

EXIT SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
COMPLETING DEGREES FALL 2014 THROUGH
SUMMER 2015

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2015-05

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2015 EXIT SURVEY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETING DEGREES FALL 2014 THROUGH SUMMER 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2015 Exit Survey of Graduate Students Completing Degrees continues the Office of Survey Research's (OSR) survey of graduate students first initiated in 2009. The current survey was administered at the end of each quarter to students completing their graduate degree. This report summarizes responses from students who graduated in Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015, and Summer 2015. Of the 257 recipients of this degree during this time, OSR received valid responses from 198, a response rate of 77.0%.

With the help of the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, this survey was designed to elicit information on program satisfaction, the frequency and scope of academic interaction on and off campus, barriers to success, and plans for the future. OSR uses a mixture of online and telephone survey methodologies and links survey results with Western's student records thus expanding their usefulness to researchers and university decision makers. The survey was launched with an e-mail invitation to potential respondents about four weeks prior to the end of each quarter. Follow up e-mail reminders were sent approximately every four days for the subsequent two weeks. Phone call reminders were placed to all non-respondents. The survey was closed immediately prior to commencement exercises.

As with any survey, readers should be concerned with sample selection bias; that is bias which arises because survey respondents are not a random selection of the population of survey recipients. While sample selection bias for Western's graduate exit survey is mitigated through proper survey techniques and limited by a high response rate, its presence should continually be kept in mind when evaluating results. Section A of this document presents basic descriptive statistics that compare all graduates with those who responded to the survey. At the university level, these comparisons reveal that the average respondent is similar to the average graduate. For instance, 13% of respondents are minorities while 12% of graduates are minorities. Similarities also occur for average age at graduation (30.3 years for respondents, 29.9 years for graduates), the number of credit hours attempted (68.6 for respondents and 66.4 for graduates), the average graduate GPA (3.82 for respondents and 3.80 for graduates), and the quarter of graduation.

Section B of this report presents all questions asked. Section C presents these questions broken down by college. Section D presents results from questions submitted by the University Library. In the past, these reports decomposed questions to the department level. OSR has ceased this practice and will replace them with a searchable electronic database posted on our website.

While we leave it to the reader to determine what is interesting in the survey, here we highlight some of the findings. The first set of questions is geared to understanding students' background and general satisfaction with their Western graduate school experience. Immediately prior to beginning their Western graduate program 37% of students were in an undergraduate program, 35% were employed in a field related to their graduate program, and 25% were employed in a field different than their program. Results are very similar to prior surveys.

Seventy-six percent of students claimed that, if given the opportunity, they would “probably” or “definitely” select Western again for graduate study, an increase by two percentage points relative to the prior year and by seven percentage points relative to the 2013 survey. Seventy-seven percent would “probably” or “definitely” recommend Western to someone considering graduate school, a similar amount to the prior year.

Survey questions also relate to a student’s academic program. For instance, 75% of students reported that the level of academic challenge was “very” or “extremely” important to them and 73% of students claimed they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the level of academic challenge. Perhaps the largest disparity occurred among the 56% of students who claimed that the “quality of instruction” was “extremely important” to them but only 34% of students said they were “very satisfied” with the quality of instruction.

Working as a teaching assistant remains an important component of Western’s graduate program. Fifty-three percent of respondents reported working as a TA in some capacity while pursuing their graduate degree. In their most recent TA position, respondents reported working an average of 19 hours per week, a substantial increase over the prior year. Nineteen percent of graduate students taught an independent section of an undergraduate class; among these the median graduate student repeated this experience 4 times while in Western’s graduate program.

The average graduate accumulates just over \$15,600 in debt from their graduate program, about a 5% decrease over the past year. This average obscures the nearly forty percent of students who leave Western without incurring any additional academic debt from their graduate studies. The average debt incurred for graduate students who do borrow is slightly over \$26,400. There is large variation in amounts of student debt incurred between colleges. Graduates of CHSS incurred about 40% more debt than CBE students who, in turn, accumulate about 30% more than students in CST.

Among all graduate students, about two-fifths hope to work in a school or community college and about one-quarter hope to work in business or industry. The remainders are fairly evenly split between non-profit employment, government employment, and pursuing further graduate study. Among those pursuing employment, at the time our survey was conducted, 47% had already received an offer of employment and 68% of those had accepted an offer. Of these, 88% percent had jobs in their field of study.

As with all of OSR’s surveys of Western students, the data from this survey is available to campus researchers upon request.

A. Comparison of all Graduates and Respondents

A.1. Graduate Characteristics

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 28 | 81 | 80 | 28 | 37 | 257 |
| % Male | 61% | 43% | 28% | 39% | 54% | 42% |
| % Minority* | 18% | 16% | 15% | 4% | 3% | 12% |
| % Graduated Fall 2014 | 7% | 12% | 11% | 21% | 30% | 15% |
| % Graduated Winter 2015 | 4% | 31% | 4% | 32% | 3% | 16% |
| % Graduated Spring 2015 | 89% | 31% | 79% | 21% | 49% | 54% |
| % Graduated Summer 2015 | | 26% | 6% | 25% | 19% | 16% |
| Mean Age, Quarter of Graduation | 27% | 34% | 29% | 29% | 27% | 30% |
| Median Age, Quarter of Graduation | 24% | 30% | 26% | 29% | 26% | 27% |
| Graduate Hours Attempted | 62% | 71% | 73% | 54% | 55% | 66% |
| Graduate Hours Completed | 62% | 70% | 71% | 50% | 51% | 65% |
| Graduate GPA | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% |

A.2. Respondent Characteristics

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 63 | 21 | 25 | 198 |
| % Male | 60% | 27% | 24% | 43% | 56% | 42% |
| % Minority* | 15% | 17% | 16% | 5% | 4% | 13% |
| % Graduated Fall 2014 | | 6% | 8% | 19% | 24% | 10% |
| % Graduated Winter 2015 | 5% | 32% | 5% | 29% | | 16% |
| % Graduated Spring 2015 | 95% | 36% | 81% | 24% | 56% | 58% |
| % Graduated Summer 2015 | | 26% | 6% | 29% | 20% | 16% |
| Mean Age, Quarter of Graduation | 28% | 34% | 29% | 29% | 28% | 30% |
| Median Age, Quarter of Graduation | 25% | 30% | 26% | 28% | 28% | 28% |
| Graduate Hours Attempted | 66% | 72% | 73% | 51% | 55% | 67% |
| Graduate Hours Completed | 66% | 72% | 73% | 51% | 55% | 67% |
| Graduate GPA | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% |

* Includes students identified as black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American. Does not include caucasian, other/unknown, or international.

B. University-Level Responses

Attending Graduate School

B.1. Please indicate your response to the following.

| | N | Definitely not | Probably not | Maybe | Probably | Definitely |
|--|-----|-------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|------------|
| If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select WWU? | 197 | 4% | 8% | 13% | 36% | 40% |
| If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select the same field of study? | 197 | 1% | 5% | 12% | 24% | 58% |
| Would you recommend Western to someone considering your program? | 197 | 3% | 7% | 11% | 22% | 55% |

B.2. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western?

| | |
|---|-----|
| N | 197 |
| Undergraduate student | 37% |
| Employed in a field related to your program | 35% |
| Employed in a field unrelated to your program | 25% |
| Other | 4% |

B.2.a. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.2.) (N =8) (Responses included: AmeriCorps Position (2), self-employed in related field, stay at home mom, miscellaneous, employed in related field and undergraduate, housewife.) (Text responses available on request.)

Academic Program

B.3. For each of the following, please rate both the importance of, as well as your satisfaction with that aspect of your program.

B.3.a. Importance

| | N | Not important | A little important | Somewhat important | Very important | Extremely important |
|---|-----|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Level of academic challenge | 195 | | 3% | 22% | 55% | 20% |
| Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field | 195 | | 3% | 19% | 37% | 41% |
| Professional training opportunities | 194 | 2% | 7% | 19% | 30% | 42% |
| Research opportunities | 195 | 6% | 14% | 33% | 27% | 21% |
| Quality of research conducted | 194 | 6% | 8% | 27% | 36% | 23% |
| Quality of instruction | 195 | 1% | 2% | 9% | 33% | 56% |
| Quality of advising | 194 | 2% | 5% | 18% | 29% | 46% |
| Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment | 195 | 1% | 8% | 30% | 37% | 24% |
| Overall quality of the degree program | 195 | | 2% | 10% | 37% | 52% |

B.3.b. Satisfaction

| | N | Very dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Very satisfied |
|---|-----|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Level of academic challenge | 194 | 1% | 5% | 21% | 48% | 25% |
| Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field | 194 | 1% | 9% | 19% | 44% | 27% |
| Professional training opportunities | 194 | 4% | 10% | 34% | 32% | 21% |
| Research opportunities | 194 | 2% | 11% | 38% | 30% | 19% |
| Quality of research conducted | 194 | 2% | 7% | 39% | 36% | 16% |
| Quality of instruction | 193 | 3% | 8% | 14% | 41% | 34% |
| Quality of advising | 194 | 8% | 8% | 18% | 32% | 34% |
| Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment | 194 | 1% | 7% | 22% | 44% | 27% |
| Overall quality of the degree program | 194 | 2% | 8% | 15% | 44% | 30% |

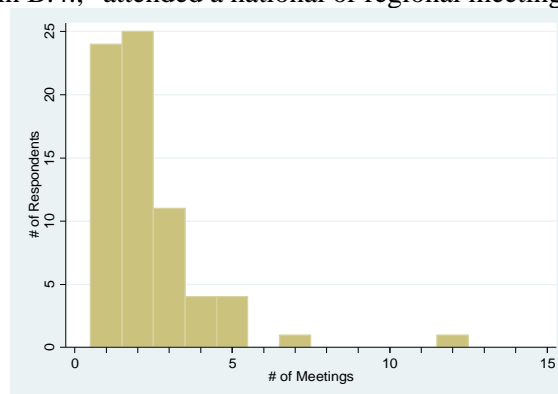
B.3.b.1. Why are you (very dissatisfied) (dissatisfied) with the overall quality of your degree program? (Asked of respondents who answered "very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" in B.3.b.) (N=14) (Responses included: Little provided by way of academics, sold a different experience than what was delivered, low quality instruction, got nothing out of program, accelerated program never makes it past introductory material, research-focused at cost of practical application, poor communication, faculty lacked adequate technology skills, little academic challenge, lacks structure and intellectual challenge.)

Professional Development

B.4. Have you done any of the following during your graduate study at Western?

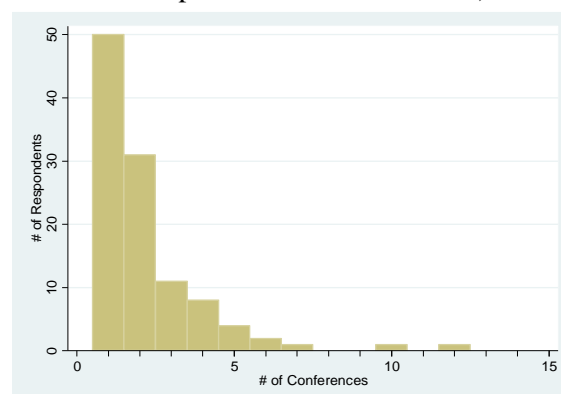
| | N | Yes | No |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Attended a national or regional meeting associated with your discipline? | 198 | 36% | 64% |
| Attended an academic or professional conference? | 198 | 56% | 44% |
| Presented research at a seminar or conference? | 198 | 31% | 69% |
| Co-authored an article in a refereed journal with a program faculty? | 198 | 9% | 91% |
| Published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal? | 198 | 5% | 95% |

B.4.a. How many national or regional meetings associated with your discipline have you attended? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "attended a national or regional meeting.")



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 70 | 2.31 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 1.72 |

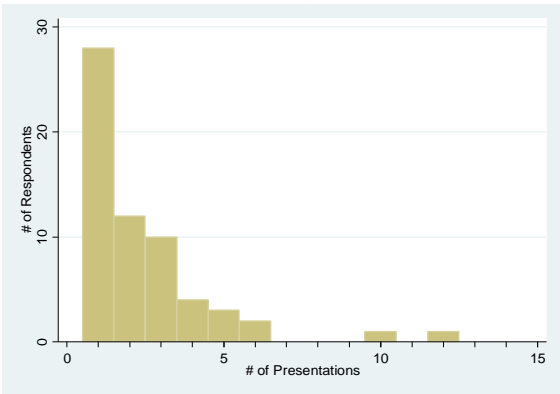
B.4.b. How many academic or professional conferences have you attended? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "attended an academic or professional conference.")



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-----|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 109 | 2.18 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 1.79 |

Professional Development (cont.)

B.4.c. At how many seminars or conferences have you presented research? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "presented research at a seminar or conference.")



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| 61 | 2.40 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 2.10 |

B.4.d. How many articles have you published in refereed journals as a co-author? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "co-authored an article in a refereed journal.")

| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| 18 | 1.22 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.42 |

B.4.e. How many articles have you published in refereed journals as the sole or first author? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.4., "published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal.")

| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| 10 | 1.40 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.51 |

B.5. Have you written, or do you plan to write a paper for publication based on your thesis?

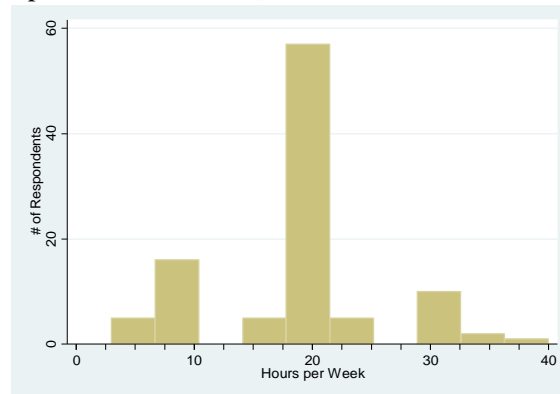
| | |
|--|-----|
| N | 192 |
| Yes, I have written a paper for publication | 8% |
| Yes, I plan to write a paper for publication | 24% |
| No | 19% |
| I did not write a thesis | 48% |

Graduate Study at Western

B.6. During your graduate studies at Western, did you hold a teaching assistantship position, and if so, were you ever the instructor of a course or discussion section?

| | |
|---|-----|
| N | 192 |
| Yes, I was a TA and the primary instructor for one or more courses | 19% |
| Yes, I was a TA, and the instructor for one or more discussion sections or labs, but never the primary instructor of a course | 18% |
| Yes, I was a TA, but never taught a discussion section or lab, or served as the primary instructor for a course | 15% |
| No, I was not a TA | 47% |

B.6.a. In your most recent TA assignment, how many hours per week did you work? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6 that they held a TA position at Western).



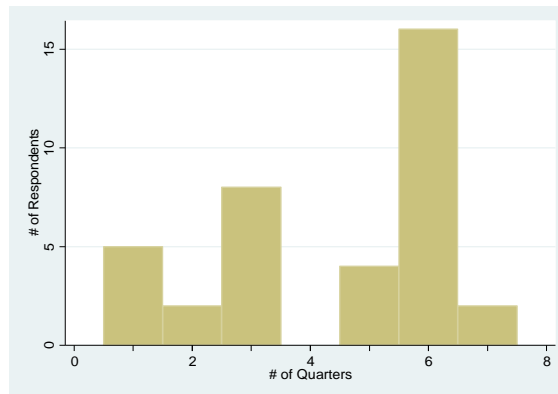
| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 101 | 19.01 | 20 | 3 | 40 | 7.02 |

B.6.b. In your most recent TA assignment, did you work more or fewer hours per week than you expected? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6 that they held a TA position at Western).

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| N | 101 |
| Fewer by 5 or more hours | 4% |
| Fewer by 2 to 4 hours | 9% |
| As many as expected | 60% |
| More by 2 to 4 hours | 10% |
| More by 5 or more hours | 17% |

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

B.6.c. How many quarters were you the primary instructor for one or more courses? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.6. that they were the primary instructor for one or more courses.)



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 37 | 4.40 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 1.97 |

B.7. Rate the extent to which the following factors were an obstacle to your academic progress and/or time to degree.

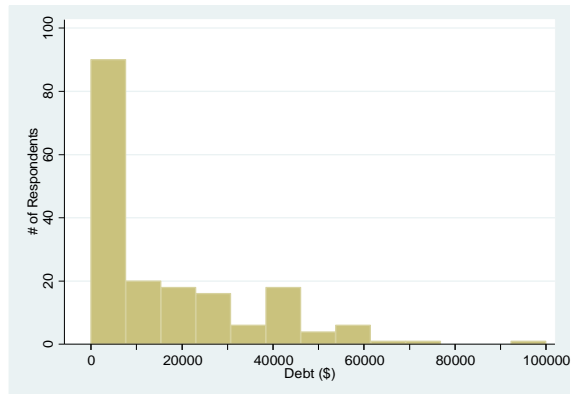
| | N | N/A | No impact | Minor impact | Major impact |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Family obligations | 191 | 9% | 42% | 34% | 15% |
| Availability of faculty | 190 | 5% | 64% | 23% | 7% |
| Course scheduling/availability | 191 | 3% | 60% | 29% | 8% |
| Thesis research | 188 | 33% | 40% | 15% | 11% |
| Other (please specify below) | 155 | 55% | 21% | 8% | 15% |

B.7.a. Other obstacles (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.7.) (N =24) (Responses include balancing TA responsibilities (2), advising, employment (8), advising, health issues, scheduling, Oso landslide, ineffective adjunct faculty, personal, trouble recruiting thesis subjects, thesis deadlines.)

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

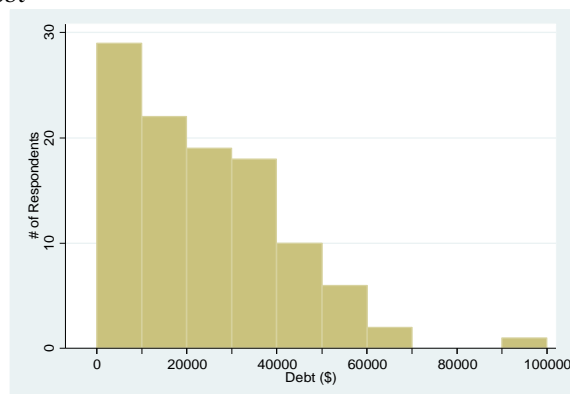
B.8. Approximately how much debt did you incur to finance your graduate education at Western?
(B.8.a.includes all respondents.) (B.8.b. includes only respondents who reported more than \$0 of debt.)

B.8.a. All respondents



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-----|----------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| 181 | \$15,653 | \$8,000 | \$0 | \$100,000 | \$19,406 |

B.8.b. Respondents who incurred debt



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-----|----------|----------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| 107 | \$26,478 | \$23,000 | \$700 | \$100,000 | \$18,713 |

Plans for the Future

B.9. For each of the following activities, please rate both the likelihood you will engage in the activity, as well as your satisfaction with the level of preparation offered in your program.

B.9.a. Likelihood

| | N | Very unlikely | Unlikely | Neutral | Somewhat likely | Very likely |
|--|-----|---------------|----------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Teaching at a higher-ed institution | 190 | 16% | 12% | 19% | 31% | 22% |
| Teaching at the K-12 level | 190 | 29% | 16% | 18% | 11% | 26% |
| Conducting independent research | 189 | 16% | 14% | 25% | 27% | 17% |
| Formulating a research topic | 190 | 16% | 13% | 26% | 28% | 17% |
| Collaborating on research with faculty members | 190 | 18% | 16% | 26% | 25% | 15% |
| Writing a grant proposal | 190 | 15% | 12% | 26% | 28% | 18% |

B.9.b. Satisfaction

| | N | Very dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Very satisfied |
|--|-----|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Teaching at a higher-ed institution | 191 | 2% | 4% | 50% | 31% | 13% |
| Teaching at the K-12 level | 189 | 4% | 5% | 56% | 19% | 17% |
| Conducting independent research | 191 | 3% | 7% | 37% | 39% | 14% |
| Formulating a research topic | 189 | 1% | 8% | 37% | 38% | 16% |
| Collaborating on research with faculty members | 190 | 2% | 9% | 43% | 32% | 14% |
| Writing a grant proposal | 190 | 7% | 14% | 54% | 21% | 4% |

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.10. What are your immediate post-graduate plans?

| | |
|---|-----|
| N | 189 |
| Further graduate study | 7% |
| Employment in a school or community college | 40% |
| Employment in a business or industry | 27% |
| Employment in a non-profit organization | 8% |
| Employment with a government or government agency | 12% |
| Self-employment | 2% |
| Volunteer service | 1% |
| Other | 3% |

B.10.a. What are your immediate post-graduate plans? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in B.10.) (N=6) (Responses included: unsure (3), attend technical college, kept current job, currently seeking employment.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.10.b. Which of the following degrees do you plan to pursue? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in B.10.)

| N | Masters | Ph.D. | Professional (J.D., M.D., etc.) |
|----|---------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 14 | | 93% | 7% |

B.10.b.1. Have you already been admitted for further graduate study? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in B.10.)

| N | Yes | No |
|----|-----|-----|
| 14 | 57% | 43% |

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.10.b.1.a. To which schools have you been accepted? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=8) (Responses included: Oregon State, Pennsylvania State, Simon Fraser, UC Davis, University of Arizona, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Universit of Minnesota, University of Montana.) (Text responses available on request.)

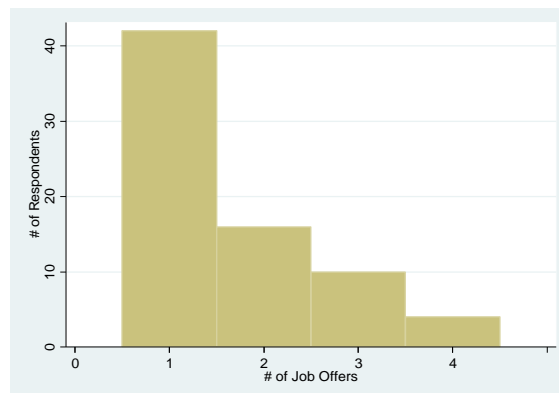
B.10.b.1.b. Which school will you attend? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=14) (Responses included: Responses included: Oregon State, Pennsylvania State, Simon Fraser, UC Davis, University of Arizona, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Universit of Minnesota, University of Montana.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.10.b.1.c. What is your program of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.10.b.1.) (N=8) (Responses included: Biobehavioral Health, Chemistry, Physical Therapy, English, History, Pathobiology, Mathematics, Visual Education.) (Text responses available on request.)

B.11. Have you received any offers of post-graduation employment? (Asked of respondents who indicated in B.10. that they plan to be employed, options 2 - 5.)

| N | Yes | No |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 157 | 47% | 53% |

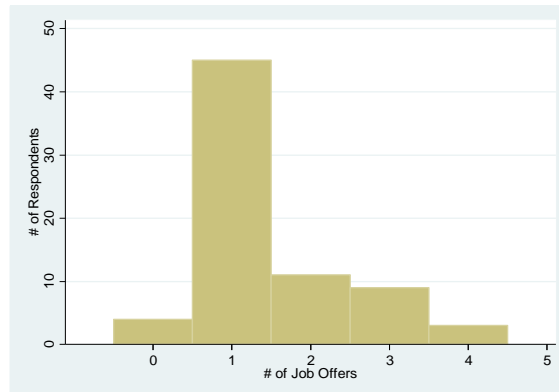
B.11.a. How many job offers have you received? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.11.)



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 72 | 1.66 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0.92 |

Plans for the Future (cont.)

B.11.b. Of those offers, how many are related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.11.)



| N | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|----|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 72 | 1.47 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0.93 |

B.12. Have you accepted a job offer? (Asked of respondents who indicated they had received one or more offers of employment in B.11.a.)

| N | Yes | No |
|----|-----|-----|
| 73 | 68% | 32% |

B.12.a. What is the name of the employer you plan to work for after graduation? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=44) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.b. In what city will you work? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=46) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.c. What type of position have you accepted? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.) (N=48) (Text responses available on request.)

B.12.d. Is the position you accepted related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in B.12.)

| N | Yes | No |
|----|-----|-----|
| 50 | 88% | 12% |

C. College-Level Responses

Attending Graduate School

C.1.a. If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select WWU?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|----------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 62 | 21 | 25 | 197 |
| Definitely not | 5% | 5% | 3% | | 4% | 4% |
| Probably not | 10% | 5% | 6% | 14% | 12% | 8% |
| Maybe | 25% | 6% | 16% | 19% | 8% | 13% |
| Probably | 30% | 35% | 29% | 62% | 36% | 36% |
| Definitely | 30% | 50% | 45% | 5% | 40% | 40% |

C.1.b. If you were to start your graduate career again, would you select the same field of study?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|----------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 62 | 21 | 25 | 197 |
| Definitely not | 5% | | | 5% | | 1% |
| Probably not | | 5% | 6% | 10% | 4% | 5% |
| Maybe | 20% | 15% | 6% | 19% | 4% | 12% |
| Probably | 20% | 24% | 26% | 29% | 16% | 24% |
| Definitely | 55% | 56% | 61% | 38% | 76% | 58% |

C.1.c. Would you recommend Western to someone considering your program?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|----------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 62 | 21 | 25 | 197 |
| Definitely not | | 2% | 5% | 5% | | 3% |
| Probably not | 15% | 9% | 3% | 5% | 8% | 8% |
| Maybe | 20% | 2% | 15% | 24% | 12% | 12% |
| Probably | 10% | 24% | 23% | 29% | 24% | 22% |
| Definitely | 55% | 64% | 55% | 38% | 56% | 56% |

C.2. What was your primary activity immediately prior to enrolling in your program at Western?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 62 | 21 | 25 | 197 |
| Undergraduate student | 55% | 23% | 40% | 35% | 56% | 37% |
| Employed in a field related to your program | 20% | 52% | 31% | 30% | 28% | 35% |
| Employed in a field unrelated to your program | 25% | 25% | 29% | 35% | 16% | 25% |
| Other | | 3% | 6% | 5% | | |

Academic Program

C.3. For each of the following, please rate both the importance of, as well as your satisfaction with that aspect of your program.

C.3.a. Importance
(Scale of 1 - 5, "not at all important" to "extremely important") (Means are reported)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 65 | 62 | 20 | 25 | 195 |
| Level of academic challenge | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Professional training opportunities | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| Research opportunities | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 3.4 |
| Quality of research conducted | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| Quality of instruction | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| Quality of advising | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| Overall quality of the degree program | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.4 |

C.3.b. Satisfaction
(Scale of 1 - 5, "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied") (Means are reported)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 65 | 62 | 19 | 25 | 194 |
| Level of academic challenge | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Keeping pace with recent trends and developments in the field | 3.7 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Professional training opportunities | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.6 |
| Research opportunities | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 |
| Quality of research conducted | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| Quality of instruction | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Quality of advising | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Adequacy of space, facilities and/or equipment | 3.6 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Overall quality of the degree program | 3.5 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.9 |

Professional Development

C.4. Have you done any of the following during your graduate study at Western? % of respondents answering "yes" to each question is reported.

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 66 | 63 | 21 | 25 | 198 |
| Attended a national or regional meeting associated with your discipline? | 15% | 31% | 38% | 48% | 44% | 36% |
| Attended an academic or professional conference? | 30% | 47% | 62% | 76% | 68% | 56% |
| Presented research at a seminar or conference? | 15% | 17% | 40% | 38% | 52% | 31% |
| Co-authored an article in a refereed journal with a program faculty? | 10% | 5% | 8% | 10% | 24% | 9% |
| Published as the sole or first author in a refereed journal? | 5% | | 3% | 10% | 20% | 5% |

C.4.a. Professional development questions asked of respondents who responded "yes" in C.6. (Means are reported.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 3 | 21 | 24 | 9 | 11 | 70 |
| How many national or regional meetings associated with your discipline have you attended? | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| N | 6 | 31 | 39 | 16 | 15 | 109 |
| How many academic or professional conferences have you attended? | 3.2 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.2 |
| N | 3 | 11 | 25 | 8 | 13 | 61 |
| At how many seminars or conferences have you presented research? | 3.3 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.4 |
| N | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 18 |
| How many articles have you published in refereed journals as a co-author? | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| N | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| How many articles have you published in refereed journals as the sole or first author? | 1.0 | | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.4 |

C.5. Have you written, or do you plan to write a paper for publication based on your thesis?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 65 | 62 | 18 | 25 | 192 |
| Yes, I have written a paper for publication | 5% | 6% | 8% | 6% | 20% | 8% |
| Yes, I plan to write a paper for publication | | 20% | 23% | 61% | 36% | 24% |
| No | 15% | 28% | 19% | 6% | 8% | 19% |
| I did not write a thesis | 80% | 46% | 50% | 28% | 36% | 48% |

Graduate Study at Western

C.6. During your graduate studies at Western, did you hold a teaching assistantship position, and if so, were you ever the instructor of a course or discussion section?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 65 | 62 | 18 | 25 | 192 |
| Yes, I was a TA and the primary instructor for one or more courses | 5% | 5% | 23% | 28% | 52% | 19% |
| Yes, I was a TA, and the instructor for one or more discussion sections or labs, but never the primary instructor of a course | 5% | 5% | 31% | 22% | 32% | 18% |
| Yes, I was a TA, but never taught a discussion section or lab, or served as the primary instructor for a course | 55% | 6% | 15% | 17% | 8% | 15% |
| No, I was not a TA | 35% | 85% | 32% | 33% | 8% | 47% |

C.6.a. In your most recent TA assignment, how many hours per week did you work? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.8. that they were a TA.) (Means are reported.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|------|------|----------|------|--------|-----------|------|
| N | 13 | 10 | 42 | 12 | 23 | 101 |
| Mean | 14.8 | 20.0 | 19.3 | 19.0 | 20.4 | 19.0 |

C.6.b. In your most recent TA assignment, did you work more or fewer hours per week than you expected?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--------------------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 13 | 10 | 42 | 12 | 23 | 101 |
| Fewer by 5 or more hours | 8% | 10% | 2% | 8% | | 4% |
| Fewer by 2 to 4 hours | 8% | | 14% | 8% | 4% | 9% |
| As many as expected | 62% | 70% | 52% | 67% | 65% | 60% |
| More by 2 to 4 hours | 15% | | 10% | | 17% | 10% |
| More by 5 or more hours | 8% | 20% | 21% | 17% | 13% | 17% |

C.6.c. How many quarters were you the primary instructor for one or more courses? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.8. that they were the primary instructor for one or more courses.) (Means are reported.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 1 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 13 | 37 |
| Mean | 3.0 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 4.53 | 4.4 |

Graduate Study at Western (cont.)

C.7. Rate the extent to which the following factors were an obstacle to your academic progress and/or time to degree. (Scale of 1 - 3, "no impact" to "major impact.") (OSR excluded "not applicable" responses.) (Means are reported and respondents reporting N/A are dropped.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--------------------------------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 18 | 58 | 58 | 14 | 23 | 173 |
| Family obligations | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| N | 19 | 60 | 58 | 17 | 24 | 180 |
| Availability of faculty | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| N | 19 | 61 | 60 | 18 | 25 | 185 |
| Course scheduling/availability | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 1.5 |
| N | 9 | 36.0 | 40 | 16 | 23 | 126 |
| Thesis research | 2.2 | 2.33 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.6 |
| N | 7 | 24 | 23 | 4 | 10 | 70 |
| Other | 2.3 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.9 |

C.8. Approximately how much debt did you incur to finance your graduate education at Western?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| All respondents | 18 | 62 | 58 | 18 | 23 | 181 |
| Mean | \$15,889 | \$13,250 | \$21,021 | \$12,417 | \$11,348 | \$15,653 |
| Respondents who incurred debt | 11 | 36 | 40 | 7 | 12 | 107 |
| Mean (if debt >0) | \$26,000 | \$22,820 | \$30,480 | \$31,928 | \$21,750 | \$26,479 |

Plans for the Future

C.9. For each of the following activities, please rate both the likelihood you will engage in the activity, as well as your satisfaction with the level of preparation offered in your program.

C.9.a. Likelihood

(Scale of 1 - 5, "very unlikely" to "very likely") (Means are reported)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 65 | 61 | 18 | 24 | 190 |
| Teaching at a higher-ed institution | 2.5 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Teaching at the K-12 level | 2.3 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| Conducting independent research | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| Formulating a research topic | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| Collaborating on research with faculty members | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Writing a grant proposal | 2.5 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.2 |

C.9.b. Satisfaction

(Scale of 1 - 5, "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied") (Means are reported)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 64 | 62 | 18 | 25 | 191 |
| Teaching at a higher-ed institution | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| Teaching at the K-12 level | 3.0 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Conducting independent research | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Formulating a research topic | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Collaborating on research with faculty members | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Writing a grant proposal | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 |

C.10. What are your immediate post-graduate plans?

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|---|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 20 | 64 | 61 | 17 | 25 | 189 |
| Further graduate study | 5% | 5% | 7% | 24% | 24% | 7% |
| Employment in a school or community college | 10% | 70% | 30% | | 20% | 39% |
| Employment in a business or industry | 70% | 5% | 34% | 12% | 44% | 27% |
| Employment in a non-profit organization | 5% | 11% | 8% | 18% | | 8% |
| Employment with a government or government agency | 5% | 5% | 11% | 29% | 4% | 9% |
| Self-employment | 5% | | | 6% | 4% | 2% |
| Volunteer service | | | 2% | | | 1% |
| Other | | 5% | 8% | 12% | 4% | 7% |

Plans for the Future (cont.)

C.10.a. Which of the following degrees do you plan to pursue? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in C.10.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 14 |
| Masters | | | | | | |
| Ph.D. | 100% | 100% | 75% | | 100% | 93% |
| Professional (JD, MD, etc.) | | | 25% | | | 7% |

C.10.b. Have you already been admitted for further graduate study? (Asked of respondents who answered "further graduate study" in C.10.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-----|------|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 14 |
| Yes | | 33% | 100% | | 50% | 57% |
| No | 100% | 67% | | | 50% | 43% |

C.11. Have you received any offers of post-graduation employment? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.10. that they plan to be employed, options 2 - 5.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|-----|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 17 | 58 | 51 | 14 | 17 | 157 |
| Yes | 41% | 45% | 53% | 57% | 35% | 47% |
| No | 59% | 55% | 47% | 43% | 65% | 53% |

C.11.a. How many job offers have you received? (Asked of respondents who indicated in C.11. that they received offers of post-graduation employment.) (OSR recoded if respondent gave conflicting answers.) (Means are reported.)

| | | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|--|------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| Of all respondents seeking employment (chose options 2 - 5 in C.10.) | | 18 | 57 | 51 | 14 | 17 | 157 |
| | Mean | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Of respondents receiving at least one offer | N | 7 | 24 | 27 | 8 | 6 | 72 |
| | Mean | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.7 |

C.11.b. Of those offers, how many are related to your field of study? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in C.13.) (Means are reported.)

| | CBE | Woodring | CHSS | Huxley | Sci & Eng | WWU |
|------|-----|----------|------|--------|-----------|-----|
| N | 7 | 24 | 27 | 8 | 6 | 72 |
| Mean | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 |