Assessment: Graduate Student Surveys

Introduction
GW administers a suite of surveys through the Office of Institutional Research. Two surveys provide aggregate and program level data that is useful to the EPP.

The first is the Graduate Student Survey in which graduate students are asked to complete a graduation survey at the time of graduation. Questions on the survey cover satisfaction with their graduate school experience including instruction, advising, faculty, and university services; assessment of what was learned; career advising; and post-graduation plans.

The second is the Life after GW survey which asks recent graduate-level alumni to provide information about their employment outcomes, within six months of graduation.

Purpose and Administration
The two surveys provide confidential data about program quality and the Graduate Student Survey has a high rate of participation as it is required for graduation. A review of the survey responses will identify areas of strength and improvement within the EPP’s curriculum and play a vital role in informing strategic decisions taken by the EPP.

GW Surveys Alignment with Standards
CAEP Standards/Component: R3.3, R4.1, R4.3, R5.1

Assessment Description
The Graduate Survey is required of all graduating students who wish to receive tickets to commencement. Surveys are reviewed annually by schools and departments to ensure face validity. It uses identifiable information allowing for disaggregation by program. The categories of questions are:

- Academic Quality
- Coursework and Instruction
- Campus Climate
- Services and Resources
- Satisfaction with Program at GW
- Obstacles to Academic Progress
- Sources of Funding
- Primary Activity after Graduation
● Salary
● Job Location
● Top Employers

The Life at GW survey asks about employment and salary outcomes. These include querying whether graduates are Actively seeking employment, Employed full-time, including self-employed and military service, Employed part-time, including self-employed or starting a business, Enrolled in another education program full- or part-time, or Other.

Analysis Summary

The Graduation Survey reported 35 responses across all EPP programs in 2023. Aggregate data were analyzed and disaggregated data were included by program if more than 4 responses were provided. Most ratings for the EPP were higher than the graduate school at large. Three programs did not have sufficient data to report making cross program comparisons challenging. Generally, graduates reported positive feedback which is consistent with the EPP created survey to Graduates. The highest reported data were for “Course content is relevant to current issues in my field”, “Students in my program are treated with respect by faculty”, and “Faculty and students are respectful of one another when discussing controversial issues or perspectives.” The areas of lowest scores were “The environment at GW encourages interdisciplinary collaboration across programs” and “Academic advising.” Accreditation staff will be analyzing data from 2020, 2021, and 2022 to look for trends and these data will then be updated annually.

The Life at GW survey showed that 90 % of EPP completers were employed and 10 % were activity seeking employment. The average reported salary of the EPP completers was $69975 with the highest salary being in Educational Leadership and School Counseling.

Evidence Referenced in this Report
GW Graduate Survey Data
GW GSEHD Graduate Student Graduation Survey 2022-23
GSEHD Life After GW 2022

For additional information or questions, please contact Interim Director of Accreditation, Dr. Jennifer Clayton at claytonj@gwu.edu.