

**RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**  
**2008-09 GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY**

*Your opinions are very valuable to us and could form the basis of significant improvements to the content and delivery of graduate education at Rensselaer. The Graduate School assures complete confidentiality of your individual survey responses. We will share them without identifying respondents, and only to the extent that the exchange of information may serve to advance any needed academic or social change in your Department, your School, or the Institute as a whole. Your cooperation is appreciated, thank you for once again helping Rensselaer change the world to a better place.*

*Stanley Dunn*

*Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate School*

- 
1. **Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_
  2. **Gender:**     M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_
  3. **Visa Type:** \_\_\_\_\_
  4. **Country of Origin:** \_\_\_\_\_
  5. **U.S. Citizen:** Yes \_\_\_     No \_\_\_     **Permanent Resident** \_\_\_
  6. **Ethnicity:** Black \_\_\_     White \_\_\_     Hispanic/Latino \_\_\_     Asian \_\_\_  
                          Native American \_\_\_     **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_
  7. **Department:** \_\_\_\_\_
  8. **Graduate Degree(s) earned:**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 

Please use the scale that follows to respond to each set of questions. After each set you have an opportunity to provide comments.

- |                              |                           |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1 – Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>2 – Disagree</b>       | <b>3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree</b> |
| <b>4 – Agree</b>             | <b>5 – Strongly Agree</b> | <b>6 – Don't Know</b>                 |

**A. Information for Prospective Students** – My graduate program provided me with the following information during my application and admissions process:

1. \_\_\_ Accurate information about the costs (total of tuition, fees, and living expenses) of the program.
2. \_\_\_ Realistic assessment of financial support (prospects for and levels of) while in graduate school.
3. \_\_\_ Clear information about the requirements and expectations of my program.
4. \_\_\_ Information about career prospects for graduate students in my field.
5. \_\_\_ A list of places where recent program graduates were employed after graduation.
6. \_\_\_ The percentage of students in the program who complete the program.
7. \_\_\_ The average time to degree for recent program graduates.
8. \_\_\_ Overall, my program provided enough information during the application and admissions process for me to make an informed decision about choosing to pursue my degree program.

Additional comments on Information for Prospective Students:

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1 – Strongly Disagree  
4 – Agree

2 – Disagree  
5 – Strongly Agree

3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree  
6 – Don't Know

**B. Curricular Breadth & Flexibility**

1. \_\_\_ My program's curriculum is broad enough to meet my needs and prepare me for my career of choice.
2. \_\_\_ My program actively encourages students to explore a broad range of career options.
3. \_\_\_ My program encourages students to broaden their education through non-required activities such as coursework outside of the department, internships, and workshops.
4. \_\_\_ My program does a good job of preparing students for academic careers.
5. \_\_\_ My program does a good job of preparing students for careers outside of academia.

Additional comments on Curricular Breadth & Flexibility:

**C. Teaching**

1. \_\_\_ Teaching assistants in my program are appropriately prepared and trained before entering the classroom.
2. \_\_\_ Teaching assistants in my program are appropriately supervised to help improve their teaching skills.
3. \_\_\_ Graduate student needs and interests are given appropriate consideration for determining which courses students in my program teach.
4. \_\_\_ The teaching experience available through my program is adequate preparation for an academic/teaching career.

Additional comments on Teaching:

**D. Professional Development**

1. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive training in professional ethics and professorial responsibilities via coursework or seminars.
2. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive training in professional skills such as public speaking, grant writing, and working in teams.
3. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive sufficient resources such as office space, computer access, office equipment, and supplies.

Additional comments on Professional Development:

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1 – Strongly Disagree  
4 – Agree

2 – Disagree  
5 – Strongly Agree

3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree  
6 – Don't Know

**E. Career Guidance & Placement Services**

1. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive effective career guidance and planning services for careers in academia.
2. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive effective career guidance and planning services for careers outside of academia.
3. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive effective placement assistance and job search support for positions in academia.
4. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program receive effective placement assistance and job search support for positions outside of academia.

Additional comments on Career Guidance & Placement Services:

**F. Time to Degree Completion**

1. \_\_\_ My program gives me a clear, annual assessment of my progress towards my graduate degree.
2. \_\_\_ A faculty member or group of faculty members (in addition to my advisor) is keeping track of my research progress and will help to determine when I have accomplished enough work for my Ph.D.. (or research based master's).
3. \_\_\_ Insufficient funding slows my progress towards a degree.

Additional comments on Time to Degree Completion:

**G. Mentoring**

1. \_\_\_ I am learning good research practice(s).
2. \_\_\_ I receive ongoing, constructive feedback on my progress towards degree from my advisor.
3. \_\_\_ I am satisfied with the **amount** of time I spend with my advisor.
4. \_\_\_ I am satisfied with the **quality** of the time I spend with my advisor.
5. \_\_\_ I would feel comfortable talking to my advisor about a career in academia.
6. \_\_\_ I would feel comfortable talking to my advisor about a career outside of academia.
7. \_\_\_ My own goals and research interests are incorporated into my doctoral dissertation.
8. \_\_\_ There is a person or office I would turn to if I perceived abuse or misconduct in my program, by my advisor, or by a committee member.

Additional comments on Mentoring:

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1 – Strongly Disagree  
4 – Agree

2 – Disagree  
5 – Strongly Agree

3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree  
6 – Don't Know

**H. Program Climate**

1. \_\_\_ There is a supportive student community in my program.
2. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program are treated with respect.
3. \_\_\_ Graduate students in my program are involved in decisions relevant to their education.
4. \_\_\_ Faculty in my program believe students are here primarily to help faculty fulfill their research and teaching obligations.
5. \_\_\_ My program actively recruits talented students from underrepresented groups.
6. \_\_\_ My program provides an environment in which members of underrepresented groups feel comfortable and supported.
7. \_\_\_ I have enough time and freedom to pursue interests and activities outside of my academic program.

Additional comments on Program Climate:

**I. Overall Satisfaction**

1. \_\_\_ I receive sufficient financial support to maintain an acceptable standard of living.
2. \_\_\_ Overall, I am satisfied with the **courses** in my program.
3. \_\_\_ Overall, I am satisfied with my **advisor**.
4. \_\_\_ Overall, I am satisfied with **my program**.
5. \_\_\_ Overall, students in my program seem satisfied with the program.
6. \_\_\_ Overall, I would recommend my program to prospective students.
7. \_\_\_ Overall, I am satisfied with my Rensselaer experience.

Additional comments on Overall Satisfaction:

*Thank You Very Much For Your Assistance.*

**Please submit your survey to the Graduate School with your thesis.**

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