%	10%	34%	32%	21%
Research opportunities	194	2%	11%	38%	30%	19%
Quality of research conducted	194	2%	7%	39%	36%	16%
Quality of instruction	193	3%	8%	14%	41%	34%
Quality of advising	194	8%	8%	18%	32%	34%
Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment	194	1%	7%	22%	44%	27%
Overall quality of the degree program	194	2%	8%	15%	44%	30%

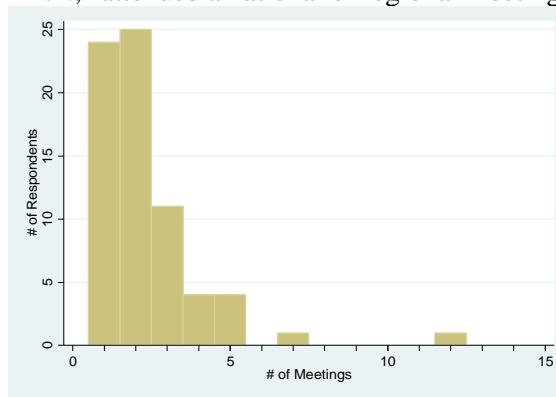
B.3.b.1. Why are you (very dissatisfied) (dissatisfied) with the overall quality of your degree program? (Asked of respondents who answered "very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" in B.3.b.) (N=14) (Responses included: Little provided by way of academics, sold a different experience than what was delivered, low quality instruction, got nothing out of program, accelerated program never makes it past introductory material, research-focused at cost of practical application, poor communication, faculty lacked adequate technology skills, little academic challenge, lacks structure and intellectual challenge.)

Professional Development

B.4. Have you done any of the following during your graduate study at Western?

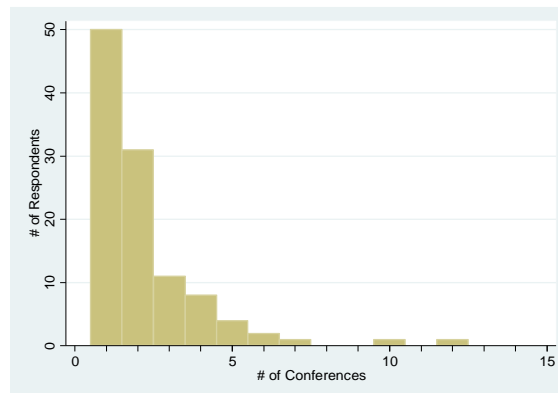
	N	Yes	No
Attended a national or regional meeting associated with your discipline?	198	36%	64%
Attended an academic or professional conference?	198	56%	44%
Presented research at a seminar or conference?	198	31%	69%
Co-authored an article in a refereed journal with a program faculty?	198	9%	91%
Published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal?	198	5%	95%

B.4.a. How many national or regional meetings associated with your discipline have you attended? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "attended a national or regional meeting.")



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
70	2.31	2	1	12	1.72

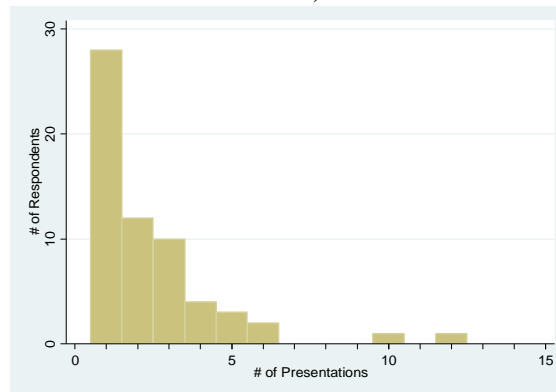
B.4.b. How many academic or professional conferences have you attended? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "attended an academic or professional conference.")



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
109	2.18	2	1	12	1.79

Professional Development (cont.)

B.4.c. At how many seminars or conferences have you presented research? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "presented research at a seminar or conference.")



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
61	2.40	2	1	12	2.10

B.4.d. How many articles have you published in refereed journals as a co-author? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "co-authored an article in a refereed journal.")

N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
18	1.22	1	1	2	0.42

B.4.e. How many articles have you published in refereed journals as the sole or first author? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal.")

N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
10	1.40	1	1	2	0.51

B.5. Have you written, or do you plan to write a paper for publication based on your thesis?

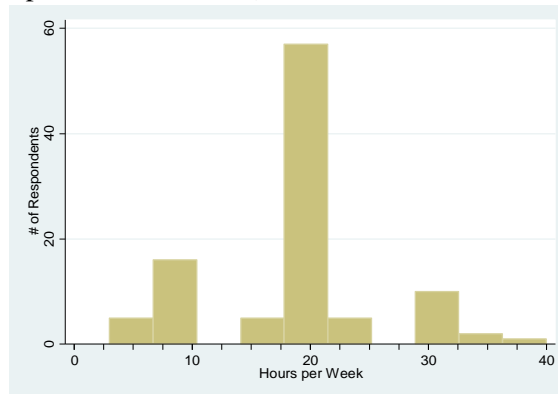
N	192
Yes, I have written a paper for publication	8%
Yes, I plan to write a paper for publication	24%
No	19%
I did not write a thesis	48%

Graduate Study at Western

B.6. During your graduate studies at Western, did you hold a teaching assistantship position, and if so, were you ever the instructor of a course or discussion section?

N	192
Yes, I was a TA and the primary instructor for one or more courses	19%
Yes, I was a TA, and the instructor for one or more discussion sections or labs, but never the primary instructor of a course	18%
Yes, I was a TA, but never taught a discussion section or lab, or served as the primary instructor for a course	15%
No, I was not a TA	47%

B.6.a. In your most recent TA assignment, how many hours per week did you work? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6 that they held a TA position at Western).



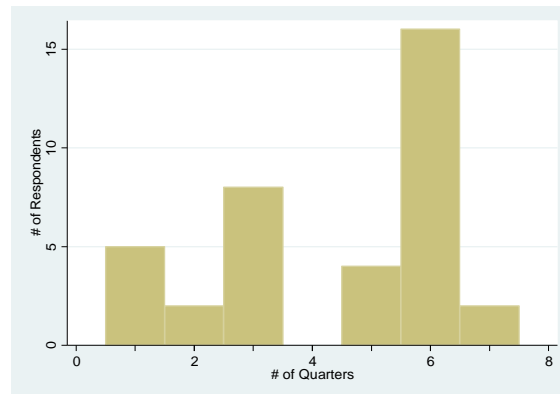
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
101	19.01	20	3	40	7.02

B.6.b. In your most recent TA assignment, did you work more or fewer hours per week than you expected? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6 that they held a TA position at Western).

N	101
Fewer by 5 or more hours	4%
Fewer by 2 to 4 hours	9%
As many as expected	60%
More by 2 to 4 hours	10%
More by 5 or more hours	17%

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

B.6.c. How many quarters were you the primary instructor for one or more courses? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6. that they were the primary instructor for one or more courses.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
37	4.40	5	1	7	1.97

B.7. Rate the extent to which the following factors were an obstacle to your academic progress and/or time to degree.

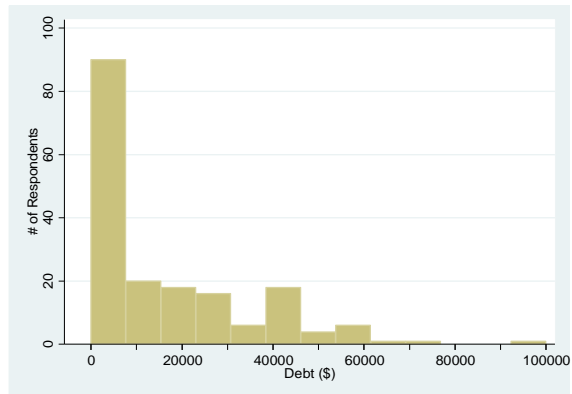
	N	N/A	No impact	Minor impact	Major impact
Family obligations	191	9%	42%	34%	15%
Availability of faculty	190	5%	64%	23%	7%
Course scheduling/availability	191	3%	60%	29%	8%
Thesis research	188	33%	40%	15%	11%
Other (please specify below)	155	55%	21%	8%	15%

B.7.a. Other obstacles (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.7.) (N =24) (Responses include balancing TA responsibilities (2), advising, employment (8), advising, health issues, scheduling, Oso landslide, ineffective adjunct faculty, personal, trouble recruiting thesis subjects, thesis deadlines.)

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

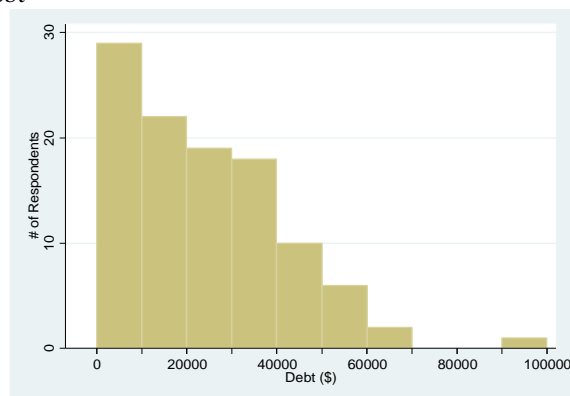
B.8. Approximately how much debt did you incur to finance your graduate education at Western?
 (B.8.a. includes all respondents.) (B.8.b. includes only respondents who reported more than \$0 of debt.)

B.8.a. All respondents



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
181	\$15,653	\$8,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$19,406

B.8.b. Respondents who incurred debt



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
107	\$26,478	\$23,000	\$700	\$100,000	\$18,713

Plans for the Future

B.9. For each of the following activities, please rate both the likelihood you will engage in the activity, as well as your satisfaction with the level of preparation offered in your program.

B.9.a. Likelihood

	N	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat likely	Very likely
Teaching at a higher-ed institution	190	16%	12%	19%	31%	22%
Teaching at the K-12 level	190	29%	16%	18%	11%	26%
Conducting independent research	189	16%	14%	25%	27%	17%
Formulating a research topic	190	16%	13%	26%	28%	17%
Collaborating on research with faculty members	190	18%	16%	26%	25%	15%
Writing a grant proposal	190	15%	12%	26%	28%	18%

B.9.b. Satisfaction

	N	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Teaching at a higher-ed institution	191	2%	4%	50%	31%	13%
Teaching at the K-12 level	189	4%	5%	56%	19%	17%
Conducting independent research	191	3%	7%	37%	39%	14%
Formulating a research topic	189	1%	8%	37%	38%	16%
Collaborating on research with faculty members	190	2%	9%	43%	32%	14%
Writing a grant proposal	190	7%	14%	54%	21%	4%

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.10. What are your immediate post-graduate plans?

N	189
Further graduate study	7%
Employment in a school or community college	40%
Employment in a business or industry	27%
Employment in a non-profit organization	8%
Employment with a government or government agency	12%
Self-employment	2%
Volunteer service	1%
Other	3%

B.10.a. What are your immediate post-graduate plans? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.10.) (N=6) (Responses included: unsure (3), attend technical college, kept current job, currently seeking employment.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.10.b. Which of the following degrees do you plan to pursue? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in B.10.)

N	Masters	Ph.D.	Professional (J.D., M.D., etc.)
14		93%	7%

B.10.b.1. Have you already been admitted for further graduate study? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in B.10.)

N	Yes	No
14	57%	43%

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.10.b.1.a. To which schools have you been accepted? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=8) (Responses included: Oregon State, Pennsylvania State, Simon Fraser, UC Davis, University of Arizona, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Universit of Minnesota, University of Montana.) (Text responses available on request.)

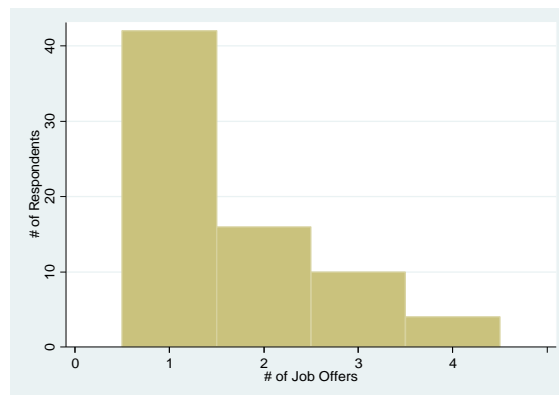
B.10.b.1.b. Which school will you attend? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=14) (Responses included: Responses included: Oregon State, Pennsylvania State, Simon Fraser, UC Davis, University of Arizona, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Universit of Minnesota, University of Montana.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.10.b.1.c. What is your program of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=8) (Responses included: Biobehavioral Health, Chemistry, Physical Therapy, English, History, Pathobiology, Mathematics, Visual Education.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.11. Have you received any offers of post-graduation employment? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.10. that they plan to be employed, options 2 - 5.)

N	Yes	No
157	47%	53%

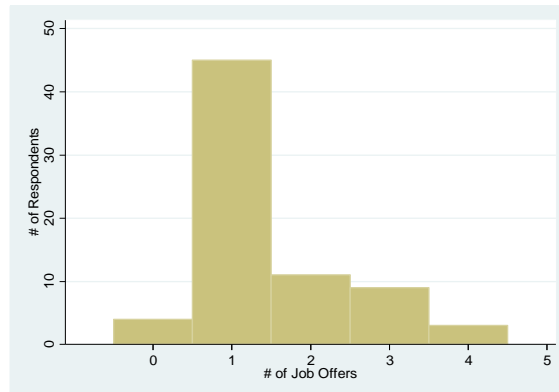
B.11.a. How many job offers have you received? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.11.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
72	1.66	1	1	4	0.92

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.11.b. Of those offers, how many are related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.11.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
72	1.47	1	0	4	0.93

B.12. Have you accepted a job offer? (Asked of respondents who indicated they had received one or more offers of employment in B.11.a.)

N	Yes	No
73	68%	32%

B.12.a. What is the name of the employer you plan to work for after graduation? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=44) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.b. In what city will you work? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=46) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.c. What type of position have you accepted? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=48) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.d. Is the position you accepted related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.)

N	Yes	No
50	88%	12%

C. College-Level Responses

Attending Graduate School

C.1.a. If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select WWU?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	62	21	25	197
Definitely not	5%	5%	3%		4%	4%
Probably not	10%	5%	6%	14%	12%	8%
Maybe	25%	6%	16%	19%	8%	13%
Probably	30%	35%	29%	62%	36%	36%
Definitely	30%	50%	45%	5%	40%	40%

C.1.b. If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select the same field of study?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	62	21	25	197
Definitely not	5%			5%		1%
Probably not		5%	6%	10%	4%	5%
Maybe	20%	15%	6%	19%	4%	12%
Probably	20%	24%	26%	29%	16%	24%
Definitely	55%	56%	61%	38%	76%	58%

C.1.c. Would you recommend Western to someone considering your program?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	62	21	25	197
Definitely not		2%	5%	5%		3%
Probably not	15%	9%	3%	5%	8%	8%
Maybe	20%	2%	15%	24%	12%	12%
Probably	10%	24%	23%	29%	24%	22%
Definitely	55%	64%	55%	38%	56%	56%

C.2. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	62	21	25	197
Undergraduate student	55%	23%	40%	35%	56%	37%
Employed in a field related to your program	20%	52%	31%	30%	28%	35%
Employed in a field unrelated to your program	25%	25%	29%	35%	16%	25%
Other		3%	6%	5%		

Academic Program

C.3. For each of the following, please rate both the importance of, as well as your satisfaction with that aspect of your program.

C.3.a. Importance

(Scale of 1 - 5, "not at all important" to "extremely important") (Means are reported)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	65	62	20	25	195
Level of academic challenge	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.6	4.2	3.9
Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.9	4.2
Professional training opportunities	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.7	4.0
Research opportunities	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	4.0	3.4
Quality of research conducted	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.3	4.0	3.6
Quality of instruction	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.4
Quality of advising	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.1
Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.4	4.0	3.8
Overall quality of the degree program	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.4

C.3.b. Satisfaction

(Scale of 1 - 5, "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied") (Means are reported)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	65	62	19	25	194
Level of academic challenge	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.4	4.0	3.9
Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field	3.7	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.9
Professional training opportunities	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.6
Research opportunities	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.5
Quality of research conducted	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.6
Quality of instruction	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.2	4.0
Quality of advising	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8
Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment	3.6	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.9
Overall quality of the degree program	3.5	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.9

Professional Development

C.4. Have you done any of the following during your graduate study at Western? % of respondents answering "yes" to each question is reported.

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	66	63	21	25	198
Attended a national or regional meeting associated with your discipline?	15%	31%	38%	48%	44%	36%
Attended an academic or professional conference?	30%	47%	62%	76%	68%	56%
Presented research at a seminar or conference?	15%	17%	40%	38%	52%	31%
Co-authored an article in a refereed journal with a program faculty?	10%	5%	8%	10%	24%	9%
Published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal?	5%		3%	10%	20%	5%

C.4.a. Professional development questions asked of respondents who responded "yes" in C.6. (Means are reported.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	3	21	24	9	11	70
How many national or regional meetings associated with your discipline have you attended?	1.7	2.1	2.8	2.4	1.7	2.3
N	6	31	39	16	15	109
How many academic or professional conferences have you attended?	3.2	1.8	2.6	2.0	1.7	2.2
N	3	11	25	8	13	61
At how many seminars or conferences have you presented research?	3.3	1.7	2.8	2.8	2.0	2.4
N	2	3	5	2	6	18
How many articles have you published in refereed journals as a co-author?	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.2
N	1		2	2	5	10
How many articles have you published in refereed journals as the sole or first author?	1.0		2.0	1.5	1.2	1.4

C.5. Have you written, or do you plan to write a paper for publication based on your thesis?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	65	62	18	25	192
Yes, I have written a paper for publication	5%	6%	8%	6%	20%	8%
Yes, I plan to write a paper for publication		20%	23%	61%	36%	24%
No	15%	28%	19%	6%	8%	19%
I did not write a thesis	80%	46%	50%	28%	36%	48%

Graduate Study at Western

C.6. During your graduate studies at Western, did you hold a teaching assistantship position, and if so, were you ever the instructor of a course or discussion section?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	65	62	18	25	192
Yes, I was a TA and the primary instructor for one or more courses	5%	5%	23%	28%	52%	19%
Yes, I was a TA, and the instructor for one or more discussion sections or labs, but never the primary instructor of a course	5%	5%	31%	22%	32%	18%
Yes, I was a TA, but never taught a discussion section or lab, or served as the primary instructor for a course	55%	6%	15%	17%	8%	15%
No, I was not a TA	35%	85%	32%	33%	8%	47%

C.6.a. In your most recent TA assignment, how many hours per week did you work? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.8. that they were a TA.) (Means are reported.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	13	10	42	12	23	101
Mean	14.8	20.0	19.3	19.0	20.4	19.0

C.6.b. In your most recent TA assignment, did you work more or fewer hours per week than you expected?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	13	10	42	12	23	101
Fewer by 5 or more hours	8%	10%	2%	8%		4%
Fewer by 2 to 4 hours	8%		14%	8%	4%	9%
As many as expected	62%	70%	52%	67%	65%	60%
More by 2 to 4 hours	15%		10%		17%	10%
More by 5 or more hours	8%	20%	21%	17%	13%	17%

C.6.c. How many quarters were you the primary instructor for one or more courses? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.8. that they were the primary instructor for one or more courses.) (Means are reported.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	1	3	14	5	13	37
Mean	3.0	4.7	5.0	3.2	4.53	4.4

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

C.7. Rate the extent to which the following factors were an obstacle to your academic progress and/or time to degree. (Scale of 1 - 3, "no impact" to "major impact.") (OSR excluded "not applicable" responses.) (Means are reported and respondents reporting N/A are dropped.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	18	58	58	14	23	173
Family obligations	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7
N	19	60	58	17	24	180
Availability of faculty	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.3	1.4
N	19	61	60	18	25	185
Course scheduling/availability	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.4	1.5
N	9	36.0	40	16	23	126
Thesis research	2.2	2.33	2.8	2.6	2.6	1.6
N	7	24	23	4	10	70
Other	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.3	2.5	1.9

C.8. Approximately how much debt did you incur to finance your graduate education at Western?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
All respondents	18	62	58	18	23	181
Mean	\$15,889	\$13,250	\$21,021	\$12,417	\$11,348	\$15,653
Respondents who incurred debt	11	36	40	7	12	107
Mean (if debt >0)	\$26,000	\$22,820	\$30,480	\$31,928	\$21,750	\$26,479

Plans for the Future

C.9. For each of the following activities, please rate both the likelihood you will engage in the activity, as well as your satisfaction with the level of preparation offered in your program.

C.9.a. Likelihood
(Scale of 1 - 5, "very unlikely" to "very likely") (Means are reported)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	65	61	18	24	190
Teaching at a higher-ed institution	2.5	3.8	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
Teaching at the K-12 level	2.3	3.9	2.4	2.9	1.8	2.9
Conducting independent research	2.8	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.2
Formulating a research topic	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.2
Collaborating on research with faculty members	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.0
Writing a grant proposal	2.5	3.5	2.9	3.9	3.5	3.2

C.9.b. Satisfaction
(Scale of 1 - 5, "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied") (Means are reported)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	64	62	18	25	191
Teaching at a higher-ed institution	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.5
Teaching at the K-12 level	3.0	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.4
Conducting independent research	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.5
Formulating a research topic	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.6
Collaborating on research with faculty members	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5
Writing a grant proposal	3.1	3.1	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.0

C.10. What are your immediate post-graduate plans?

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	20	64	61	17	25	189
Further graduate study	5%	5%	7%	24%	24%	7%
Employment in a school or community college	10%	70%	30%		20%	39%
Employment in a business or industry	70%	5%	34%	12%	44%	27%
Employment in a non-profit organization	5%	11%	8%	18%		8%
Employment with a government or government agency	5%	5%	11%	29%	4%	9%
Self-employment	5%			6%	4%	2%
Volunteer service			2%			1%
Other		5%	8%	12%	4%	7%

Plans for the Future (cont.)

C.10.a. Which of the following degrees do you plan to pursue? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in C.10.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	1	3	4		6	14
Masters						
Ph.D.	100%	100%	75%		100%	93%
Professional (JD, MD, etc.)			25%			7%

C.10.b. Have you already been admitted for further graduate study? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in C.10.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	1	3	4		6	14
Yes		33%	100%		50%	57%
No	100%	67%			50%	43%

C.11. Have you received any offers of post-graduation employment? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.10. that they plan to be employed, options 2 - 5.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	17	58	51	14	17	157
Yes	41%	45%	53%	57%	35%	47%
No	59%	55%	47%	43%	65%	53%

C.11.a. How many job offers have you received? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.11. that they received offers of post-graduation employment.) (OSR recoded if respondent gave conflicting answers.) (Means are reported.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
Of all respondents seeking employment (chose options 2 - 5 in N C.10.)						
Mean	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.8
Of respondents receiving at least one offer						
N	7	24	27	8	6	72
Mean	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.7

C.11.b. Of those offers, how many are related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in C.13.) (Means are reported.)

	CBE	Woodring	CHSS	Huxley	Sci & Eng	WWU
N	7	24	27	8	6	72
Mean	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.5