



**Framingham State University**  
**Office of Institutional Assessment**

**Graduate Student Exit Survey Report 2022-23**

**Domestic Students**

**Target Population: 234**

**Total Respondents: 100**

**Response Rate: 42.74%**

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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
How many years did it take you to finish this degree? .....	4
Majors of Graduate Respondents.....	4
How did you first hear about FSU graduate programs? .....	5
Why did you choose to attend FSU for your graduate program? Please rank your top 5 reasons.....	5
Did you apply to any other universities for graduate school?.....	5
What was your rating of FSU at the time you applied for admission?.....	6
Please indicate the level of challenge presented by each item below based on your experience while pursuing your graduate degree:.....	6
How did you finance your graduate education? .....	8
How applicable were the program requirements to your current/or future workplace? .....	9
After completing your graduate program, how would you classify your level of preparation? .....	10
Please indicate your level of satisfaction with FSU Graduate Services in the following areas: .....	11
Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of your graduate education experiences related to your degree: .....	12
Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements: .....	13
Did you receive your undergraduate degree from FSU?.....	14
Would you select FSU if you were to begin graduate school all over again?.....	15
Would you recommend FSU to other potential students? .....	16
What was your zip code while attending FSU as a graduate student? .....	16
Are you an in-state, out-of-state, or international student (living inside or outside the U.S.)? .....	17
What percentage of your classes did you take online and what percentage would you have preferred?17	
Did you complete this degree as a part-time or full-time student?.....	18

## Executive Summary

### Strengths of FSU Graduate Programs

- **96%** of respondents classified their level of preparation as excellent, good, or adequate.
- **93%** of respondents would recommend FSU to other potential students.
- **88%** of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate degree from FSU has brought them closer to achieving their goals.
- **83%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with faculty expertise.
- **86%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the program coverage of relevant content
- **79%** of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate degree from FSU is marketable.
- **77%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with finding and working with their graduate program coordinator
- **82%** of respondents indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the accessibility of instructors
- **88%** of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate experience at FSU was rewarding.

### Areas of concern

- **61%** of respondents indicated that work or financial obligations were extremely challenging or challenging.
- **70%** of respondents indicated that communication with their graduate advisor was extremely challenging or challenging.
- **69%** of respondents indicated that communication with faculty was extremely challenging or challenging.
- **69%** of respondents indicated that communication with the graduate office staff was extremely challenging or challenging.

**Qualitative Analysis:** Below is a summary of the qualitative data.

### Strengths of FSU Graduate Programs

- Faculty
- Program/Degree Flexibility
- Campus Community
- Affordability
- Location

### Ways to make the FSU graduate studies more attractive

- More online degrees/courses
- More courses/classes/electives
- More Career Services/Development
- Program Flexibility
- Better Advising

### Items FSU could do better to meet the needs of alumni, current students, or future students

- Improve Career Services
- More courses/classes/electives
- Better Marketing
- Better Communication
- More hybrid/online options
- Better Advising

### How many years did it take you to finish this degree?

Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Fewer than 2 years	15.00%	15
2 - 3 years	59.00%	59
3 - 4 years	19.00%	19
4- 6 years	6.00%	6
6 - 8 years	0.00%	0
More than 8 years	1.00%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

### Majors of Graduate Respondents

Degree	Concentration, Specialization	Count
Master of Education	Art	3
Professional Science Masters	Biotechnology	2
Master of Business Administration	Biotechnology Operations	3
Master of Arts	Counseling Psychology	10
Master of Education	Early Childhood Education	0
Master of Education	Educational Technology	4
Master of Education	Elementary Education	3
Master of Arts	English	3
Master of Science	Food and Nutrition, Coordinated Program in Dietetics	4
Master of Science	Food and Nutrition, Food Science and Nutrition Science	1
Master of Science	Food and Nutrition, Specialization Nutrition Science	4
Master of Healthcare Administration	Healthcare Administration	9
Master of Human Resource Management	Human Resource Management	2
Master of Education	Literacy and Language	1
Master of Business Administration	Management	4
Master of Education	Mathematics	2
Master of Science in Nursing	Nursing Case Management	3
Master of Science in Nursing	Nursing Education	4
Master of Science in Nursing	Nursing Leadership	10
Master of Education	Nutrition Education	5
Master of Public Administration	Public Administration	8
Master of Education	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics	1
Master of Education	Secondary Education	7
Master of Education	Special Education	2
Master of Education	Teaching English as a Second Language	5
	<b>Total Degrees</b>	<b>100</b>

## How did you first hear about FSU graduate programs?

### Why did you choose to attend FSU for your graduate program? Please rank your top 5 reasons.

In the table below respondents were asked to rank the top five most significant reasons they chose to attend FSU. Respondents indicated the most significant reasons were (1) cost, (2) program/degree options, and (3) Ability to complete degree/program/coursework online and/or hybrid.

Answer	Response Percent	Percent of Cases*	Response Count
Cost (1 <sup>st</sup> )	19.05%	88.00%	88
Program/Degree Options (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	16.67%	77.00%	77
Ability to complete degree/program/coursework online and/or hybrid (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	15.37%	71.00%	71
Location	10.82%	51.00%	51
Convenient Course Times	11.04%	51.00%	51
Unique Program Offered at FSU	6.28%	29.00%	29
Academic Reputation	6.28%	29.00%	29
Through Recommendations	6.06%	28.00%	28
The Faculty	4.11%	19.00%	19
Size of Academic Program	1.95%	9.00%	9
Number of Graduate Students	0.87%	4.00%	4
Other (please specify)	0.87%	4.00%	4
Research Facilities	0.43%	2.00%	2
The Administrative Staff	0.22%	1.00%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>462</b>

\*Percent of Cases (number of times the factor was selected divided by the sample size)

### Did you apply to any other universities for graduate school?

Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	27.00%	27
No	73.00%	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**What was your rating of FSU at the time you applied for admission?**

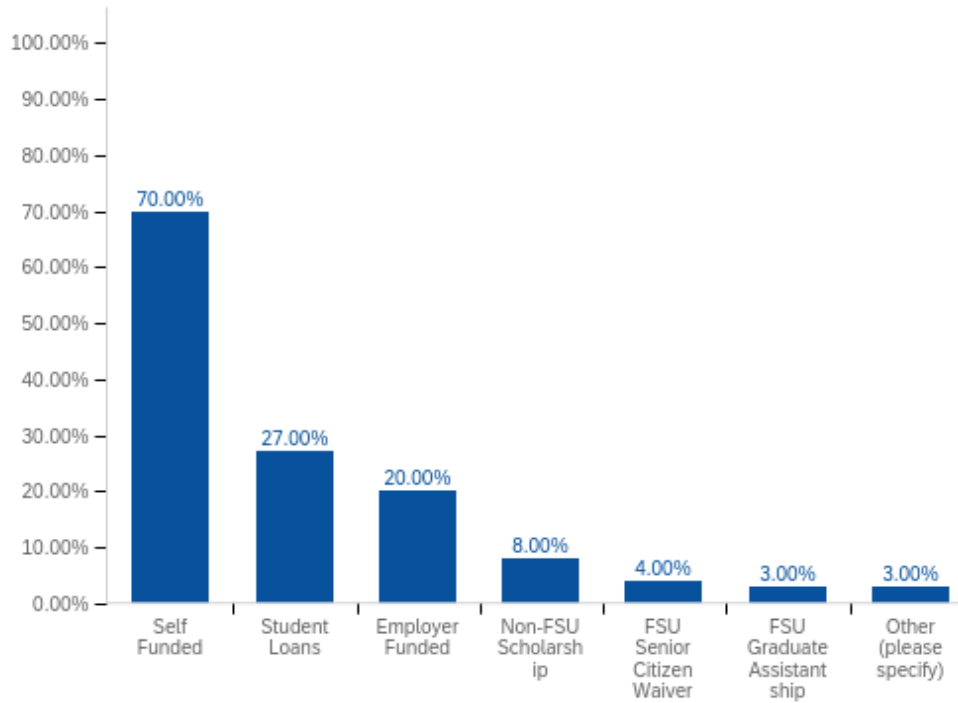
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
1st Choice	86.00%	86
2nd Choice	11.00%	11
3rd Choice	2.00%	2
FSU was not one of my top three choices	1.00%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**Please indicate the level of challenge presented by each item below based on your experience while pursuing your graduate degree:**

Question	Extremely Unchallenging	Not Challenging	Neutral	Challenging	Extremely Challenging	Total
<b>Work or Financial Obligations</b>	2.04% 2	13.27% 13	23.47% 23	42.86% 42	18.37% 18	<b>98</b>
	<b>15.31%</b> <b>15</b>			<b>61.23%</b> <b>60</b>		
<b>Family Obligations</b>	6.32% 6	16.84% 16	28.42% 27	34.74% 33	13.68% 13	<b>95</b>
	<b>23.16%</b> <b>22</b>			<b>48.42%</b> <b>46</b>		
<b>Location/Transportation</b>	24.21% 23	32.63% 31	23.16% 22	16.84% 16	3.16% 3	<b>95</b>
	<b>56.84%</b> <b>54</b>			<b>20.00%</b> <b>19</b>		
<b>Immigration Regulations</b>	1.01% 1	28.13% 9	21.88% 7	3.13% 1	3.13% 1	<b>32</b>
	<b>29.14%</b> <b>10</b>			<b>6.26%</b> <b>2</b>		
<b>Program Requirements or Structure</b>	1.01% 1	20.20% 20	39.39% 39	31.31% 31	8.08% 8	<b>99</b>
	<b>21.21%</b> <b>21</b>			<b>39.39%</b> <b>39</b>		
<b>Course Availability</b>	9.00% 9	35.00% 35	37.00% 37	13.00% 13	6.00% 6	<b>100</b>
	<b>44.00%</b> <b>44</b>			<b>19.00%</b> <b>19</b>		
<b>Communication with Faculty</b>	20.00% 20	49.00% 49	19.00% 19	9.00% 9	3.00% 3	<b>100</b>
	<b>69.00%</b> <b>69</b>			<b>12.00%</b> <b>12</b>		
<b>Communication with Graduate Office Staff</b>	12.90% 12	55.91% 52	19.35% 18	6.45% 6	5.38% 5	<b>93</b>
	<b>68.81%</b> <b>64</b>			<b>11.83%</b> <b>11</b>		

Question	Extremely Unchallenging	Not Challenging	Neutral	Challenging	Extremely Challenging	Total
Communication with Graduate Advisor	21.65% 21	48.45% 47	15.46% 15	6.19% 6	8.25% 8	97
	<b>70.10%</b> <b>68</b>			<b>14.44%</b> <b>14</b>		
Communication with Students Services Staff	11.69% 9	49.35% 38	32.47% 25	2.60% 2	3.90% 3	77
	<b>61.04%</b> <b>47</b>			<b>6.50%</b> <b>5</b>		
Communication with Graduate Admissions Office Staff	13.98% 13	50.54% 47	25.81% 24	5.38% 5	4.30% 4	93
	<b>63.33%</b> <b>60</b>			<b>9.68%</b> <b>9</b>		
Communication with Graduate Registrar Office Staff	16.48% 15	47.43% 43	24.18% 22	6.59% 6	5.49% 5	91
	<b>63.91%</b> <b>58</b>			<b>12.08%</b> <b>11</b>		
Course Requirements and Coursework	2.04% 2	22.45% 22	28.57% 28	42.86% 42	4.08% 4	98
	<b>24.49%</b> <b>24</b>			<b>46.94%</b> <b>46</b>		
Portfolio Requirement	2.60% 2	24.68% 19	32.47% 25	32.47% 25	7.79% 6	77
	<b>27.28%</b> <b>21</b>			<b>40.26%</b> <b>31</b>		
Practicum Requirement	2.44% 2	20.73% 17	29.27% 24	37.80% 31	9.76% 8	82
	<b>23.17%</b> <b>19</b>			<b>47.56%</b> <b>39</b>		
Comprehensive Exam	5.00% 3	21.67% 13	23.33% 14	36.67% 22	13.33% 8	60
	<b>26.67%</b> <b>16</b>			<b>50.00%</b> <b>30</b>		

## How did you finance your graduate education?



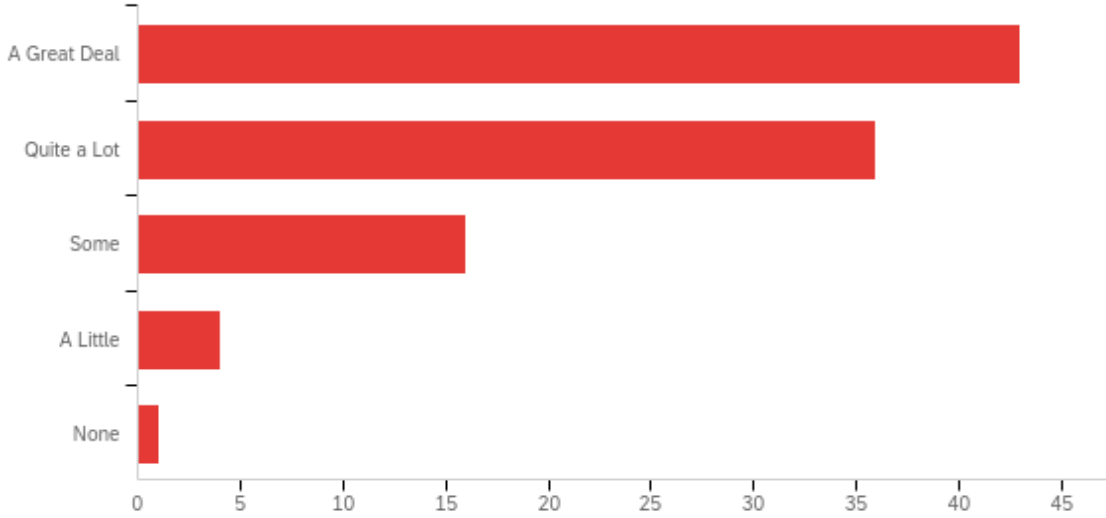
Answer	Response Percent	Percent of Cases*	Response Count
Self-Funded	51.85%	70.00%	70
Student Loans	20.00%	27.00%	27
Employer Funded	14.81%	20.00%	20
Other (please specify)	2.22%	3.00%	3
Non-FSU Scholarship	5.93%	8.00%	8
FSU Graduate Assistantship	2.22%	3.00%	3
FSU Senior Citizen Waiver	2.96%	4.00%	4
Government Grants or Funding	0.00%	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>135</b>

\*Percent of Cases (number of times the factor was selected divided by the sample size)

Other (please specify)
Some tuition reimbursement
Grants and scholarships through FSU
FSU STEM Scholarship

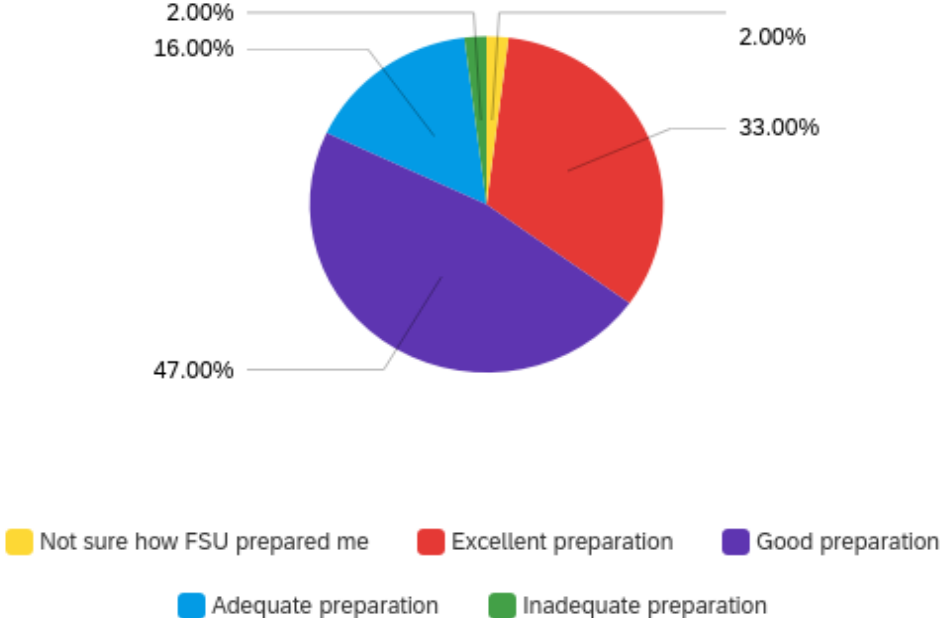


**How applicable were the program requirements to your current/or future workplace?**



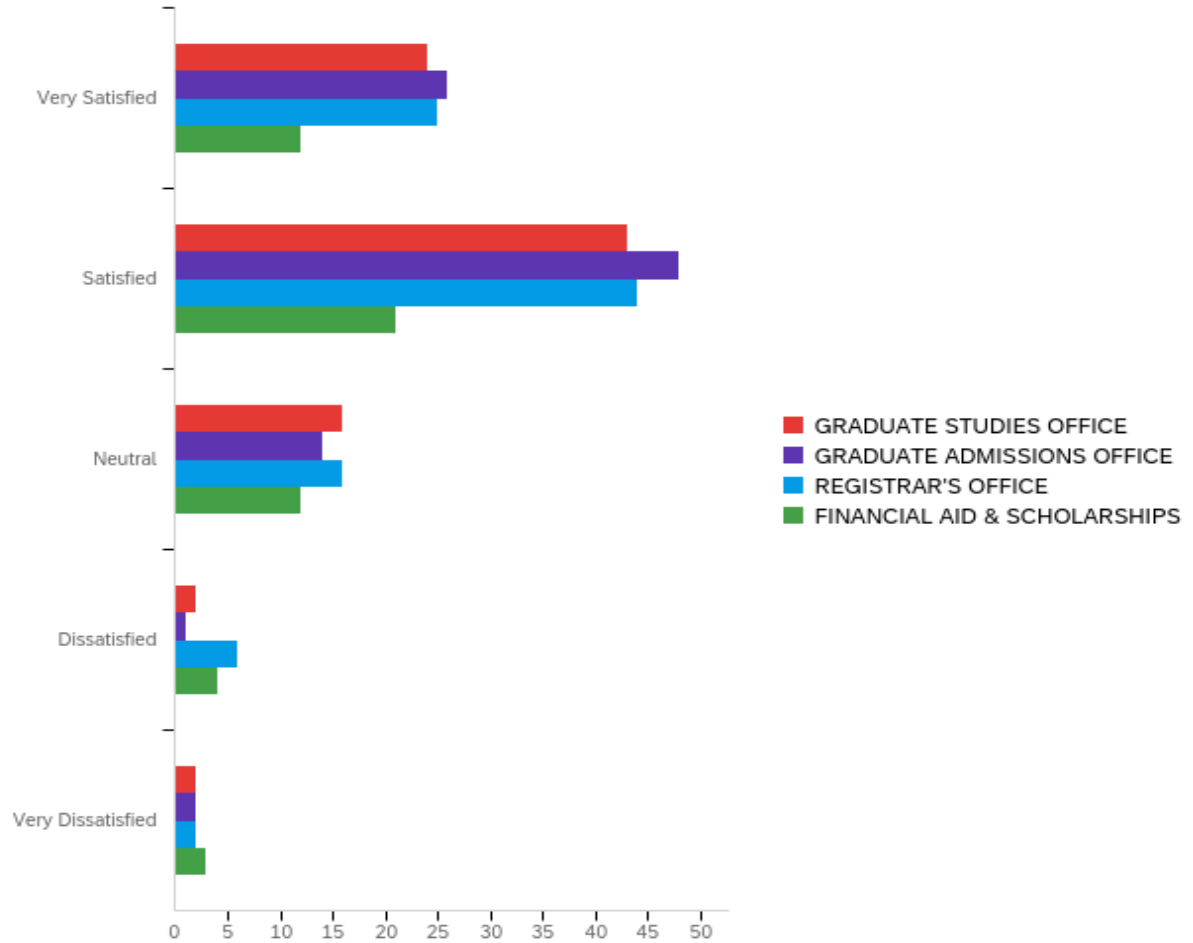
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
A Great Deal	43.00%	43
Quite a Lot	36.00%	36
Some	16.00%	16
A Little	4.00%	4
None	1.00%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**After completing your graduate program, how would you classify your level of preparation?**



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent preparation	33.00%	33
Good preparation	47.00%	47
Adequate preparation	16.00%	16
Inadequate preparation	2.00%	2
Not sure how FSU prepared me	2.00%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with FSU Graduate Services in the following areas:



Question	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
<b>GRADUATE STUDIES OFFICE</b>	27.59%	49.43%	18.39%	2.30%	2.30%	<b>87</b>
	24	43	16	2	2	
		<b>77.02%</b>		<b>4.60%</b>		
		<b>67</b>		<b>4</b>		
<b>GRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE</b>	28.57%	52.75%	15.38%	1.10%	2.20%	<b>91</b>
	26	48	14	1	2	
		<b>81.32%</b>		<b>3.30%</b>		
		<b>74</b>		<b>3</b>		
<b>REGISTRAR'S OFFICE</b>	26.88%	47.31%	17.20%	6.45%	2.15%	<b>93</b>
	25	44	16	6	2	
		<b>74.19%</b>		<b>8.60%</b>		
		<b>69</b>		<b>8</b>		
<b>FINANCIAL AID &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	23.08%	40.38%	23.08%	7.69%	5.77%	<b>52</b>
	12	21	12	4	3	
		<b>63.46%</b>		<b>13.46%</b>		
		<b>33</b>		<b>7</b>		

**Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of your graduate education experiences related to your degree:**

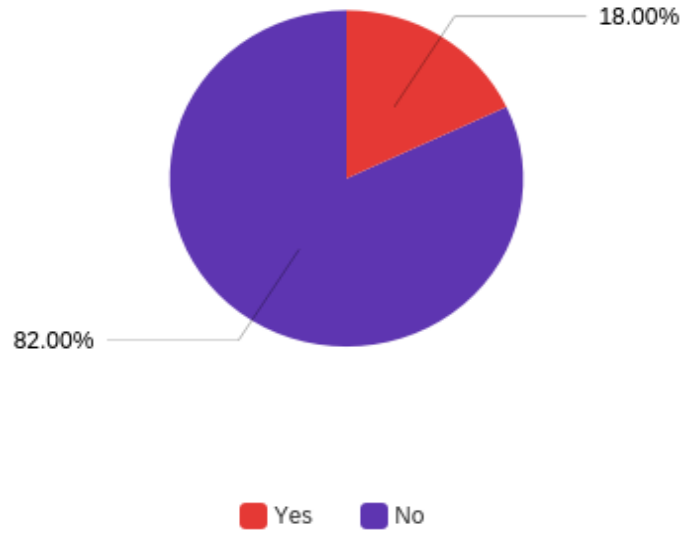
Question	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Diversity of students with whom you took courses	24.00% 24	45.00% 45	21.00% 21	8.00% 8	2.00% 2	100
	<b>69.00%</b> <b>69</b>			<b>10.00%</b> <b>10</b>		
Academic quality of students with whom you took courses	28.00% 28	45.00% 45	13.00% 13	11.00% 11	3.00% 3	100
	<b>73.00%</b> <b>73</b>			<b>14.00%</b> <b>14</b>		
Quality of instruction in your courses	27.00% 27	49.00% 49	15.00% 15	9.00% 9	0.00% 0	100
	<b>76.00%</b> <b>76</b>			<b>9.00%</b> <b>9</b>		
Faculty expertise	35.00% 35	48.00% 48	12.00% 12	3.00% 3	2.00% 2	100
	<b>83.00%</b> <b>83</b>			<b>5.00%</b> <b>5</b>		
Feedback you received in courses from faculty	27.00% 27	45.00% 45	19.00% 19	6.00% 6	3.00% 3	100
	<b>72.00%</b> <b>72</b>			<b>9.00%</b> <b>9</b>		
Accessibility of instructors	36.36% 36	45.45% 45	14.14% 14	4.04% 4	0.00% 0	99
	<b>81.81%</b> <b>81</b>			<b>4.04%</b> <b>4</b>		
Finding and working with your graduate program coordinator	34.38% 33	42.71% 41	14.58% 14	5.21% 5	3.13% 3	96
	<b>77.09%</b> <b>74</b>			<b>8.34%</b> <b>8</b>		
Quality of graduate advising from major professor or graduate advisor	29.47% 28	41.05% 39	18.95% 18	6.32% 6	4.21% 4	95
	<b>70.52%</b> <b>67</b>			<b>10.53%</b> <b>10</b>		
Degree plan flexibility and elective choices	25.53% 24	39.36% 37	18.09% 17	13.83% 13	3.19% 3	94
	<b>64.89%</b> <b>61</b>			<b>17.02%</b> <b>16</b>		
Program coverage of relevant content	29.59% 29	56.12% 55	9.18% 9	4.08% 4	1.02% 1	98
	<b>85.71%</b> <b>84</b>			<b>5.10%</b> <b>5</b>		
Sequencing of content across program courses	24.74% 24	52.58% 51	16.49% 16	5.15% 5	1.03% 1	97
	<b>77.32%</b> <b>75</b>			<b>6.18%</b> <b>6</b>		

Assistance with external certification process	26.32% 15	36.84% 21	24.56% 14	8.77% 5	3.51% 2	57
	63.16% 36			12.28% 7		
Availability of field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	19.12% 13	42.65% 29	20.29% 14	8.82% 6	0.00% 0	68
	61.77% 42			8.82% 6		
Quality of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	23.19% 16	49.28% 34	20.29% 14	4.35% 3	2.90% 2	69
	72.47% 50			7.25% 5		
Timing of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	24.62% 16	47.69% 31	23.08% 15	3.08% 2	1.54% 1	65
	72.31% 47			4.62% 3		
Length of graduate program	24.49% 24	50.00% 49	17.35% 17	7.14% 7	1.02% 1	98
	74.49% 73			8.16% 8		
Support in planning and completing thesis, projects in lieu, or portfolio, or comprehensive exam	22.78% 18	50.63% 40	16.46% 13	6.33% 5	3.80% 3	79
	73.41% 58			10.13% 8		
Assistance with finding employment	12.28% 7	31.58% 18	42.11% 24	7.02% 4	7.02% 4	57
	43.86% 25			14.04% 8		

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

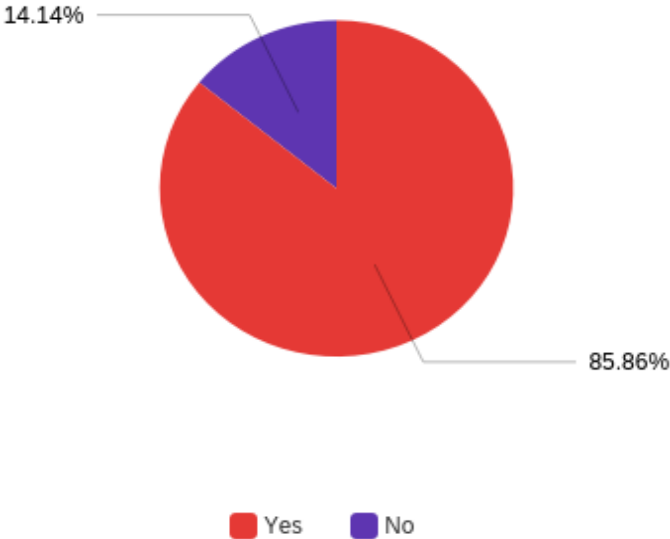
Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
My graduate degree from FSU has brought me closer to achieving my goals	43.00% 43	45.00% 45	11.00% 11	1.00% 1	0.00% 0	100
	88.00% 88			1.00% 1		
My graduate experience at FSU was rewarding	40.00% 40	48.00% 48	8.00% 8	0.00% 0	4.00% 4	100
	88.00% 88			4.00% 4		
My graduate coursework at FSU was challenging	24.00% 24	53.00% 53	14.00% 14	6.00% 6	3.00% 3	100
	77.00% 77			9.00% 9		
My graduate degree from FSU is marketable	28.00% 28	51.00% 51	16.00% 16	3.00% 3	2.00% 2	100
	79.00% 79			5.00% 5		

### Did you receive your undergraduate degree from FSU?



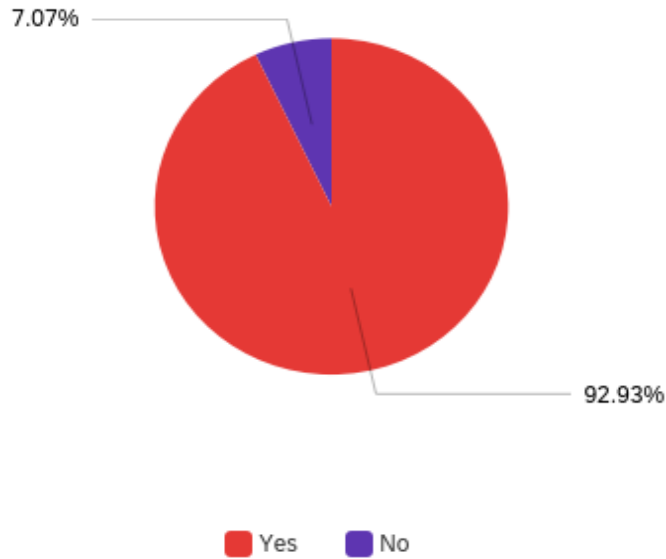
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	18.00%	18
No	82.00%	82
Total	100%	100

**Would you select FSU if you were to begin graduate school all over again?**



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.86%	85
No	14.14%	14
Total	100%	99

### Would you recommend FSU to other potential students?



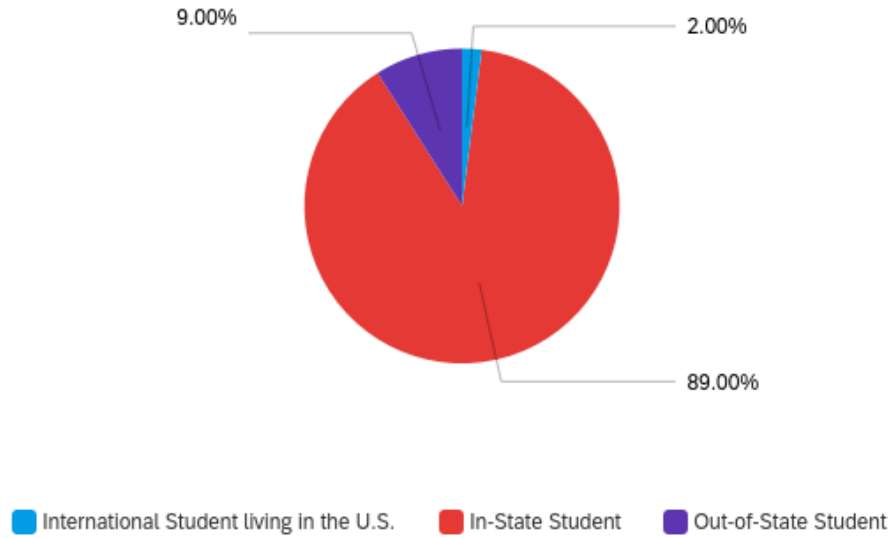
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.93%	92
No	7.07%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99</b>

### What was your zip code while attending FSU as a graduate student?

Zip Codes by County		
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Middlesex County	35.58%	33
Worcester County	22.11%	22
Norfolk County	12.50%	14
Other	9.61%	9
Suffolk County	7.69%	8
Bristol County	4.81%	4
Plymouth County	4.81%	4
Essex County	0.96%	1
Berkshire County	0.96%	1
Barnstable County	0.96%	1
Hampden County	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97</b>



**Are you an in-state, out-of-state, or international student (living inside or outside the U.S.)?**



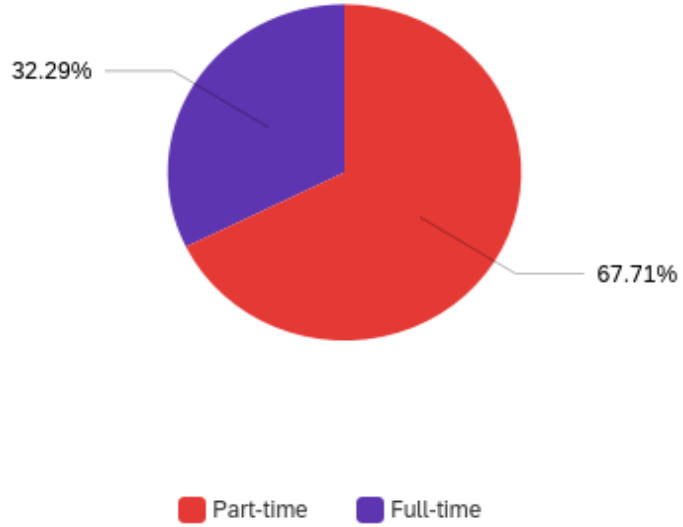
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
In-State Student	89.00%	89
Out-of-State Student	9.00%	9
International Student living in the U.S.	2.00%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

**What percentage of your classes did you take online and what percentage would you have preferred?**

This question asked respondents to mark the percentage of courses taken online and the percentage they would prefer to take online using a slider that went from 0% - 100%.

Field	Average Percentage	Count
I would have preferred online:	72.88%	94
My courses were online:	78.00%	98

### Did you complete this degree as a part-time or full-time student?



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Part-time	67.71%	65
Full-time	32.29%	31
Total	100%	96