

Online Graduate Student Experience Survey

In spring 2009, the Office of Institutional Research at John Jay College of Criminal Justice piloted an online graduate student experience survey. The survey consisted of 120 questions designed to collect data on students' time use, progress in graduate school, educational and professional development, and their satisfaction with faculty and various college services.

The survey was distributed to 1,801 graduate students and 254 responded. Because women were overrepresented among survey respondents, data throughout this report are weighted by gender. Once applied, the weights adjust the data so that women and men are represented in the same proportions in which they were present in the graduate student population in spring 2009.

Key points of interest include:

- ⇒ 54% indicate that the most important reason for attending John Jay was that the college offers a graduate program in one's field of interest
- ⇒ 54% report that they work 35 or more hours a week and 38% report that their job is related to their field of graduate studies
- ⇒ 42% plan to pursue a more advanced degree
- ⇒ 88% are satisfied with the level of faculty preparedness for class and 84% are satisfied with the teaching skills of faculty
- ⇒ 79% of students rate their experience at John Jay as excellent or good.

Reasons and Goals for Attending John Jay

Important Reasons for Attending John Jay	All Reasons (Students select all that apply) %	Most Important Reason (Students select one) %
John Jay offers a graduate program in the field that interests me	92.6	54.3
The academic reputation of John Jay	59.5	24.9
The College is close/convenient to my home	23.1	3.3
The College is close/convenient to my work	22.9	2.3
Tuition at the college is affordable	57.9	11.7
Graduates of John Jay get good jobs	14.6	2.4
This was the only graduate program to which I was accepted	2.0	1.1

Important Goals for Attending John Jay	All Goals (Students select all that apply) %	Most Important Goal (Students select one) %
To complete a degree	78.1	26.5
To obtain or update job-related skills	39.5	6.0
To prepare for a change in career	33.3	15.9
For self-improvement or personal enjoyment	40.1	9.3
To prepare for a more advanced degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., J.D.)	51.3	23.0
For career advancement or promotion	46.2	19.3

Time Use

During the current semester, about how many hours do you spend in a typical week doing each of the following?	% Responding				
	0 hrs/wk	1-5 hrs/wk	6-10 hrs/wk	11-20 hrs/wk	Over 20 hrs/wk
Preparing for class	0.3	39.7	38.1	16.2	5.5
Attending classes and labs	2.7	44.2	45.4	5.8	1.9
Providing care for dependents (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	45.0	20.3	9.3	10.4	15.0
Traveling to and from campus	3.2	70.8	22.3	2.8	0.9

Work for Pay	% Responding
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During the current semester, about how many total hours in a typical week do you spend working for pay?

0 hrs/week	21.2
1-5 hrs/week	1.0
6-10 hrs/week	1.4
11-20 hrs/week	9.5
21-34 hrs/week	13.0
35 or more hrs/week	54.0

Is your current job related to your graduate studies?

Yes	38.3
No	42.9
I am not working this semester	18.8

Completion of Degree and Future Plans

Future Plans	% Responding		
	Yes	No	Have not decided
Are you completing or do you plan to complete a:			
Thesis	25.9	55.8	18.3
Comprehensive Exam	52.7	36.8	10.5
Fieldwork Experience (Internship, Externship, or Professional Practicum)	38.3	45.2	16.5
After you complete your graduate program do you plan to pursue a more advanced degree?	42.5	15.3	42.2

Educational Development

To what extent has attending your graduate program:	% Responding			
	Very much	Some	A little	Not at all
Helped you to acquire job or work-related knowledge or skills	38.3	34.8	12.5	14.4
Improved your ability to write knowledgeably and effectively	44.3	34.8	11.3	9.6
Improved your ability to speak knowledgeably and effectively	40.2	37.9	13.6	8.3
Improved your ability to think critically and analytically	50.0	31.4	13.0	5.6
Improved your ability to work effectively with others	30.8	35.5	18.9	14.8
Improved your ability to solve complex real-world problems	33.5	35.5	20.6	10.4

Professional Development

How much to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	% Responding				
	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My program provides opportunities for me to attend conferences in my field	10.2	37.4	25.7	20.5	6.1
My program provides adequate advising/mentoring	6.2	22.2	25.2	29.6	16.8
My program encourages me to network with professionals in my field	11.0	27.6	25.5	29.8	6.1
My program provides opportunities for students to engage in research	10.0	42.3	26.0	18.8	2.9
My program encourages students to write a thesis	5.3	20.4	39.8	26.2	8.3
My program provides adequate guidance about job/career prospects	4.4	23.1	30.5	30.7	11.3
My program encourages students to pursue an advanced degree	8.1	29.2	39.2	19.0	4.5
My program provides opportunities for students to complete a fieldwork experience (internship, etc.)	14.1	41.5	31.9	10.1	2.4

Satisfaction with Faculty

How satisfied are you with:	% Responding				
	Very satisfied	Satisfied	No opinion	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Availability of faculty outside of class	13.8	54.4	16.9	11.6	3.3
Quality of feedback from faculty about your performance	16.3	62.8	6.2	12.2	2.7
Promptness of feedback from faculty about your performance	14.3	62.7	8.7	12.7	1.6
Level of faculty preparedness for class	27.6	60.3	5.8	4.1	2.2
Faculty awareness of new developments in the field	33.5	52.5	9.3	2.3	2.3
Teaching skills of faculty	27.7	56.4	5.5	7.1	3.3

How much to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	% Responding				
	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Faculty in my graduate program are genuinely interested in the professional development and success of students	32.9	49.1	8.9	8.7	0.3
More opportunities for students to do research with faculty are needed	29.6	35.6	29.5	5.4	0.0
There are many opportunities for students and faculty to interact outside of class	5.8	20.9	32.9	33.3	7.1
Faculty are willing to discuss grades or assignments	21.5	60.7	9.3	8.1	0.3

Overall Satisfaction

How much to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	% Responding			
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I have learned a great deal in my graduate program	42.6	48.6	6.6	2.1
I would advise a friend with similar interest to apply to my graduate program at John Jay	40.2	46.7	8.7	4.5
My graduate program is providing me with good preparation for my future job/career	33.5	47.4	14.4	4.7
If I could start over, I would choose to attend my graduate program at John Jay again	39.1	40.7	14.6	5.6

How would you rate your experience at John Jay so far?	% Responding
Excellent	27.8
Good	51.3
Fair	16.5
Poor	4.4