

**The University of Mississippi
Graduate Alumni Survey
Cumulative Report for All Survey Respondents
July 2008**

In June 2008, The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment distributed a survey to alumni who received graduate degrees from the University of Mississippi from 2005-2007. Alumni were asked for their responses to questions in several different categories, including: demographic details, information on current professional and/or academic status, perceptions of the graduate experience, and recommendations for enhancement to the graduate education program. Confidentiality is maintained for all respondents. The survey had a response rate of 20%. Following are the cumulative results.

The academic department of my degree was..

Department	Highest Degree			Department	
	Doctorate	Masters	Specialist	Total	and %
Accountancy	1	12		13	14%
Biological Science		2		2	2%
Business	3	10		13	14%
Chemistry	1			1	1%
Communication Science		3		3	3%
Computer Science		1		1	1%
Curriculum & Instruction	2	8	4	14	15%
Economics	1			1	1%
Electrical Engineering		3		3	3%
English	2	1		3	3%
Health, Ex Sci & Recr Mgmt	1	2		3	3%
History		1		1	1%
Journalism		1		1	1%
Leadership & Counselor Ed	2	12	3	17	19%
Mathematics	2	1		3	3%
Modern Languages		1		1	1%
Music	1	3		4	4%
Pharmacy Admin		2		2	2%
Physics		1		1	1%
Political Science		1		1	1%
Psychology	2			2	2%
Southern Studies		1		1	1%
Grand Total	18	66	7	91	100%
<i>Percent</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>8%</i>		

Do you feel a stronger affiliation with your graduate institution or you undergraduate institution?

Institution	Total and %	
Graduate	29	32%
Graduate and Undergraduate	49	54%
Undergraduate	13	14%
Grand Total	91	100%

Graduation Year	Graduation Month			Total and %	
	May	August	December		
2005	6	11	6	23	25%
2006	28	7	8	43	47%
2007	20	3	2	25	27%
Grand Total	54	21	16	91	100%

Ethnicity	Male	Female	Total and %	
No Response			2	2%
African American	2	10	12	13%
Asian American		1	1	1%
Caucasian American	27	38	65	71%
Hispanic American		1	1	1%
International	8	2	10	11%
Grand Total	37	52	91	100%

Since receiving your graduate degree at the University of Mississippi, what have you been doing?

	Total and %	
I am employed in my field of graduate study.	71	78%
I am employed outside my field of graduate study.	7	8%
I am enrolled in another graduate or professional program.	10	11%
I am currently employed as a postdoctoral research associate at an educational/research institution.	2	2%
I am not currently employed, and I am looking for suitable employment.	1	1%
I am not currently employed, and I am not actively looking for employment.	0	0%
	91	100%

If you are employed, please check all that apply.

	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>	
I am employed as a teacher at an undergraduate or graduate educational institution.	18	20%	73	80%
I am employed as a teacher in a primary or secondary educational institution.	14	15%	77	85%
I am employed in a leadership role in an educational institution or government agency.	15	16%	76	84%
Performing research is a significant part of my job.	18	20%	73	80%
I am privately employed or do freelance work.	5	5%	86	95%
I am employed as a professional in a government agency.	6	7%	85	93%
I am employed as a professional in the business world.	30	33%	61	67%
None of these situations apply.	8	9%	83	91%

	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Total</u>
Have you become licensed or certified since graduating at the University of Mississippi?	36	40%	55	60%	91
Have you taken a professional examination related to your degree since graduating from the University of Mississippi? <i>(note: 13 selected 'not applicable')</i>	26	33%	52	67%	78
Did you pass on the first attempt? <i>(note: only asked of those that indicated taking an exam)</i>	19	73%	7	27%	26
Did you pass on a subsequent attempt? <i>(note: only asked if person did not pass on first attempt)</i>	6	86%	1	14%	7

How long did it take to secure your first full-time position following graduation?	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
0-3 months	60	66%
4-6 months	5	5%
6-12 months	6	7%
More than 1 year	2	2%
I have not yet secured a full-time position	6	7%
N/A	12	13%
Total	91	100%

Indicate (optional) the approximate range of your individual annual salary (US Currency).	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Under \$25,000	4	4%
\$25,000 - \$39,999	15	16%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	38	42%
\$60,000 - \$100,000	25	27%
More than \$100,000	2	2%
N/A	7	8%
Total	91	100%

How did you learn about your current position?	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
I worked for the employer before graduation.	23	25%
Employment agency	1	1%
Newspaper advertisement	1	1%
Professional periodical or Web site advertisement	18	20%
Contact made at a professional meeting	3	3%
Faculty assisted contact	4	4%
Personal contact	19	21%
UM Career Center	5	5%
Other	15	16%
I am currently unemployed	2	2%
Total	91	100%

In your opinion, should more or less emphasis be placed on the following aspects of graduate education at the University of Mississippi.

	Much More	%	More	%	Same	%	Less	%	Much Less	%
Writing skills	9	10%	46	51%	34	37%	2	2%		
Oral communication skills	13	14%	33	36%	45	49%				
Critical thinking	12	13%	50	55%	29	32%				
Computer technology skills	7	8%	31	34%	50	55%	3	3%		
Ability to retrieve information	6	7%	30	33%	54	59%			1	1%
Mathematical skills	5	5%	23	25%	58	64%	5	5%		
Working as part of a team	11	12%	27	30%	51	56%	2	2%		
Basic knowledge in the discipline	9	10%	26	29%	56	62%				
Research methodology and experience	11	12%	36	40%	39	43%	5	5%		
Understanding the culture of the discipline	10	11%	35	38%	43	47%	3	3%		
Professional ethics	12	13%	24	26%	53	58%	2	2%		
Service to society	15	16%	26	29%	48	53%	2	2%		

While working on my degree at the University of Mississippi, I...

	Strongly Agree	%	Agree	%	Neutral	%	Disagree	%	Strongly Disagree	%
Acquired the technical and research skills of my discipline needed for success as a researcher.	21	23%	42	46%	23	25%	5	5%		
Obtained the knowledge base necessary for success in my field.	28	31%	47	52%	12	13%	4	4%		
Developed the oral communication skills necessary for success in my field.	24	26%	47	52%	18	20%	2	2%		
Learned to analyze and evaluate competing or contradictory information or points of view on a variety of topics.	21	23%	57	63%	11	12%	2	2%		
Developed the ability to write effectively.	21	23%	45	49%	21	23%	3	3%	1	1%
Learned to work as part of a team.	18	20%	52	57%	17	19%	4	4%		
Developed a knowledge of the literature of my discipline.	30	33%	44	48%	14	15%	3	3%		
Had adequate access to educational and research resources at the University of Mississippi to complete my degree.	37	41%	37	41%	13	14%	3	3%	1	1%
Gained an appreciation of the professional ethics of my discipline.	25	27%	50	55%	10	11%	5	5%	1	1%
Was exposed to the professional practices of my discipline, preparing me to enter the professional world.	25	27%	42	46%	14	15%	9	10%	1	1%
Was prepared to compete effectively with colleagues educated at other major institutions.	34	37%	33	36%	14	15%	7	8%	3	3%
Found my advisor to be available and helpful to me.	31	34%	30	33%	17	19%	10	11%	3	3%

If the University of Mississippi were to have resources to enhance graduate education, which of the following would you recommend as being important enhancements?

	Very High Priority	%	High Priority	%	Neutral	%	Low Priority	%	Very Low Priority	%
Add additional graduate programs	7	8%	24	26%	49	54%	7	8%	4	4%
Increase the number of faculty	10	11%	36	40%	42	46%	3	3%		
Enhance laboratory facilities	8	9%	24	26%	52	57%	7	8%		
Enhance library facilities	15	16%	25	27%	41	45%	10	11%		
Increase graduate assistantship stipends	31	34%	38	42%	19	21%	3	3%		
Provide health insurance for graduate students	24	26%	31	34%	23	25%	10	11%	3	3%
Provide dental and eye care insurance	19	21%	22	24%	33	36%	13	14%	4	4%
Provide a child care service	6	7%	24	26%	41	45%	14	15%	6	7%
Provide additional funds for student travel	24	26%	30	33%	24	26%	11	12%	2	2%
Provide student development programs, such as workshops to help students prepare for faculty positions	27	30%	36	40%	25	27%	3	3%		