

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies
Exit Survey of Rackham Doctoral Recipients
(2007 - 2017)

This report provides Rackham divisional breakdowns to questions from Rackham's Exit Survey of Doctoral Recipients. Data are presented in five comparison groups: graduates from each Rackham Division, and all Rackham completers. Within each group, data are reported by cohort. The 2007-2011 cohort includes responses from all doctoral completers between August 2006 and April 2011. Similarly, the 2012-2017 cohort includes doctoral completers between August 2011 and April 2017.

Response Rate		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
2007-2011	Number of Respondents	505 (67%)	1,067 (62%)	605 (65%)	232 (61%)	2,434 (64%)
	Doctorates granted	755	1,711	925	382	3,809
2012-2017	Number of Respondents	831 (77%)	1,590 (71%)	898 (77%)	334 (76%)	3,675 (74%)
	Doctorates granted	1,082	2,239	1,168	441	4,963

1. Please rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following:

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
 Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences 2012-2017	Physical Sciences and Engineering 2012-2017	Social Sciences 2012-2017	Humanities and the Arts 2012-2017	All Rackham 2012-2017
A. Your academic experience at this University	Mean	4.18	4.23	4.20	4.26	4.22
	S.D.	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.88	0.87
	N	782	1,488	821	304	3,416
B. Your student life at this University	Mean	3.97	4.07	3.87	3.87	3.98
	S.D.	0.96	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.97
	N	783	1,485	819	306	3,414
C. Your overall experience at this University	Mean	4.14	4.20	4.08	4.11	4.15
	S.D.	0.85	0.84	0.88	0.87	0.85
	N	781	1,475	816	306	3,399

2. Before beginning doctoral study, had you completed a Master's degree in a relevant field?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes, at UM-Ann Arbor	146	18%	440	28%	168	19%	40	12%	802	22%
Yes, at another institution	230	28%	349	22%	303	34%	157	47%	1,048	29%
No	455	55%	799	50%	425	47%	134	40%	1,818	50%
Total Number of Responses	831	100%	1,588	100%	896	100%	331	100%	3,668	100%

3. On average, did the quality of instruction in your program meet your expectations?

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
 Fell Short of Expectations Met Expectations Exceeds Expectations

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017
Mean	3.59	3.65	3.68	3.80	3.69	3.73	3.72	3.74	3.66	3.74
Standard Deviation	0.96	0.91	0.89	0.90	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.99	0.93	0.93
Total Number of Responses	504	829	1,062	1,586	602	895	231	333	2,419	3,665

4. Were program expectations clearly articulated during the following stages of your doctoral career?

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
 Not Clear Very Clear

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
A. Coursework	Mean	4.29	4.41	4.22	4.21	4.32
	S.D.	0.90	0.77	0.93	0.99	0.87
	N	822	1,574	888	329	3,635
B. Qualifying, comprehensive or preliminary examinations (if applicable)	Mean	4.16	4.36	4.04	3.95	4.20
	S.D.	0.97	0.81	1.06	1.09	0.95
	N	821	1,571	888	320	3,622
C. Requirements to become candidate (other than examinations) **	Mean	4.33	4.41	4.20	4.11	4.31
	S.D.	0.83	0.77	0.95	1.03	0.86
	N	778	1,471	813	302	3,385
D. Dissertation research and writing	Mean	3.92	4.08	3.78	3.81	3.94
	S.D.	1.04	0.94	1.10	1.11	1.03
	N	825	1,574	890	329	3,640
E. Dissertation defense	Mean	4.08	4.22	3.98	3.98	4.11
	S.D.	1.01	0.89	1.06	1.09	0.98
	N	823	1,570	888	328	3,631

5. Other than course grades and results of written or oral examinations, did your doctoral program provide a formal assessment of your academic progress at least annually?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	646	780	83%	1,136	1,466	77%	683	812	84%	216	301	72%	2,700	3,380	80%

6. Please rate the adequacy of support you were provided during your doctoral education and dissertation research in the following areas:

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
 Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
A. Financial support	Mean	4.27	4.46	4.05	4.12	4.28
	S.D.	1.06	0.89	1.11	1.03	1.01
	N	767	1,448	810	301	3,347
B. Information technology (IT) resources	Mean	4.13	4.31	4.23	4.14	4.23
	S.D.	0.99	0.88	0.91	0.90	0.92
	N	758	1,451	795	285	3,310
C. Your personal work space [e.g., desk or office]	Mean	4.05	4.10	3.56	3.00	3.86
	S.D.	1.06	1.03	1.32	1.28	1.19
	N	759	1,458	786	293	3,316
D. Library and electronic research resources	Mean	4.63	4.66	4.72	4.74	4.67
	S.D.	0.65	0.62	0.60	0.57	0.62
	N	767	1,455	807	297	3,347
E. Laboratory, clinical, studio, or other physical facilities	Mean	4.36	4.29	4.15	3.87	4.28
	S.D.	0.89	0.88	1.04	1.30	0.93
	N	657	1,192	333	54	2,247

7. Rate the quality of guidance/mentoring you received about the following:

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
 Poor Adequate Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
A. Understanding what is expected to become a candidate	Mean	4.20	4.28	4.08	4.08	4.20
	S.D.	0.95	0.86	0.95	1.04	0.93
	N	778	1,459	806	297	3,361
B. Identifying a mentor to guide your research ***	Mean	3.97	4.05	3.88	3.88	3.97
	S.D.	1.14	1.06	1.15	1.21	1.12
	N	808	1,513	869	315	3,527
C. Selection of a dissertation topic	Mean	4.02	4.07	3.89	3.91	4.00
	S.D.	1.06	0.99	1.09	1.13	1.05
	N	773	1,450	804	295	3,342
D. Your dissertation research	Mean	4.12	4.21	4.02	3.92	4.12
	S.D.	1.03	0.94	1.07	1.07	1.01
	N	777	1,460	805	295	3,358
E. Writing and revising your dissertation	Mean	4.03	4.05	4.02	4.00	4.04
	S.D.	1.09	1.07	1.13	1.13	1.10
	N	777	1,462	805	297	3,362
F. Professional development ***	Mean	3.61	3.82	3.60	3.56	3.70
	S.D.	1.26	1.15	1.25	1.29	1.22
	N	817	1,550	873	326	3,587
G. Your search for employment or training	Mean	3.39	3.60	3.58	3.42	3.53
	S.D.	1.32	1.25	1.27	1.37	1.29
	N	732	1,405	773	289	3,219

**8. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:
I received sufficient knowledge and training during my graduate studies to conduct research in a responsible and ethical way.**

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
Mean	4.48	4.44	4.46	4.27	4.44
Standard Deviation	0.86	0.84	0.88	0.93	0.87
Total Number of Responses	780	1,466	808	299	3,374

**9. Two important aspects of a good doctoral program are the intellectual and social environments.
Please indicate how strongly you agree with the following statements in relation to your program.**

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

		Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
		2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017
A. Intellectual environment is stimulating.	Mean	4.15	4.14	4.09	4.25	4.33	4.31	4.12	4.17	4.16	4.23
	S.D.	0.92	0.93	0.89	0.82	0.85	0.88	1.02	1.03	0.91	0.89
	N	502	823	1,046	1,567	596	878	229	325	2,394	3,615
B. Climate encourages the participation of all students.	Mean	3.77	3.84	3.75	3.94	3.72	3.71	3.71	3.70	3.74	3.84
	S.D.	1.08	1.06	1.02	1.02	1.13	1.13	1.16	1.21	1.08	1.08
	N	501	823	1,045	1,569	595	881	227	325	2,389	3,620
C. There is a sense of community among students.	Mean	3.69	3.65	3.84	3.88	3.87	3.81	3.81	3.86	3.81	3.80
	S.D.	1.04	1.10	1.01	1.03	0.98	1.08	1.04	1.15	1.01	1.07
	N	501	819	1,045	1,568	594	878	229	325	2,390	3,612
D. Students in my program are treated with respect by faculty.**	Mean		4.01		4.08		3.93		3.83		4.00
	S.D.		1.02		0.97		1.02		1.13		1.01
	N		779		1,465		804		298		3,367
E. Interactions with faculty and students in other programs and departments enriched my intellectual experience.**	Mean		4.05		3.98		4.04		4.18		4.03
	S.D.		0.98		0.99		1.03		1.03		1.00
	N		779		1,462		806		298		3,366

10. Based on research conducted while you were a graduate student, how many scholarly works that have been published or accepted for publication (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings) have you authored or co-authored?

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017	2007-2011	2012-2017
# of Papers 0	88 18%	82 10%	168 17%	122 8%	216 37%	244 28%	126 56%	96 30%	603 26%	546 15%
1	110 22%	127 15%	234 23%	137 9%	154 27%	189 21%	51 23%	93 29%	551 24%	548 15%
2	113 23%	157 19%	196 19%	188 12%	102 18%	139 16%	24 11%	49 15%	439 19%	536 15%
3	74 15%	160 19%	145 14%	223 14%	44 8%	98 11%	12 5%	39 12%	281 12%	524 15%
4	39 8%	91 11%	93 9%	186 12%	25 4%	67 8%	6 3%	24 7%	164 7%	371 10%
5	23 5%	58 7%	59 6%	122 8%	14 2%	32 4%	2 1%	7 2%	99 4%	221 6%
6 or more	47 10%	147 18%	116 11%	579 37%	23 4%	111 13%	4 2%	14 4%	191 8%	857 24%
Total	494 100%	822 100%	1,011 100%	1,557 100%	578 100%	880 100%	225 100%	322 100%	2,328 100%	3,603 100%

10a. How many others are currently under review?

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017	
# of Papers 0	247	32%	478	33%	399	50%	177	60%	1,308	39%
1	268	35%	436	30%	215	27%	81	27%	1,005	30%
2	158	20%	359	25%	119	15%	28	9%	669	20%
3	69	9%	119	8%	46	6%	6	2%	243	7%
4	22	3%	41	3%	12	1%	2	1%	78	2%
5	7	1%	17	1%	8	1%	1	0%	33	1%
6 or more	2	0%	10	1%	4	0%	0	0%	16	0%
Total	773	100%	1,460	100%	803	100%	295	100%	3,352	100%

11. How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make at meetings away from your campus (regional, national, or international)?

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017	
# of Presentations 0	37	5%	55	4%	19	2%	8	3%	119	4%
1	63	8%	95	6%	27	3%	15	5%	201	6%
2	109	14%	172	12%	55	7%	21	7%	358	11%
3	126	16%	197	13%	71	9%	21	7%	415	12%
4	108	14%	216	15%	84	10%	31	10%	440	13%
5	88	11%	193	13%	96	12%	38	13%	419	12%
6 or more	247	32%	534	37%	451	56%	162	55%	1,408	42%
Total	778	100%	1,462	100%	803	100%	296	100%	3,360	100%

12. Were you a graduate student instructor (GSI) at any time during your doctoral study?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	549	779	70%	988	1,469	67%	726	806	90%	295	297	99%	2,573	3,372	76%

12a. If yes, how helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?

Scale: 1 2 3 4
 Not at all helpful Not very helpful Somewhat helpful Very helpful

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017		2012-2017	
Mean	3.30		3.41		3.58		3.75		3.48	
Standard Deviation	0.79		0.70		0.66		0.52		0.71	
Total Number of Responses	549		986		724		294		2,568	

12b. (If you taught as a GSI) For how many semesters did you teach as a graduate student instructor?

Scale: 1 to 7 semesters or more

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
Mean	2.31	3.01	3.96	5.67	3.44
Standard Deviation	1.72	2.02	2.06	1.55	2.17
Total Number of Responses	546	983	725	295	2,564

13. Were you a graduate student research assistant (GSRA) at any time during your doctoral study?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	612	780	78%	1,374	1,468	94%	499	806	62%	100	296	34%	2,602	3,371	77%

13a. If yes, how helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?

Scale: 1 2 3 4
 Not at all helpful Not very helpful Somewhat helpful Very helpful

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
Mean	3.64	3.77	3.45	3.26	3.66
Standard Deviation	0.67	0.49	0.73	0.86	0.62
Total Number of Responses	609	1,365	497	99	2,587

13b. (If you were a GSRA) For how many semesters were you a graduate student research assistant (GSRA)?

Scale: 1 to 7 semesters or more

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017	2012-2017
Mean	5.15	5.88	4.33	2.38	5.27
Standard Deviation	2.19	1.77	2.25	1.85	2.15
Total Number of Responses	604	1,369	496	99	2,585

15a. What one type of principal employer will you be working for (or training with) in the next year?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<u>Education</u>										
U.S. 4-year college or university other than medical school	244	32%	391	27%	406	51%	161	56%	1,212	36%
U.S. medical school (including university-affiliated hospital or medical center)	168	22%	38	3%	35	4%	1	0%	242	7%
U.S. university-affiliated research institute	57	7%	95	7%	40	5%	12	4%	207	6%
U.S. community or two-year college	1	0%	3	0%	6	1%	2	1%	12	0%
U.S. preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system	2	0%	1	0%	4	1%	2	1%	9	0%
<u>Government</u>										
Foreign educational institution	25	3%	57	4%	59	7%	22	8%	163	5%
Foreign government	1	0%	17	1%	6	1%	2	1%	26	1%
U.S. federal government	46	6%	121	8%	33	4%	3	1%	203	6%
U.S. state government	4	1%	3	0%	6	1%	0	0%	13	0%
U.S. local government	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%
<u>Private Sector</u>										
Not-for-profit organization	20	3%	28	2%	41	5%	13	4%	104	3%
Industry (for-profit)	97	13%	541	37%	46	6%	5	2%	691	21%
<u>Other</u>										
Self-employed	7	1%	11	1%	9	1%	7	2%	35	1%
Other (not listed above)	6	1%	4	0%	1	0%	0	0%	11	0%
Unknown	91	12%	149	10%	107	13%	60	21%	410	12%

15b. My immediate post-graduate position is located...

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Inside the U.S.	700	87%	1,304	84%	676	78%	226	72%	2,926	82%
Outside the U.S.	37	5%	107	7%	88	10%	30	10%	262	7%
Don't know location	72	9%	139	9%	104	12%	59	19%	376	11%

16. Which best describes your long-term career aspiration?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tenure track faculty	362	47%	495	34%	529	66%	224	76%	1,621	48%
Non-tenure track faculty	15	2%	19	1%	13	2%	7	2%	54	2%
Non-university teaching position	4	1%	8	1%	3	0%	1	0%	16	0%
Researcher	176	23%	398	27%	97	12%	8	3%	680	20%
Professional, administrator or manager	105	14%	294	20%	63	8%	23	8%	488	15%
Work independently (e.g., entrepreneur, consultant, performer)	37	5%	112	8%	24	3%	4	1%	181	5%
Other employment (not listed above)	10	1%	4	0%	5	1%	1	0%	21	1%
Unknown	64	8%	130	9%	68	8%	25	9%	288	9%

16a. Which best describes the type of employer for your long-term career aspiration?

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Higher education institution (four-year college or university)	417	54%	565	39%	592	74%	245	84%	1,830	55%
Other educational institution	14	2%	5	0%	9	1%	4	1%	32	1%
Government	50	6%	113	8%	37	5%	3	1%	204	6%
Industry (for-profit)	164	21%	550	38%	34	4%	3	1%	754	23%
Not-for-profit organization	24	3%	19	1%	43	5%	12	4%	100	3%
Self-employed	31	4%	73	5%	20	2%	4	1%	130	4%
Other	8	1%	2	0%	3	0%	1	0%	15	0%
Unknown	63	8%	128	9%	64	8%	20	7%	276	8%

16b. This long-term career position would be located...

2012-2017	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Inside the U.S.	602	74%	1,088	70%	653	75%	214	68%	2,573	72%
Outside the U.S.	46	6%	116	7%	60	7%	24	8%	248	7%
Don't know location	167	20%	351	23%	160	18%	79	25%	761	21%

Notes:

* 2012 - 2017 respondents are those who received the revised Exit Survey with degrees conferred in December 2011 or later.

Questions designated by ** were first asked to those with degrees conferred in December 2011.

Questions designated by *** were first asked to those with degrees conferred in April 2009; includes those with degrees conferred in August 2011.