

Do not answer any question that makes you uncomfortable

Please do not put your name on this survey

Please return by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Researching Science Graduate Education—  
Situated Learning, Culture, Information Grounds, and Social Networks  
U.S. Graduate Student Survey

**Demographic Information**

1. What is your age?

- 15-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- 31-35
- 36-40
- older than 40

2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

3. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

4. What is your race?

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

5. What degree are you pursuing?

- Master's
- PhD
- Other, **please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. If you are pursuing a PhD, where did you obtain your Master's degree? \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you hold a Master's degree, what field is it in? \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you hold a Master's degree, how long did it take you to earn it?

- 18 months
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- more than 4 years

9. How long have you been pursuing your current graduate degree?

- 0 to 4 months
- 5 to 12 months
- 1 to 2 years
- 3 to 4 years
- 5 to 6 years
- more than 6 years

10. What is your country of origin? \_\_\_\_\_

11. If you are an international student, were you in the US prior to beginning your graduate degree?

- Yes
- No

12. Did you do your undergraduate degree in the US?

- Yes
- No

13. If yes to question 12 above, how long have you been in the US?

- Zero to 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- More than 10 years

## Personal History

14. When did you become interested in science and/or engineering?

- As a child, before 12 years of age?
- As a teenager, between 12 and 17 years of age?
- As an undergraduate?
- Other times, **please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

15. Who, if anyone, influenced you to become a scientist or engineer?

◆ **Please select all that apply.**

- Friend?
- Family members?
- Teacher/Professor?
- Graduate student?
- Guest speaker in a class?
- No one person in particular?
- Other people? **Please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

16. How did you become interested in science and/or engineering?

◆ **Please select all that apply.**

- Movies?
- Television?
- Books?
- School?
- Other influences? **Please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

17. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being unimportant and 5 being extremely important) *how important* were the following in making your decision to go to graduate school?

	Unimportant			Extremely Important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of prestige	1	2	3	4	5
Needed for future career	1	2	3	4	5
Expanded employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Economic benefit for you	1	2	3	4	5
Improve the quality of your life	1	2	3	4	5
Scientific intellectual curiosity	1	2	3	4	5
Family expectations	1	2	3	4	5
Improve the quality of life in your country	1	2	3	4	5
Benefit for humankind	1	2	3	4	5
Best option at the time	1	2	3	4	5
Please list any other reasons that are not mentioned above and their importance in the space below:					
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

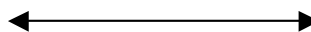
18. Of the factors listed above in question 17 which one is the most important?

**Please explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

19. Of the factors listed above in question 17 which one is the least important?

**Please explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

20. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being unimportant and 5 being extremely important) how important were the following in making your decision to enter your field of study?

	Unimportant				Extremely Important
Desire to work with a particular scientist in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Desire to emulate a prominent scientist in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Passion for field of study	1	2	3	4	5
Please list any other reasons that are not mentioned above and their importance in the space provided below:					
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

21. Of the factors listed above in question 20 which one is the most important? **Please explain:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Of the factors listed above in question 20 which one is the least important? **Please explain:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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23. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being unimportant and 5 being extremely important) *how important* were the following in making your decision to attend your current university?

	Unimportant	←—————→			Extremely Important
	1	2	3	4	5
Only program accepted into	1	2	3	4	5
Program with the highest graduate stipend/benefits	1	2	3	4	5
Prestige of the university	1	2	3	4	5
Prestige of the program	1	2	3	4	5
Geographical location	1	2	3	4	5
Please list any other reasons that are not mentioned above and their importance in the space provided below:					
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

24. Of the factors listed above in question 23 which one is the *most* important? **Please explain:**

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25. Of the factors listed above in question 23 which one is the *least* important? **Please explain:**

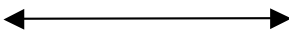
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### Career Issues

26. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not valuable and 5 being extremely valuable) please answer the following:

	Not Valuable				Extremely Valuable
What is the value of research to you?	1	2	3	4	5
What is the value of science to society?	1	2	3	4	5

27. What do you want to do after you graduate?

◆ **Please select all that apply.**

- University Professor
- Research Scientist in Industry/Government
- Instructor
- Practicing engineer
- Consultant
- Business owner
- Other, **please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

28. Of those checked above, which one do you most prefer? **Please describe why:**

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29. Which one do you least prefer? **Please describe why:**

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30. What do you think will be the two most important issues you will face when you graduate?

- Family issues
- Job opportunities
- Salary
- Funding in your field
- Don't know
- Other, **please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

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31. What are *the two most* important issues facing you at this stage in your graduate career?

- Family issues
- Course work
- Laboratory work
- Publishing research findings
- Teaching responsibilities
- Acquiring funding

32. Have you discussed any of the career issues in questions 26 to 31 with your advisor?

- Yes
- No

33. If you answered *yes* to question 32, *please explain* which career issues you have discussed:

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34. If you answered *no* to questions 32, *please explain* why you have not discussed career issues with your advisor:

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## Weekly Activities

35. In a typical week, how much time do you spend working with your advisor?

- Zero hours
- Less than 1 hour
- 1 to 3 hours
- 4 to 5 hours
- 6 or more hours

36. In a typical week, how much time do you spend working on your degree?

- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- 40 to 60 hours
- More than 60 hours

37. In typical week, how much time do you spend working in the laboratory?

- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

38. In a typical week, how much time do you spend on course work?

- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

39. In a typical week how much time do you spend working in the library?

- Don't use the library
- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

40. In a typical week how much time do you spend working in your office?

- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

41. In a typical week how much time do you spend working at home?

- Less than 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

42. In a typical week how much time you spend on teaching responsibilities including preparation, grading, and office hours?

- No hours
- 1 to 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

43. In a typical week how much time per week do you spend interacting with other graduate students?

- No hours
- 1 to 2 hours
- 3 to 5 hours
- more than 5 hours

44. How much time do you think your advisor believes is the right amount of time to spend on your degree during a typical week?

- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 40 hours
- more than 40 hours

### **Professional Activities**

45. How many conferences have you attended while pursuing your *current* degree?

- No conferences
- 1 conference
- 2-3 conferences
- 4 or more conferences

46. What did you do at the conferences? **Please check all that apply.**

- Presented a poster
- Presented a paper
- Searched for a job
- Attended sessions
- Interacted with experts in your field
- Other, **please describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

47. How many publications do you have related to your research?

- No publications
- 1 publication
- 2-3 publications
- 4 or more publications

## Interpersonal Issues

48. From 1 to 3, **rank** the following in terms of who you spend the most time with in a typical week when you are not working.

◆ 1 equals the most time spent    ◆ 2 equals second most time spent    ◆ 3 equals the least time spent

- \_\_\_ Family?
- \_\_\_ Colleagues in your field?
- \_\_\_ Colleagues not in your field?

49. Think about the person who is not a member of your family who you spent the most time with outside of work during a typical week. Which of the following best describes this person?

- Graduate student in your field?
- Graduate student in not in your field?
- Not a graduate student?
- Professional in your field?
- Professional not in your field?
- Professor in your field?
- Professor not in your field?
- Any other person not mentioned above but in you field? **Please describe:**

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- None of the above? **Please describe:**

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50. Think of the 3 non-family individuals who are part of your *closest* social support network. Write their initials in the spaces provided at the top of the 3 columns in the table below and then answer the questions in the left hand column for *each* of the 3 people.

	Person 1's Initials _____	Person 2's Initials _____	Person 3's Initials _____
What is their gender?			
Male?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Female?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What is their age?			
15-20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21-25	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26-30	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31-35	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
36-40	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
older than 40	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Of the following check <i>the one</i> that best applies to this person:			
Professional?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-professional?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Of the following choose <i>the one</i> that best applies to this person:			
Graduate student?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Undergraduate student?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not a student?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If not a student, please describe their occupation in the space provided below:			
Person 1	_____		
Person 2	_____		
Person 3	_____		
Of the following check <i>the one</i> that best applies to this person:			
Works or studies in your field?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does not work in your field?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Works or studies in a related field?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Please list the related field in the space provided below:			
Person 1	_____		
Person 2	_____		
Person 3	_____		

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## Scholarly Information Issues

51. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being unimportant and 5 being extremely important), *how important* are the following in helping you with your research?

	Unimportant				Extremely Important
	1	2	3	4	5
Scholarly journals in print	1	2	3	4	5
Scholarly journals found on the Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Other information from the Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Books	1	2	3	4	5
Textbooks	1	2	3	4	5
Attendance at conferences	1	2	3	4	5
E-mail discussion with fellow students	1	2	3	4	5
Face-to-face discussion with fellow students	1	2	3	4	5
E-mail discussion with your advisor	1	2	3	4	5
Face-to-face discussion with your advisor	1	2	3	4	5
E-mail discussion with post doctoral fellows	1	2	3	4	5
Face-to-face discussion with post doctoral fellows	1	2	3	4	5
E-mail discussion with laboratory technicians	1	2	3	4	5
Face-to-face discussion with laboratory technicians	1	2	3	4	5

Please list any other resources that are not mentioned above and their importance in the space provided below:

_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

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52. Of the information resources listed above in question 51 which one is the most important to your research? **Please explain:**

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53. Of the information resources listed above which in question 51 one is the least important to your research? **Please explain:**

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54. In a typical week how much time do you spend at the library looking for information to help you with your research?

- Zero to 30 minutes
- 30 to 60 minutes
- 1 to 2 hours
- More than 2 hours

55. In a typical week how much time do you spend reading journal articles?

- Zero to 30 minutes
- 30 to 60 minutes
- 1 to 2 hours
- More than 2 hours

56. In a typical week how much time do you spend using the Internet looking for information to help you with your research?

- Zero to 30 minutes
- 30 to 60 minutes
- 1 to 2 hours
- More than 2 hours

57. If you use the Internet, please list the 5 sites you visit most frequently in a typical week:

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## **Additional Comments**

58. Please add any additional comments you would like about graduate science education in the space provided below:

***Thank you very much for your participation!***