

**The National Academies
National Research Council
Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs**

Survey of Program Quality

Thank you for agreeing to participate as a rater in {taxonomy field name} in the Survey of Program Quality, a critical component of the National Research Council's Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs. This survey asks for your judgment—and the judgment of other faculty members like you—about the quality of a sample of doctoral programs in your field.

How your judgments will be used. The judgments of over 200 raters in each field will be used to calculate ratings of perceived quality for a sample of the programs, rather than all the programs in a field. Previous research (Ostriker & Kuh, 2003¹) has shown us how to use faculty views on the strength of different PhD programs combined with objective data concerning program characteristics to produce ratings of additional programs. These new ratings are based on objectively measured characteristics, such as publications, citations and time to degree, but imitate, to the extent achievable, the judgment criteria of the initially surveyed faculty.

Thinking about your perception of a program's quality. As part of this survey, you will be asked to rate 15 programs on a scale of 1 to 6 (1=a program not sufficient for graduate education, 6=a distinguished program). *We urge you to keep two things in mind as you decide on your ratings:*

- Prior to rating these 15 programs, you will have the opportunity to view a list of all programs in your field. Keep this “universe” of programs in mind as you rate each of the 15 programs relative to this universe, not to each other.
- Please reflect on what you consider important in a doctoral program as you decide on your ratings. To assist you, a link below each program's name goes to an information page that lists several program and faculty characteristics, a list of the program's faculty and a link to the program's web site as well, should you want to seek additional information before finalizing your rating.

Your efforts will improve doctoral education through benchmarking and better information about programs. The survey is being conducted by Mathematica Policy Research (MPR), an organization experienced in the conduct of confidential surveys. Your responses will be compiled by MPR and provided to the NRC for their analyses. The National Research Council staff who analyze the data will sign non-disclosure confidentiality agreements to protect the identity of individuals participating in the survey. The survey will be conducted using secure web-based survey technology and any information that could be used to identify or link responses to an individual respondent for any survey question will be maintained in storage that is secure. Your identity will be known only to the National Research Council and Mathematica Policy Research who have signed non-disclosure agreements. Only aggregate information from the survey, such as means and distributions of ratings for programs, will be included in publications from the

¹ Link to citation url.

project. If you have any questions about the study or this questionnaire, please email us at NRC-Assessment@mathematica-mpr.com.

I provide my informed consent to participate in this study .. Yes .. No

Instructions

1. Listed below are the 15 programs in your field that you are being asked to rate. Given the range of programs within some fields, you may or may not be familiar with all of the programs you are being asked to rate. Consequently, you will be asked two questions about each program. The first asks how familiar you are with the program and the second asks you to rate its quality.
2. Before considering programs individually, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the larger range of programs in your field. To do so, please click on this link:

Click here for a list of all institutions in the study with programs in this field:

3. To begin considering programs individually, click on the link provided for each institution. You will be taken to that program's information page. If it was provided to the NRC, the information pages will also list a link to that program's home page.

NOTE: The two rating questions for each program will appear at the bottom of that program's information page. Your rating will only be considered valid if both questions are answered.

4. Finally, after you have rated all 15 programs, a summary page will appear with all of your responses. Please review your responses and make any final changes at that point. Once submitted, your responses are final.

Names of Programs to be Rated	Information Link
Cornell University	link to information page
Duke University	link to information page
Etc.	

**SAVE
QUIT FOR NOW**

**SAVE—GO TO
SUMMARY PAGE**

Institution: {name} **Location:** {place}
Program: {name} **Program URL:** {URL}

Two types of information are presented about this program – the names of the faculty who are currently working with doctoral students, followed by a few facts about the program and its faculty.

² There will be a link to explain this term.

³ There will be a link to explain this term.

⁴ There will be a link to explain this term.

Some Facts about the Program

- Number of Ph.D.s 2001-2006: _____
- % Ph.Ds in academic positions (average 2001-2005) : _____
- Percent of entering cohort who complete in eight years or less (average for Ph.D.s admitted between 1996-97 and 1997-1998) : _____
- Median Time to Degree (average 2004-2006): _____
- Faculty % Female : _____
- Faculty % Non-white : _____

The Rating Questions

1. **On a scale from 1 to 3, where 1 means you have little or no familiarity with this program and 3 means that you have considerable familiarity, how familiar are you with this program?**

Little or		
<u>None</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Considerable</u>
1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. **On a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 equals not adequate for doctoral education and 6 equals a distinguished program, how would you rate this program?**

Not Adequate		Don't Know					
For Doctoral							
<u>Education</u>	<u>Marginal</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Distinguished</u>	<u>Well Enough</u>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	9	
<input type="checkbox"/>							

**SAVE
QUIT FOR NOW**

**SAVE—GO TO
SUMMARY PAGE**

**SAVE/GO TO NEXT
PROGRAM**

Listed below are your responses to the rating questions you answered. Please review them carefully.

- NOTE - If you wish to review a program's information sheet once again, click on the link under the university's name
- If you wish to change a response, you can do so by making the change on this page. The correct question will be updated automatically for you

CAUTION: Please make sure you have thoroughly reviewed your answers.
Once you click the “submit button” your responses are final.

SUBMIT MY FINAL RESPONSES