

**Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies**  
**Exit Survey of Rackham Doctoral Recipients**  
**(2009 - 2018)**

This report provides Rackham divisional breakdowns to questions from Rackham's Exit Survey of Doctoral Recipients. Data are presented in five comparison groups: graduates from each Rackham Division, and all Rackham completers. Within each group, data are reported by cohort. The 2009-2013 cohort includes responses from all doctoral completers between August 2008 and April 2013. Similarly, the 2014-2018 cohort includes doctoral completers between August 2013 and April 2018.

Response Rate		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
<b>2009-2013</b>	Number of Respondents	650 (74%)	1,230 (71%)	707 (72%)	280 (70%)	2,890 (72%)
	Doctorates granted	873	1,742	976	399	4,023
<b>2014-2018</b>	Number of Respondents	685 (78%)	1,413 (73%)	750 (79%)	270 (76%)	3,136 (76%)
	Doctorates granted	873	1,930	955	354	4,142

**1. Please rate your overall satisfaction with each of the following:**

Scale:    1                    2                    3                    4                    5  
              Poor                Fair                Good                Very Good        Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences 2014-2018	Physical Sciences and Engineering 2014-2018	Social Sciences 2014-2018	Humanities and the Arts 2014-2018	All Rackham 2014-2018
A. Your academic experience at this University	Mean	4.21	4.26	4.25	4.26	4.25
	S.D.	0.87	0.85	0.86	0.86	0.86
	N	682	1,412	750	268	3,130
B. Your student life at this University	Mean	4.00	4.09	3.84	3.88	3.99
	S.D.	0.97	0.95	1.01	0.95	0.98
	N	682	1,411	746	269	3,126
C. Your overall experience at this University	Mean	4.17	4.23	4.11	4.13	4.18
	S.D.	0.87	0.83	0.89	0.85	0.86
	N	682	1,407	742	269	3,118

## 2. Before beginning doctoral study, had you completed a Master's degree in a relevant field?

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes, at UM-Ann Arbor	118	17%	373	26%	126	17%	34	13%	655	21%
Yes, at another institution	172	25%	295	21%	272	36%	129	48%	877	28%
No	395	58%	744	53%	350	47%	105	39%	1,599	51%
Total Number of Responses	685	100%	1,412	100%	748	100%	268	100%	3,131	100%

## 3. On average, did the quality of instruction in your program meet your expectations?

Scale:            1                    2                    3                    4                    5  
 Fell Short of Expectations            Met Expectations            Exceeds Expectations

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018
Mean	3.64	3.71	3.72	3.85	3.68	3.77	3.78	3.79	3.70	3.80
Standard Deviation	0.96	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.96	0.95	0.99	0.96	0.94	0.92
Total Number of Responses	648	685	1,228	1,411	701	750	280	269	2,879	3,133

**4. Were program expectations clearly articulated during the following stages of your doctoral career?**

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5  
 Not Clear Very Clear

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
A. Coursework	Mean	4.33	4.46	4.24	4.18	4.36
	S.D.	0.88	0.76	0.91	1.02	0.85
	N	676	1,392	739	265	3,090
B. Qualifying, comprehensive or preliminary examinations (if applicable)	Mean	4.20	4.40	4.04	3.87	4.22
	S.D.	0.95	0.80	1.06	1.13	0.95
	N	676	1,389	738	259	3,080
C. Requirements to become candidate (other than examinations) **	Mean	4.33	4.44	4.21	4.09	4.33
	S.D.	0.84	0.77	0.97	1.04	0.87
	N	677	1,388	739	265	3,087
D. Dissertation research and writing	Mean	3.97	4.11	3.82	3.79	3.99
	S.D.	1.02	0.95	1.09	1.10	1.02
	N	677	1,391	739	265	3,090
E. Dissertation defense	Mean	4.08	4.23	4.02	3.98	4.13
	S.D.	1.00	0.90	1.05	1.10	0.98
	N	676	1,388	739	265	3,086

**5. Other than course grades and results of written or oral examinations, did your doctoral program provide a formal assessment of your academic progress at least annually?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	566	677	84%	1,182	1,386	85%	661	739	89%	198	264	75%	2,625	3,084	85%

**6. Please rate the adequacy of support you were provided during your doctoral education and dissertation research in the following areas:**

Scale:    1                    2                    3                    4                    5  
              Poor                Fair                Good                Very Good        Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
A. Financial support	Mean	4.34	4.50	4.09	4.13	4.33
	S.D.	1.04	0.85	1.09	1.05	0.99
	N	665	1,367	738	264	3,052
B. Information technology (IT) resources	Mean	4.14	4.33	4.29	4.14	4.27
	S.D.	0.99	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.91
	N	661	1,376	717	249	3,021
C. Your personal work space [e.g., desk or office]	Mean	4.09	4.09	3.52	3.02	3.87
	S.D.	1.06	1.05	1.34	1.30	1.20
	N	665	1,379	721	256	3,038
D. Library and electronic research resources	Mean	4.65	4.66	4.71	4.74	4.68
	S.D.	0.64	0.62	0.60	0.55	0.61
	N	669	1,376	735	261	3,059
E. Laboratory, clinical, studio, or other physical facilities	Mean	4.39	4.35	4.15	4.10	4.33
	S.D.	0.86	0.85	1.08	1.28	0.90
	N	584	1,156	308	49	2,107

**7. Rate the quality of guidance/mentoring you received about the following:**

Scale: 1 2 3 4 5  
 Poor Adequate Excellent

		Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
		2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
A. Understanding what is expected to become a candidate	Mean	4.27	4.36	4.13	4.10	4.26
	S.D.	0.94	0.83	0.93	1.02	0.90
	N	675	1,383	733	259	3,068
B. Identifying a mentor to guide your research	Mean	4.05	4.15	3.91	3.88	4.04
	S.D.	1.11	1.04	1.17	1.22	1.11
	N	665	1,344	725	254	3,006
C. Selection of a dissertation topic	Mean	4.02	4.12	3.95	3.97	4.04
	S.D.	1.07	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.04
	N	670	1,377	731	259	3,054
D. Your dissertation research	Mean	4.17	4.27	4.05	3.98	4.17
	S.D.	1.02	0.94	1.02	1.04	0.99
	N	674	1,382	731	258	3,063
E. Writing and revising your dissertation	Mean	4.05	4.10	4.06	4.03	4.07
	S.D.	1.07	1.05	1.08	1.13	1.07
	N	673	1,384	734	259	3,068
F. Professional development	Mean	3.64	3.87	3.63	3.54	3.74
	S.D.	1.22	1.14	1.21	1.25	1.19
	N	670	1,374	727	261	3,049
G. Your search for employment or training	Mean	3.47	3.67	3.62	3.44	3.60
	S.D.	1.31	1.26	1.28	1.34	1.28
	N	638	1,337	706	252	2,950



**10. Based on research conducted while you were a graduate student, how many scholarly works that have been published or accepted for publication (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings) have you authored or co-authored?**

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018	2009-2013	2014-2018
# of Papers 0	94 15%	67 10%	163 14%	86 6%	222 32%	209 29%	117 42%	79 31%	601 21%	444 15%
1	132 20%	105 16%	210 18%	119 9%	190 27%	143 20%	76 28%	69 27%	611 22%	437 14%
2	134 21%	127 19%	205 17%	164 12%	101 15%	124 17%	31 11%	46 18%	475 17%	464 15%
3	113 18%	124 18%	170 14%	191 14%	66 10%	78 11%	24 9%	33 13%	377 13%	430 14%
4	58 9%	72 11%	124 10%	164 12%	34 5%	57 8%	15 5%	13 5%	234 8%	308 10%
5	41 6%	53 8%	86 7%	113 8%	27 4%	23 3%	4 1%	5 2%	160 6%	194 6%
6 or more	72 11%	124 18%	226 19%	540 39%	51 7%	99 14%	9 3%	12 5%	359 13%	780 26%
Total	644 100%	672 100%	1,184 100%	1,377 100%	691 100%	733 100%	276 100%	257 100%	2,817 100%	3,057 100%

**10a. How many others are currently under review?**

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018	
# of Papers 0	212	32%	437	32%	373	51%	161	62%	1,188	39%
1	238	36%	433	31%	193	26%	67	26%	935	31%
2	143	21%	329	24%	98	13%	26	10%	601	20%
3	56	8%	111	8%	42	6%	4	2%	216	7%
4	15	2%	40	3%	12	2%	0	0%	68	2%
5	4	1%	16	1%	8	1%	0	0%	28	1%
6 or more	2	0%	9	1%	3	0%	0	0%	14	0%
Total	670	100%	1,375	100%	729	100%	258	100%	3,050	100%

**11. How many research or scholarly presentations (including poster presentations) did you make at meetings away from your campus (regional, national, or international)?**

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018	
# of Presentations 0	32	5%	52	4%	21	3%	8	3%	113	4%
1	50	7%	86	6%	25	3%	13	5%	175	6%
2	85	13%	148	11%	52	7%	17	7%	302	10%
3	106	16%	195	14%	55	8%	17	7%	374	12%
4	90	13%	203	15%	70	10%	24	9%	388	13%
5	84	12%	181	13%	91	12%	30	12%	389	13%
6 or more	226	34%	512	37%	416	57%	149	58%	1,315	43%
Total	673	100%	1,377	100%	730	100%	258	100%	3,056	100%

**12. Were you a graduate student instructor (GSI) at any time during your doctoral study?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	472	675	70%	927	1,385	67%	669	734	91%	257	260	99%	2,337	3,072	76%

**12a. If yes, how helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?**

Scale: 1 2 3 4  
 Not at all helpful Not very helpful Somewhat helpful Very helpful

	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018		2014-2018	
Mean	3.24		3.39		3.54		3.75		3.44	
Standard Deviation	0.84		0.71		0.68		0.49		0.72	
Total Number of Responses	472		925		667		255		2,331	

**12b. (If you taught as a GSI) For how many semesters did you teach as a graduate student instructor?**

Scale: 1 to 7 semesters or more

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
Mean	2.28	3.05	3.96	5.76	3.45
Standard Deviation	1.62	2.04	2.06	1.50	2.16
Total Number of Responses	470	924	668	254	2,328

**13. Were you a graduate student research assistant (GSRA) at any time during your doctoral study?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences			Physical Sciences and Engineering			Social Sciences			Humanities and the Arts			All Rackham		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
	527	675	78%	1,292	1,385	93%	469	734	64%	87	258	34%	2,389	3,070	78%

**13a. If yes, how helpful was this experience with respect to your professional development?**

Scale: 1 2 3 4  
 Not at all helpful Not very helpful Somewhat helpful Very helpful

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
Mean	3.62	3.78	3.45	3.23	3.66
Standard Deviation	0.69	0.48	0.73	0.84	0.62
Total Number of Responses	525	1,288	467	87	2,381

**13b. (If you were a GSRA) For how many semesters were you a graduate student research assistant (GSRA)?**

Scale: 1 to 7 semesters or more

	Biological and Health Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences	Humanities and the Arts	All Rackham
	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018	2014-2018
Mean	5.16	5.88	4.15	2.31	5.25
Standard Deviation	2.17	1.80	2.26	1.89	2.17
Total Number of Responses	519	1,287	467	86	2,373



**15a. What one type of principal employer will you be working for (or training with) in the next year?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b><u>Education</u></b>										
U.S. 4-year college or university other than medical school	202	30%	366	27%	385	53%	136	54%	1,097	36%
U.S. medical school (including university-affiliated hospital or medical center)	147	22%	35	3%	27	4%	1	0%	210	7%
U.S. university-affiliated research institute	45	7%	87	6%	31	4%	9	4%	175	6%
U.S. community or two-year college	0	0%	3	0%	6	1%	2	1%	11	0%
U.S. preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system	1	0%	0	0%	9	1%	2	1%	12	0%
<b><u>Government</u></b>										
Foreign educational institution	21	3%	50	4%	54	7%	18	7%	143	5%
Foreign government	2	0%	14	1%	5	1%	2	1%	23	1%
U.S. federal government	42	6%	107	8%	21	3%	2	1%	172	6%
U.S. state government	4	1%	3	0%	4	1%	0	0%	11	0%
U.S. local government	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b><u>Private Sector</u></b>										
Not-for-profit organization	22	3%	20	1%	40	6%	13	5%	96	3%
Industry (for-profit)	94	14%	544	40%	50	7%	5	2%	696	23%
<b><u>Other</u></b>										
Self-employed	3	0%	15	1%	6	1%	7	3%	32	1%
Other (not listed above)	6	1%	3	0%	2	0%	0	0%	11	0%
Unknown	75	11%	129	9%	83	11%	54	22%	343	11%

**15b. My immediate post-graduate position is located...**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Inside the U.S.	570	86%	1,164	85%	573	79%	182	73%	2,506	83%
Outside the U.S.	26	4%	91	7%	72	10%	26	10%	215	7%
Don't know location	63	10%	120	9%	77	11%	41	16%	302	10%

**16. Which best describes your long-term career aspiration?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tenure track faculty	311	47%	427	31%	466	64%	185	73%	1,400	46%
Non-tenure track faculty	12	2%	17	1%	10	1%	5	2%	44	1%
Non-university teaching position	2	0%	5	0%	3	0%	1	0%	11	0%
Researcher	146	22%	370	27%	104	14%	7	3%	628	21%
Professional, administrator or manager	93	14%	294	21%	64	9%	25	10%	478	16%
Work independently (e.g., entrepreneur, consultant, performer)	29	4%	121	9%	20	3%	6	2%	179	6%
Other employment (not listed above)	9	1%	6	0%	5	1%	2	1%	22	1%
Unknown	63	9%	138	10%	56	8%	23	9%	281	9%

**16a. Which best describes the type of employer for your long-term career aspiration?**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Higher education institution (four-year college or university)	358	54%	488	36%	528	73%	201	79%	1,586	52%
Other educational institution	6	1%	5	0%	12	2%	5	2%	28	1%
Government	39	6%	95	7%	29	4%	3	1%	167	6%
Industry (for-profit)	155	23%	548	40%	35	5%	5	2%	745	25%
Not-for-profit organization	23	3%	20	1%	46	6%	15	6%	105	3%
Self-employed	21	3%	79	6%	18	2%	5	2%	125	4%
Other	6	1%	1	0%	3	0%	1	0%	11	0%
Unknown	57	9%	136	10%	56	8%	19	7%	269	9%

**16b. This long-term career position would be located...**

2014-2018	Biological and Health Sciences		Physical Sciences and Engineering		Social Sciences		Humanities and the Arts		All Rackham	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Inside the U.S.	494	75%	964	70%	556	77%	168	66%	2,196	72%
Outside the U.S.	33	5%	98	7%	44	6%	19	8%	195	6%
Don't know location	136	21%	314	23%	126	17%	66	26%	645	21%

Notes:

\* 2012 - 2018 respondents are those who received the revised Exit Survey with degrees conferred in December 2011 or later.

Questions designated by \*\* were first asked to those with degrees conferred in December 2011.