



Invitation to Participate in NASPAA'S Doctoral Student Survey 2018

Dear Doctoral Student/ Recent PhD:

NASPAA's Doctoral Program Committee and Data Committee invite you to participate in this survey of doctoral students/ recent graduates. The goal of this survey is to collect systematic data about doctoral student experience in doctoral programs to assess hardships and challenges of academic and personal nature that the doctoral students face.

The survey does not collect personally identifying information. All data collected will be treated as highly confidential and stored in password protected devices.

Based on your responses, NASPAA will make recommendations to the program leadership about initiatives that would improve doctoral student institutional and social experiences. NASPAA hopes that these recommendations would help its member institutions achieve a higher rate of degree completion by lowering the doctoral student attrition rate.

This survey will inform NASPAA's PhD Pathways initiative, designed to take a closer look at the processes, practices, policies of the PhD programs in public policy, administration, and affairs of NASPAA-affiliated institutions.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. You can exit the survey any time you want to without any penalty. We request you to give your consent to participate in this survey by selecting the appropriate option stated below.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions in this survey.

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact drudy@naspaa.org



* 1. By continuing with the survey, you are voluntarily consenting to participate and attest that (a) you have read and understand the consent; (b) are voluntarily agreeing to participate in this research; and (c) are 18 years of age or older.

- I Agree
- I Don't Agree

Demographic Information

2. What doctoral degree are you seeking/ did you receive:

- PhD in Public Administration
- PhD in Public Policy
- PhD in Political Science
- Other (please specify)
- PhD in Public Affairs
- DPA

3. Please provide the following information

Year of enrollment in the Doctoral program

Expected year of graduation/ year graduated

Please select the State where your doctoral institution is located

4. Which gender do you identify yourself with?

- Male
- Female
- Any other
- I do not wish to disclose my gender

5. What is your race/ethnicity?

- White or Caucasian but not Hispanic/Latino
- Black or African American but not Hispanic/Latino
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Native Hawaiian or Alaska native
- Two or more races
- Unknown race/ethnicity
- Other
- I do not wish to disclose my racial/ethnic identity

6. What is your age range?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- I do not wish to provide my age

7. What is your current enrollment type (if you already graduated what was your main type of enrollment while in the program)?

- I am currently enrolled as a Full-Time student
- I am currently enrolled as a Part-Time student



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Motivations and Information Sources

8. What were your reasons for pursuing a doctoral degree (check all that apply)?

- Personal Enrichment
- To make a contribution towards your chosen field
- Want to pursue a career in Academia
- Improving and challenging knowledge
- Other (please specify)
- Enjoyment of the subject matter
- Demonstration of intellectual potential
- Seeking a higher salary
- Was told I needed one for my chosen career path

9. When did you first start to consider seeking a doctoral degree?

- Before undergraduate school
- First or second year of undergraduate school
- Third or last year of undergraduate school
- Within two years of undergraduate school
- Other (please specify)
- More than two years after finishing undergraduate school
- When in my masters degree program
- I decided Mid-career to seek my PhD

10. When you were considering a doctoral degree, how much information did you receive in making your decision?

- As much as needed
- Less than needed
- None

11. When considering a doctoral degree where did you seek information from (check all that apply)?

- Friends, students, coworkers
- Faculty member(s)
- Current graduate student(s)
- Academic Advisor
- Parent(s)
- Institutional Program
- Significant Other
- Employer
- Career Counselor
- Other (please specify)

12. What types of resources/ information do you wish you had, that was not available to you when you were making a decision regarding a doctoral degree (check all that apply)?

- The level of academic rigor
- The admissions process
- Degree Information (ie types of degrees and there differences)
- Available Programs (what schools offer the degree)
- Funding/ Financial Aid Information
- Dissertation/ Thesis expectations
- Employment Prospects
- Guidance on Field of Expertise
- Role of Advisors
- Obtaining a Thesis Advisor
- Determining Program Fit
- Other (please specify)

13. Please rank the following resources and opportunities NASPAA could seek funding to provide as part of our PhD Pathways Initiative.

☰	<input type="text"/>	Boot Camp: "Is a PhD Right for you and if so how to apply?"
☰	<input type="text"/>	Opportunities for presenting research
☰	<input type="text"/>	Opportunities for networking with those already in the field
☰	<input type="text"/>	Formal Mentoring Program by Faculty
☰	<input type="text"/>	A National Peer Cohort based on Specialty
☰	<input type="text"/>	Writing Workshops (focused on the first two years)
☰	<input type="text"/>	Data Boot Camps: Boost your Stats Skills Before you enter the PhD
☰	<input type="text"/>	Fellowship Opportunities
☰	<input type="text"/>	Dissertation Writing Workshop
☰	<input type="text"/>	Navigating the PhD as an Under-represented Minority (Workshop)

14. If you have any comments about resources/ opportunities that NASPAA could seek to provide students please provide them here:



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Costs, Financial Award (A)

15. Have you received any financial award from your doctoral program or institution?

- Yes
 No



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Costs, Financial Award (B)

16. Indicate which of these following are/ were presently a source(s) of financial support for your educational and living expenses as a doctoral student (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship/scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Loans from any source |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation grant | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching assistantship | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse's, partner's/family's earnings or savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Assistantship | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer reimbursement/assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other assistantship | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traineeship | <input type="checkbox"/> I have no financial support for my living and educational expenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internship | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

17. Does your financial award include tuition waiver?

- Yes, partial tuition waiver
- Yes, complete tuition waiver
- No, my financial award did/does not include tuition waiver
- I did not receive any financial award

18. Indicate the annual stipend that you received as a Graduate or Teaching Assistant in the academic year 2018-2019

- a) Below \$10,000
- b) \$10,001-\$15,000
- c) \$15,001-\$20,000
- d) \$20,001-\$25,000
- e) Above \$25,000
- Other (please specify)

19. Please provide any comments you may have about the financial support provided to you by the program here.



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Inclusion

(If you have recently graduated consider how you felt in your program at the time you were enrolled)

20. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the statements below:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel valued by other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel valued by the faculty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am able to fulfill required courses without unduly repressing my identity, background, and experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have opportunities for academic success that are similar to my classmates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that students of my racial/ethnic group are respected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that students of my gender identity are respected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that my program reflects an openness to diverse perspectives (race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliations, religious affiliations etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have access to a mentor that is of the same race/ethnicity as myself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Please provide any comments you may have about the inclusiveness of your doctoral program here.



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Intellectual and Social Climates

22. Indicate which of the following are components of the intellectual and social climates of your doctoral program (if you have recently graduated consider your program at the time you were enrolled):

	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There is a comprehensive academic induction program for new doctoral students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All new doctoral students are informed about the administrative procedures and how to access resources and facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most academic staff attend doctoral students' research presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are opportunities for presenting doctoral students' research at annual conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are doctoral student representatives in key decisionmaking committees and they attend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supervisors have group meetings of their doctoral students in addition to 1 to 1 meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is a mentoring program in addition to academic supervisory in place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Doctoral student achievements are celebrated by most staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Doctoral students are introduced to the outside experts via guest lectures, meetings, and/or social events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career advice is provided to all doctoral students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Please provide any comments you may have about the intellectual and social climate of your doctoral program here.



NASPAA Doctoral Focus Group Survey 2018

Advisor Support, Mentoring

(If you have recently graduated consider your program at the time you were enrolled)

24. Indicate your experience as a doctoral student with your primary research advisor/ academic mentor:

- I have a positive experience with my primary research advisor/academic mentor
- I have a negative experience with my primary research advisor/ academic mentor
- I do not yet have a primary research advisor/academic mentor

25. How helpful was the advice that you received from your primary research advisor/ academic mentor in each of these areas:

	Not at all helpful	Not very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	I did not receive an advice on this
Selection of a dissertation topic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My dissertation research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing and revising my dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic career options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-academic career options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Search for employment and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your decision to persist in the program despite personal and/or academic challenges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. To what extent does your primary research advisor/ academic mentor fulfill each of these functions?

	Always	Very often	Rare	Never	No applicable
Works in partnership with the advisee on projects where both are seen as equally contributing members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guides the advisee's professional development throughout the doctoral degree process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acts on behalf of the advisee in ways to protect them from being thwarted by the system or by particular people in the system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Corrects behavior or actions of the advisee when the behavior is inappropriate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Life-changing Events

(If you have recently graduated consider your experiences at the time you were enrolled)

27. Which of these life-changing events have you faced since your enrollment in the program as a doctoral student? (Check all that apply)

- Marriage
- Divorce/separation
- Death of a family member
- Birth of a child/children
- Increase in the number of dependents in the family
- Increase in your loans
- Loss of employment for self and/or spouse/partner
- I have faced any other life-changing events since my enrollment in the program as a doctoral student
- Change in employment situation from full-time to part-time
- Change in employment situation from part-time to full-time
- You or a family member is or have been seriously sick
- Increased financial commitments towards family
- Work-related transfer of spouse or self
- I have not faced any life-changing events since my enrollment in the program as a doctoral student



Intention to Drop Out of the Program A

28. Have/had you ever considered dropping out of your doctoral program?

Yes

No

If yes, please state the reason



Intention to Drop Out of the Program B

29. Have you discussed your wish to drop out of the doctoral program with your advisors, program Chair, and/or any other member of the faculty?

Yes

No

If so, please describe any advice or assistance they gave you that you found helpful.



Student-Program Fit

30. Have you ever felt that you are a wrong fit in your doctoral program?

- Yes
- No



NASPAA Doctoral Focus Group Survey 2018

Wrong Fit Reasons

31. Why do/did you believe that you are a wrong fit in the doctoral program? (Check all that apply)

- My skills and aptitudes are not suitable for doctoral studies
- The faculty have very high expectations about student productivity (e.g. publications, conference presentations, time commitments)
- I have no role model /mentor from my racial/ethnic background
- I believed that faculty would be more engaged with students in including them in various research projects and studies
- I cannot cope with the departmental politics and/or the institutional culture
- Other (please specify)
- As a part-time student I do not have a cohort like the full-time students, and feel isolated
- I am the only student of color in the class and feel isolated
- There are no special orientation programs or other support activities in my program for non-traditional students such as I am
- I did not foresee that the degree completion will take such a long time
- I believed there would be more evening or weekend classes in all semesters



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Primary Caregiver

32. Are you the primary caregiver to a child/children (or plan to be) during your doctoral study?

- Yes
- No



NASPAA Doctoral Focus Group Survey 2018

Student Health Support

33. Have you ever sought help for anxiety or depression during your doctoral study?

- Yes
 No

34. Did you seek help for your anxiety or depression within the institution?

- Yes, it was helpful
 Yes, but I didn't feel supported
 No, I sought help somewhere else
 I did not seek help
 I wanted to but did not know where within the institution
 Rather not say
 Does not apply



NASPAA Doctoral Focus Group Survey 2018

Other Comments

35. If you have any additional comments regarding your experiences in your doctoral program (particularly those regarding programs or advice you would find/ would have found helpful) please provide them here.

If you wish to be provided future updates on NASPAA PhD Pathways Initiative please email drudy@naspaa.org to be added to the PhD Pathways listserv. (Providing your email outside the survey instrument protects the anonymity of your survey responses.)