



**SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
PANDEMIC ON GRADUATE EDUCATION**
Council of Graduate Schools

Annotated Questionnaire Document

June 3, 2020

**Questions regarding this questionnaire should be directed to:
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SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC ON GRADUATE EDUCATION

Council of Graduate Schools

Final as Launched on May 4, 2020

[Launch E-mail]

Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on Graduate Education

From: Suzanne Ortega, CGS President

Dear Colleague,

I hope that you, your family, and your colleagues are safe and well as the world continues to respond together to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an effort to better align our summer and fall programming with the evolving needs of our members, the Council of Graduate Schools is launching a short survey about **graduate education and the COVID-19 pandemic**. This survey, which should take no more than 10 minutes for you to complete, is meant to help us identify various pressure points that you may be experiencing at your institution at this moment, as well as some of the actions your institution has taken thus far. **To answer these questions, you do not need to contact other campus stakeholders to gather information to answer these questions.** For some of the questions, if you do not have answers immediately, please simply select “I do not know” and move forward. As always, all information gathered will be confidential, and only aggregated data will be shared outside of the research team.

To consent to participate and begin the survey, please click the below link or copy-paste the URL to your web browser. **Please note that this is a unique, one-time-use link for you, so please start only when you are ready to complete the entire survey.**

Take the Survey [LINK]

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

[LINK]

Recognizing that the situation that surrounds us is rapidly and continuously developing, this survey will only be **open until Friday, May 8, 2020, 11:59 PM, Pacific**. If you have any questions about the survey or need to re-open your link, please direct your inquiry to Dr. Hironao Okahana, Vice President, Research & Knowledge Development at research@cgs.nche.edu.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this critical and time-sensitive survey.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Ortega
President
Council of Graduate Schools

[Section 1: Summer 2020 Activities]

For Summer 2020, how has your institution modified modes of the delivery (e.g., from in-person/place-based to virtual) of the following activities? **[RANDOMIZE THE LIST]**

1. Dissertation camps and other in-person/place-based writing retreats for graduate students. (Valid N=131)
 - 0=Not applicable (65)
 - 1=Canceled (17, 13%)
 - 2=Modified, but still offered (97, 74%)
 - 3=Exploring alternative modes (17, 13%)
 - 4=Offered without changes (0, 0%)
 - 5=I do not know (5)

2. Summer Bridge Programs and other in-person/place-based outreach events aimed for undergraduate or master's students. (Valid N=140)
 - 0=Not applicable (45)
 - 1=Canceled (30, 21%)
 - 2=Modified, but still offered (78, 56%)
 - 3=Exploring alternative modes (31, 22%)
 - 4=Offered without changes (1, 1%)
 - 5=I do not know (16)

3. Orientations and other in-person/place-based on-boarding events for incoming graduate students. (Valid N=176)
 - 0=Not applicable (16)
 - 1=Canceled (5, 3%)
 - 2=Modified, but still offered (116, 66%)
 - 3=Exploring alternative modes (53, 30%)
 - 4=Offered without changes (2, 1%)
 - 5=I do not know (9)

[Section 2: Outlook on AY2020/21]

How confident are you that your institution will be able to do the following during Academic Year 2020/21? **[RANDOMIZE THE LIST]**

[Funding Support Bucket]

4. Maintaining the total available funds for grant aid, assistantship, fellowship, and other financial support for graduate students at the pre-COVID19 level. (Valid N=195)
 - 0=Not applicable (6)
 - 1=Not at all confident (34, 17%)
 - 2=Only slightly confident (40, 21%)
 - 3=Somewhat confident (41, 21%)
 - 4= Moderately confident (48, 25%)

- **5=Very confident (32, 16%)**
5. Maintaining the total available direct student financial support for graduate student travel and other professional development activities (e.g., conferences, field works, and professional development, etc.) to the pre-COVID19 level. (Valid N=192)
- 0=Not applicable (9)
 - **1=Not at all confident (58, 30%)**
 - **2=Only slightly confident (48, 25%)**
 - **3=Somewhat confident (44, 23%)**
 - **4= Moderately confident (26, 14%)**
 - **5=Very confident (16, 8%)**

[Direct Student Support Bucket]

6. Providing adequate training, resources, and support for graduate teaching assistants to teach online. (Valid N=177)
- 0=Not applicable (24)
 - **1=Not at all confident (10, 6%)**
 - **2=Only slightly confident (20, 11%)**
 - **3=Somewhat confident (52, 29%)**
 - **4= Moderately confident (61, 34%)**
 - **5=Very confident (34, 19%)**
7. Ensuring that graduate students can and have access to experiential learning opportunities (e.g., internships, clinical training, etc.). (Valid N=198)
- 0=Not applicable (3)
 - **1=Not at all confident (28, 14%)**
 - **2=Only slightly confident (63, 32%)**
 - **3=Somewhat confident (57, 29%)**
 - **4= Moderately confident (43, 22%)**
 - **5=Very confident (7, 4%)**
8. Providing adequate resources and support for graduate students to meet basic needs (e.g., food and housing, etc.) during this crisis. (Valid N=190)
- 0=Not applicable (11)
 - **1=Not at all confident (20, 11%)**
 - **2=Only slightly confident (41, 22%)**
 - **3=Somewhat confident (62, 33%)**
 - **4= Moderately confident (48, 25%)**
 - **5=Very confident (19, 10%)**

9. Providing adequate resources and support for graduate students to cope with psychological/emotional challenges associated with this crisis. (Valid N=198)

- 0=Not applicable (3)
- **1=Not at all confident (13, 7%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (41, 21%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (60, 30%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (58, 29%)**
- **5=Very confident (26, 13%)**

[Faculty/Staff Support Bucket]

10. Providing adequate training, resources, and support for graduate faculty to teach and mentor graduate students virtually. (Valid N=196)

- 0=Not applicable (5)
- **1=Not at all confident (10, 5%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (25, 13%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (57, 29%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (69, 35%)**
- **5=Very confident (35, 18%)**

11. Providing adequate training, resources, and support for graduate administrators and other departmental/program staff members to help graduate students navigate this crisis. (Valid N=198)

- 0=Not applicable (3)
- **1=Not at all confident (12, 6%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (34, 17%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (50, 25%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (73, 37%)**
- **5=Very confident (29, 15%)**

12. Maintaining the staff FTEs of your unit (i.e., Graduate School or equivalent). (Valid N=198)

- 0=Not applicable (3)
- **1=Not at all confident (30, 15%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (27, 14%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (43, 22%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (65, 33%)**
- **5=Very confident (33, 17%)**

13. Maintaining the student employment opportunities (both graduate and undergraduate) in your unit (i.e., Graduate School or equivalent). (Valid N=188)

- 0=Not applicable (13)
- **1=Not at all confident (23, 12%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (40, 21%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (48, 26%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (51, 27%)**
- **5=Very confident (26, 14%)**

14. Allocating adequate resources to engage in the international outreach and recruitment activities for graduate students to meet the enrollment target. (Valid N=185)

- 0=Not applicable (16)
- **1=Not at all confident (61, 33%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (52, 28%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (40, 22%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (23, 12%)**
- **5=Very confident (9, 5%)**

15. Allocating adequate resources to engage in domestic outreach and recruitment activities for graduate students to ensure the diversity of the incoming cohort. (Valid N=195)

- 0=Not applicable (6)
- **1=Not at all confident (27, 14%)**
- **2=Only slightly confident (44, 23%)**
- **3=Somewhat confident (54, 28%)**
- **4= Moderately confident (58, 30%)**
- **5=Very confident (12, 6%)**

[Section 3: Major Decisions Made or Anticipated]

16. Has your institution formed a campus-wide task force or committee of stakeholders that assesses and addresses the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various parts of graduate education? (Valid N=195)

- 0=Not applicable. (1)
- **1=Yes. (148, 76%)**
- **2=No. (47, 24%)**
- 3=I do not know. (5)

17. Has your institution made any changes to current time to degree requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? (Valid N=201)

- 0=Not applicable. (0)
- 1=Yes, all graduate students have been given an automatic extension. (28, 14%)
- 2=Yes, but extension requests will be made on a case-by-case basis. (95, 47%)
- 3=No, we do not anticipate changing current policies. (36, 18%)
- 4=There has been no decision on this topic at my institution yet. (25, 12%)
- 5=Other (Please specify). (17, 8%)

18. Which of the following best characterize a formal decision made to this date by your institution regarding the treatment of the Pass/Fail or equivalent grade schemes in the graduate admission process as a part of the campus responses to the COVID-19 pandemic? (Valid N=199)

- 0=Not applicable. (2)
- 1=Individual programs were instructed not to consider Spring 2020 grades when making future graduate admission decisions. (6, 3%)
- 2=Individual programs were instructed to adapt holistic approaches to future graduate admission decisions. (68, 34%)
- 3=My institution has adopted holistic approaches to graduate admissions prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. (59, 30%)
- 4=There has been no decision on this topic at my institution yet. (44, 22%)
- 5=Other (Please specify). (22, 11%)

19. Which of the following best characterize a formal decision made to this date by your institution in response to financial challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic regarding any offers for grant aid, assistantship, and fellowship offers made to incoming graduate students? (Valid N=199)

- 0=Not applicable (2)
- 1=Individual programs were instructed to rescind financial support offers to incoming graduate students. (1, 1%)
- 2=Individual programs were given discretions to rescind financial support offers to incoming graduate students to meet the anticipated budgetary shortfalls. (10, 5%)
- 3=My institution will honor all accepted financial support offers made to incoming graduate students. (132, 66%)
- 4=There has been no decision on this topic at my institution yet. (37, 19%)
- 5=Other (Please specify). (19, 10%)

20. Which of the following best characterize a formal decision made to this date by your institution in response to financial challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic regarding any offers for grant aid, assistantship, and fellowship offers made to current/returning graduate students? (Valid N=200)

- 0=Not applicable. (1)
- 1=Individual programs were instructed to rescind financial support offers to current/returning graduate students. (0)
- 2=Individual programs were given discretions to rescind financial support offers to current/returning graduate students to meet the anticipated budgetary shortfalls. (14, 7%)
- 3=My institution will honor all financial support commitments made to current/returning graduate students. (146, 73%)
- 4=There has been no decision on this topic at my institution yet. (27, 14%)
- 5=Other (Please specify). (13, 7%)

21. Has your institution disbursed direct student grant aid through the CARES Act to any graduate students? (Valid N=199)

- 0=Not applicable. (2)
- 1=Yes, and most, if not all graduate students with financial needs received such aid. (10)
- 2=Yes, and many of graduate students with financial needs received such aid. (19)
- 3=Yes, and some of graduate students with financial needs received such aid. (35)
- 4=Yes, but few of graduate students with financial needs received such aid. (12)
- 5=No graduate students with financial needs received such aid. (4)
- 6=My institution has not disbursed any direct student grant aid through the CARES Act to any students. (51)
- 7=My institution is not eligible to receive the CARES Act funding from the U.S. federal government. (8)
- 8=I do not know. (60)

[Section 4: Anticipation for Fall 2020]

22. Based on your observation thus far, what do you anticipate the Fall 2020 enrollment numbers will be, relative to the Fall 2019 enrollment level at your institution?

- 1=First-time graduate enrollment (overall): **[Sliding scale, -20% to 20%]**
- 2=First-time domestic, URM graduate enrollment: **[Sliding scale, -20% to 18%]**
- 3=First-time international graduate enrollment: **[Sliding scale, -20% to 20%]**
- 4=Total graduate enrollment (overall): **[Sliding scale, -20% to 20%]**
- 5=Total domestic, URM graduate enrollment: **[Sliding scale, -20% to 10%]**
- 6=Total international graduate enrollment: **[Sliding scale, -20% to 20%]**

		-20%	-15 to -19%	-10 to -14%	-5 to -9%	-1 to -4%	0%
First-time	Overall	8	11	34	37	21	15
	Domestic, URM	6	7	13	29	27	20
	International	51	23	30	21	30	8
Total	Overall	7	10	26	36	36	8
	Domestic, URM	4	6	18	26	27	16
	International	20	20	34	40	36	7

		+1 to +4%	+5 to +9%	+10 to +14%	+15 to +19%	+20%	Valid N
First-time	Overall	26	16	4	1	1	174
	Domestic, URM	25	11	8	1	0	147
	International	2	5	0	0	1	171
Total	Overall	29	10	5	0	1	168
	Domestic, URM	29	9	2	0	0	137
	International	6	3	0	0	1	167

23. Do you anticipate or does your institution already face an across the board budget cut for the upcoming fiscal year? If yes or anticipated, please enter the range of % cuts determined or anticipated. (Valid N=199)

- 0=Not applicable (2)
- **1=Yes (93, 47%)**
- **2=No, but it is anticipated. (80, 40%)**
- **3=No, and it is unlikely. (11, 6%)**
- **4=I do not know. (15, 8%)**

24. Please select the top three resources or needs you will seek to protect in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on your institution's budgets. [RANDOMIZE THE LIST]

- 1=Grant aid, assistantship, fellowship, and other financial support for graduate students. (#1 priority: 75, #2 priority: 28, #3 priority: 21)
- 2=Funds for direct student financial support for graduate student travels (e.g., conferences, field works, and professional development, etc.) and other professional development activities. (#1 priority: 5, #2 priority: 12, #3 priority: 15)
- 3=Programming for graduate career development activities. (#1 priority: 0, #2 priority: 7, #3 priority: 14)
- 4=Providing preparation and support for graduate assistants to transition to online teaching. (#1 priority: 5, #2 priority: 10, #3 priority: 9)
- 5=Supporting graduate students meeting basic needs during this crisis. (#1 priority: 37, #2 priority: 35, #3 priority: 19)
- 6=Offering graduate students support for coping with psychological challenges associated with this crisis. (#1 priority: 10, #2 priority: 21, #3 priority: 41)
- 7=Supporting graduate faculty to teach and mentor graduate students virtually. (#1 priority: 17, #2 priority: 15, #3 priority: 14)
- 8=Maintaining the staff FTE of my unit. (#1 priority: 14, #2 priority: 25, #3 priority: 18)
- 9=Maintaining the student employment opportunities (both undergraduate and graduate) in my unit. (#1 priority: 3, #2 priority: 8, #3 priority: 7)
- 10=Engaging in the international outreach and recruitment activities for graduate students to meet the enrollment target. (#1 priority: 8, #2 priority: 8, #3 priority: 9)
- 11=Engaging in domestic outreach and recruitment activities for graduate students to ensure the diversity of the incoming cohort. (#1 priority: 14, #2 priority: 19, #3 priority: 20)
- 12=Other areas (Please specify). (#1 priority: 2, #2 priority: 1, #3 priority: 1)

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