

2019–2020 HEDS Advanced Degree Alumni Survey

This is a PDF representation of the online version of the survey. It includes all questions and response options, as well as notes (in italics) about how questions will display to survey takers.

Welcome to the Graduate Program Alumni Survey. Thanks for agreeing to participate!

This survey asks about the quality and impact of your experiences in graduate school. The survey asks you to evaluate the long-term impact of your graduate education on your critical thinking, problem-solving, and other important skills. Finally, the survey asks about employment, satisfaction with your graduate program, and the extent of your debt from graduate school.

Your participation is completely voluntary, and there are no penalties if you decide not to participate or if you choose to skip any questions. All of your responses are strictly confidential. At no time will your responses be publicly linked with your name or any other identifying information.

1. Please indicate which of the following describes your current PRIMARY activity:

- Employed, full-time
- Employed, part-time
- Employed and attending graduate or professional school
- Graduate or professional school, full-time
- Graduate or professional school, part-time
- Military service
- Volunteer or national service (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, etc.)
- Not employed, but seeking employment, admission to graduate school, or other opportunity
- Not employed, and not seeking employment or admission to graduate school (caring for family, traveling, volunteering, etc.)
- Retired

2. Below are statements about your views of your graduate faculty’s interest in teaching and students. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each.

Most faculty with whom I had contact at this institution were . . .

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Genuinely interested in students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interested in helping students grow in more than just academic areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good at providing prompt and useful feedback.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Willing to spend time outside of class to discuss issues of interest and importance to students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Below are statements about your contact and interactions with faculty in your graduate program at this institution. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty had a positive influence on my personal growth, values, and attitudes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My nonclassroom interactions with faculty had a positive influence on my career goals and aspirations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I developed a close, mentoring relationship with at least one faculty member.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was satisfied with the opportunities to meet and interact informally with faculty members.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Below are statements about experiences you may have had in your classes as a graduate student at this institution. About how often did you experience each?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Faculty posed challenging ideas in class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty asked me to show how a particular course concept could be applied to an actual problem or situation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty asked me to point out any fallacies in ideas, principles, or points of view presented in the course.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty asked me to argue for or against a particular point of view.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty challenged my ideas in class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students challenged each other's ideas in class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Below are descriptions of academic work you may have done for your graduate classes at this institution. About how often did you undertake each?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Explained and illustrated the major theories, research methods, approaches to inquiry, and schools of practice in your field of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explored the current limits of theory, knowledge, and practice in your field of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articulated and defended the significance and implications of work in your field of study for challenges and trends in a social or global context.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disaggregated, reformulated, and adapted important ideas, techniques, or methods from your field of study in carrying out an essay or project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked on evaluating, refining, or expanding important concepts in your field of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigated a core issue in your field of study from the perspective of a different point in time, culture, language, political point of view, or some other perspective different than your own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articulated and challenged a tradition, assumption, or prevailing practice within your field of study by examining relevant ethical perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Used appropriate mathematical or statistical methods to address a topic or issue in your field of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Created sustained, coherent arguments or explanations summarizing your work, or that of collaborators, for both general and specialized audiences.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated knowledge acquired in practicum, work, community or research activities with knowledge and skills you acquired from the curriculum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applied advanced knowledge from your field of study to a practical challenge in an out-of-class setting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed a position on a public policy question or addressed a national/global challenge in your field of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How often did you have the following experiences as a graduate student at this institution?

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Attended a debate or lecture on a current political, social, or professional issue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participated in a diversity or cultural awareness workshop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Had discussions about intergroup relations with students differing from you in gender, national origin, political views, race, religion, sexuality, or values.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Had serious discussions with other students about different lifestyles and customs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Had serious discussions with faculty or staff whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Had serious discussions with students whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. To what extent did your experience as a graduate student at this institution contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Careful reading: Comprehension and analysis of written texts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical thinking: Examination of ideas, evidence, and assumptions before accepting or formulating a conclusion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative thinking: Developing or combining ideas, images, or expertise in innovative ways.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information literacy: Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively and responsibly for a particular purpose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quantitative literacy: Seeking, understanding, and using quantitative information appropriately to solve problems or make arguments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective writing: Conveying accurate and compelling content in clear, expressive, and professionally appropriate prose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective speaking: Conveying accurate and compelling content in clear, expressive, and professionally appropriate oral presentations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teamwork: Contributing to a team, facilitating the work of team members, and fostering a constructive team climate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem solving: Designing, evaluating, and implementing a strategy to answer questions or achieve a goal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic engagement: Promoting the quality of life in a community, through political, nonpolitical, and professional activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intercultural knowledge and competence: Information, skills, and commitments that support effective and appropriate interactions in a variety of cultural and professional contexts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethical reasoning: Recognizing ethical issues, examining different ethical perspectives, and considering the ramifications of alternative actions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrative thinking: The habit of connecting ideas and experiences, and the ability to transfer learning to novel situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Overall, to what extent did your graduate program at this institution prepare you for the following activities?

	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little
Acquiring a lasting working knowledge of key facts and concepts in your field of study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acquiring job or work-related skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the opportunity you wanted (employment or graduate school) soon after graduation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being successful in your current career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responding to new career opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assuming leadership responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to your community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deepening your commitment to personal development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continued learning outside of your field of study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. To what extent did your graduate program at this institution prepare you for required licensure or certificate exams?

- Very much
- Quite a bit
- Some
- Very little
- N/A

10. How connected do you feel to this institution?

- Very strong connection
- Some connection
- Very little connection
- No connection

11. Overall, how satisfied have you been with your graduate education at this institution?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

12. From the perspective you've gained since you earned your degree, what do you especially value about your experience as a graduate student at this institution?

13. If you could ask this institution to change something or do something new to improve the quality of graduate students' educational experiences, what would it be?

14. Did you attend an online or on-campus graduate program at this institution?

- Primarily or entirely on campus
- Primarily or entirely online
- Split between on campus and online

15. How long did it take you to complete your graduate degree?

- Less than 1 year
- 1–2 years
- 2–3 years
- 3–5 years
- More than 5 years

16. At the time you graduated, what was the total amount that you personally borrowed to finance your graduate education at this institution?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No loans | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000–\$59,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000–\$69,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000–\$9,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000–\$79,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000–\$14,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000–\$89,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000–\$19,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90,000–\$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000–\$29,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000–\$39,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Borrowed money, but don't know the amount |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000–\$49,999 | |

17. Have you earned another degree or certificate from this institution?

- Yes
- No

18. Please indicate your plans for each of the following degrees or certificates:

	Do not plan to pursue	Degree received	Currently enrolled or working toward	Degree you hope to attain in the future
Bachelor's Degree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's Degree in Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS, MFA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Master's Degree (e.g., MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law Degree (JD or LLB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM, PharmD)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PhD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Doctoral Degree (e.g., EdD, PsyD, DBA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Certificate: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Degree: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19 appears to individuals who did not indicate that they are currently employed or not employed in Q1.

19. Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No

20. How many paying jobs have you had since you earned your graduate degree from this institution?

Alumni will select from a drop-down menu that lists: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or more.

Q21 only appears to alumni who have not had any paying jobs since earning their degree. They will then skip to Q26.

21. In the previous question, you indicated you have not had a paying job since earning your graduate degree. Which of the following best describes your situation?

- I have not sought a paying job.
- I have sought a paying job, but I have not yet found one.

Q22 appears to alumni who indicate that they have had one or more paying jobs since earning their degree.

22. At what point did you secure your first paying job after earning your graduate degree from this institution?

- The first job I had after earning my degree is the same job I had before enrolling.
- While enrolled as a graduate student.
- During the first six months after earning my graduate degree.
- During the second six months after earning my graduate degree.
- More than a year after earning my graduate degree.
- I have not sought a paying job.
- I have sought a paying job, but I have not yet found one.

Q23 appears to alumni who have had multiple jobs or only one job and are not currently employed. Response options are shown in randomized order.

23. Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applied to your first paying job after you earned your graduate degree from this institution. (Check all that apply)

- Was related to my graduate degree
- Required me to use skills I gained from my graduate program
- Was related to my desired career path
- Was work I found meaningful
- Allowed me to continue to grow and learn
- Paid enough to support my desired lifestyle
- Paid health insurance benefits
- Had opportunity for upward mobility
- Continued until I wished to leave
- Was in a desirable location
- Overall, was a satisfying job

Q24 only appears to alumni who indicate that they are currently employed.

24. What is your CURRENT primary job? (Choose one)

Art, Design, and Entertainment

- Architect
- Artist
- Entertainer
- Gallery worker
- Graphic designer
- Interior designer
- Museum curator
- Music/film industry
- Photographer
- Other Art, Design, and Entertainment

Communications and Media

- Broadcasting
- Editor
- Journalist
- Media production
- Public relations
- Publisher
- Writer
- Other Communications and Media

Community and Social Service

- Clergy
- Community organizer
- Philanthropy or nonprofit worker
- Social activist
- Social work
- Other Community and Social Service

Education and Library

- Librarian or archivist
- Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary administration
- Preschool/elementary/middle school/high school/secondary teacher
- Postsecondary administration/staff
- Postsecondary teacher or researcher
- School counselor
- Other Education and Library

Health Care

- Clinical psychology/psychiatry
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Nurse
- Optometrist
- Pharmacist
- Physical/occupational/speech therapy
- Physician
- Veterinarian
- Other Health Care

Law and Government

- Diplomat
- Foreign service
- Government worker
- International relations
- Judge
- Lawyer
- Other legal services
- Politics
- Public policy
- Other Law and Government

Management, Business, and Financial

- Accounting
- Actuary
- Advertising
- Executive
- Finance
- Human resources
- Insurance
- Management
- Real estate
- Recruiting
- Retail services
- Sales
- Other Management, Business, and Financial

Natural Resources

- Agricultural worker
- Conservationist
- Environmental scientist
- Other Natural Resources

Protection Services

- Law enforcement officer
- Military occupations
- Other Protection Services

Science, Technology, and Engineering

- Computer programmer/analyst
- Engineer
- Information systems
- Lab technician
- Scientific researcher
- Other Science, Technology, and Engineering

Service and Recreational

- Chef
- Food service industry
- Hospitality
- Sports and recreation
- Travel/tourism
- Other Service and Recreational

Other

- Other: _____
- I am not currently employed

Q25 only appears to alumni who indicate that they are currently employed. Response options are shown in randomized order.

25. Please indicate whether each of the following descriptions applies to your current job. (Check all that apply)

- Relates to my graduate degree
- Required me to use skills I gained from my graduate program
- Is related to my desired career path
- Is work I find meaningful
- Allows me to continue to grow and learn
- Pays enough to support my desired lifestyle
- Pays health insurance benefits
- Has opportunity for upward mobility
- Is likely to continue until I wish to leave
- Is in a desirable location
- Overall, is a satisfying job
- I am not currently employed

26. About how often do you currently engage in community service or volunteer work for organizations?

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Several times a year
- Once or twice a year
- Less than once a year

27. What kind of degree or certificate did you receive from this institution?

- Post-Baccalaureate certificate
- Master's degree
- Post-Master's certificate
- Doctoral degree (e.g., DBA, DDS, DO, DVM, EdD, JD, MD, PhD, PharmD, PsyD)
- Other: _____

28. What was your field of study for your graduate degree or certificate?

- Architecture and Environmental Design
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Arts and Music
- Biological Sciences
- Business and Management
- Communications, Media, and Public Relations
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Education
- Engineering
- Humanities
- Law and Legal Professions
- Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Sciences
- Medical and Health Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Psychology
- Religion and Theology
- Social Sciences
- Social Service Professions
- Other: _____

29. If you would like to elaborate on any of your responses on this survey or share other information about any aspect of your experience as a graduate student at this institution, please use the space below.

Demographic Information

We ask for the following information so that we can do analyses that will help your institution get a better picture of how an individual's background and identity are related to their experiences. Of course, like the rest of the survey, you may choose to skip any of these questions.

30. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- Nonbinary, please specify: _____

31. Are you transgender?

- Yes
- No

32. What was your citizenship status during the time you were enrolled as a graduate student?

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. permanent resident but not a U.S. citizen
- Not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

33. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes
- No

34. Please indicate the race or races with which you identify. (Choose one or more)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White

35. What year were you born?

Alumni will select from a drop-down menu that lists years from 1916–2011.

36. Which of the following most accurately describes your current personal annual income before taxes? Please report your personal income, not your total household income.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No earned income | \$120,000–\$139,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 | \$140,000–\$159,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000–\$39,999 | \$160,000–\$179,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000–\$59,999 | \$180,000–\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000–\$79,999 | \$200,000–\$219,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000–\$99,999 | \$220,000–\$240,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000–\$119,999 | More than \$240,000 |

37. What is your current personal status? (Choose one)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living with partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Single |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separated or divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

38. How many dependent children do you have?

- None
- 1 or 2
- More than 2