

Framingham State University

Office of Institutional Assessment

Graduate Student Exit Survey Report 2021-22

Domestic Students

Target Population: 276

Total Respondents: 85

Response Rate: 30.80%

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Executive Summary

Strengths of FSU Graduate Programs

- **94%** of respondents classified their level of preparation as excellent, good, or adequate.
- **92%** 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.
- **87%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with faculty expertise.
- **87%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with feedback they received in courses from faculty.
- **85%** of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate degree from FSU is marketable.
- **83%** of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of instruction in their courses.
- **82%** of respondents indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of their field experiences/practica/internships.
- **82%** of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate experience at FSU was rewarding.

Areas of concern

- **67%** of respondents indicated that work or financial obligations were extremely challenging or challenging.
- **65%** of respondents indicated that the comprehensive exam was extremely challenging or challenging.
- **59%** of respondents indicated that course requirements and coursework were extremely challenging or challenging.
- **56%** of respondents indicated that the family obligations were 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
- Courses/Classes

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
- More in-person classes
- Better Advising

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

| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Fewer than 2 years | 24.71% | 21 |
| 2 - 3 years | 47.06% | 40 |
| 3 - 4 years | 9.41% | 8 |
| 4- 6 years | 1.18% | 1 |
| 6 - 8 years | 0.00% | 0 |
| More than 8 years | 17.65% | 15 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

Majors of Graduate Respondents

| Degree | Concentration, Specialization | Count |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Master of Education | Art | 2 |
| Master of Arts | Biotechnology | 2 |
| Professional Science Masters | Biotechnology, Specialization Quality Assurance | 2 |
| Master of Arts | Counseling Psychology | 2 |
| Master of Education | Early Childhood Education | 1 |
| Master of Education | Elementary Education | 2 |
| Master of Arts | English | 4 |
| Master of Science | Food and Nutrition, Coordinated Program in Dietetics | 6 |
| Master of Science | Food and Nutrition, Food Science and Nutrition Science | 2 |
| Master of Science | Food and Nutrition, Specialization Nutrition Science | 1 |
| Master of Healthcare Administration | Healthcare Administration | 2 |
| Master of Human Resource Management | Human Resource Management | 2 |
| Master of Education | Literacy and Language | 1 |
| Master of Business Administration | Management | 3 |
| Master of Education | Mathematics | 2 |
| Master of Science in Nursing | Nursing Education | 17 |
| Master of Science in Nursing | Nursing Leadership | 7 |
| Master of Education | Nutrition Education | 3 |
| Master of Public Administration | Public Administration | 3 |
| Master of Education | Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics | 1 |
| Master of Education | Secondary Education | 2 |
| Master of Education | Special Education | 4 |
| Master of Education | Teaching English as a Second Language | 14 |
| | Total Degrees | 85 |

How did you first hear about FSU graduate programs?

| Answer | Response Percent | Percent of Cases* | Response Count |
|--|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| From an Employer | 19.59% | 22.35% | 19 |
| FSU Website | 18.56% | 21.17% | 18 |
| I am an FSU Alumni | 18.56% | 21.17% | 18 |
| From a Co-worker | 15.46% | 17.65% | 15 |
| Word of Mouth from FSU Alumni | 10.31% | 11.76% | 10 |
| From an Undergraduate Faculty Member | 7.22% | 8.23% | 7 |
| Word of Mouth from Current FSU Student | 4.12% | 4.70% | 4 |
| Other Websites | 3.09% | 3.52% | 3 |
| Other (please specify) | 1.03% | 1.17% | 1 |
| Graduate Fair/Career Fair | 1.03% | 1.17% | 1 |
| Brochure | 1.03% | 1.17% | 1 |
| Newspaper | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Radio | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Total | 100% | | 97 |
| Other (please specify) | | | |
| PROPELL | | | |

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

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 why they chose to attend FSU for their graduate program. Respondents indicated the most significant reasons were (1) cost, (2) program/degree options, and (3) location.

| Answer | Response Percent | Percent of Cases* | Response Count |
|--|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Cost (1 st) | 17.97% | 81.17% | 69 |
| Program/Degree Options (2 nd) | 13.80% | 62.35% | 53 |
| Location (3 rd) | 13.54% | 61.17% | 52 |
| Ability to complete degree/program/coursework online and/or hybrid | 13.28% | 60.00% | 51 |
| Convenient Course Times | 10.16% | 45.88% | 39 |
| Unique Program Offered at FSU | 7.03% | 31.76% | 27 |
| Through Recommendations | 7.03% | 31.76% | 27 |
| Academic Reputation | 6.51% | 29.41% | 25 |
| Size of Academic Program | 3.65% | 16.47% | 14 |
| The Faculty | 3.65% | 16.47% | 14 |
| Number of Graduate Students | 1.56% | 7.05% | 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 1.56% | 7.05% | 6 |
| The Administrative Staff | 0.26% | 1.17% | 1 |
| Research Facilities | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Total | 100% | | 384 |

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

| Other (please specify) |
|---------------------------------|
| Scholarship/grant offered |
| Free grant program through work |
| Employee reimbursement |
| Fast and easy |
| Discount for seniors |
| Diversity |
| Employer-sponsored |
| Experience from undergrad |
| Grant |
| PROPELL grant |

Did you apply to any other universities for graduate school?

| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 20.00% | 17 |
| No | 80.00% | 68 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

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

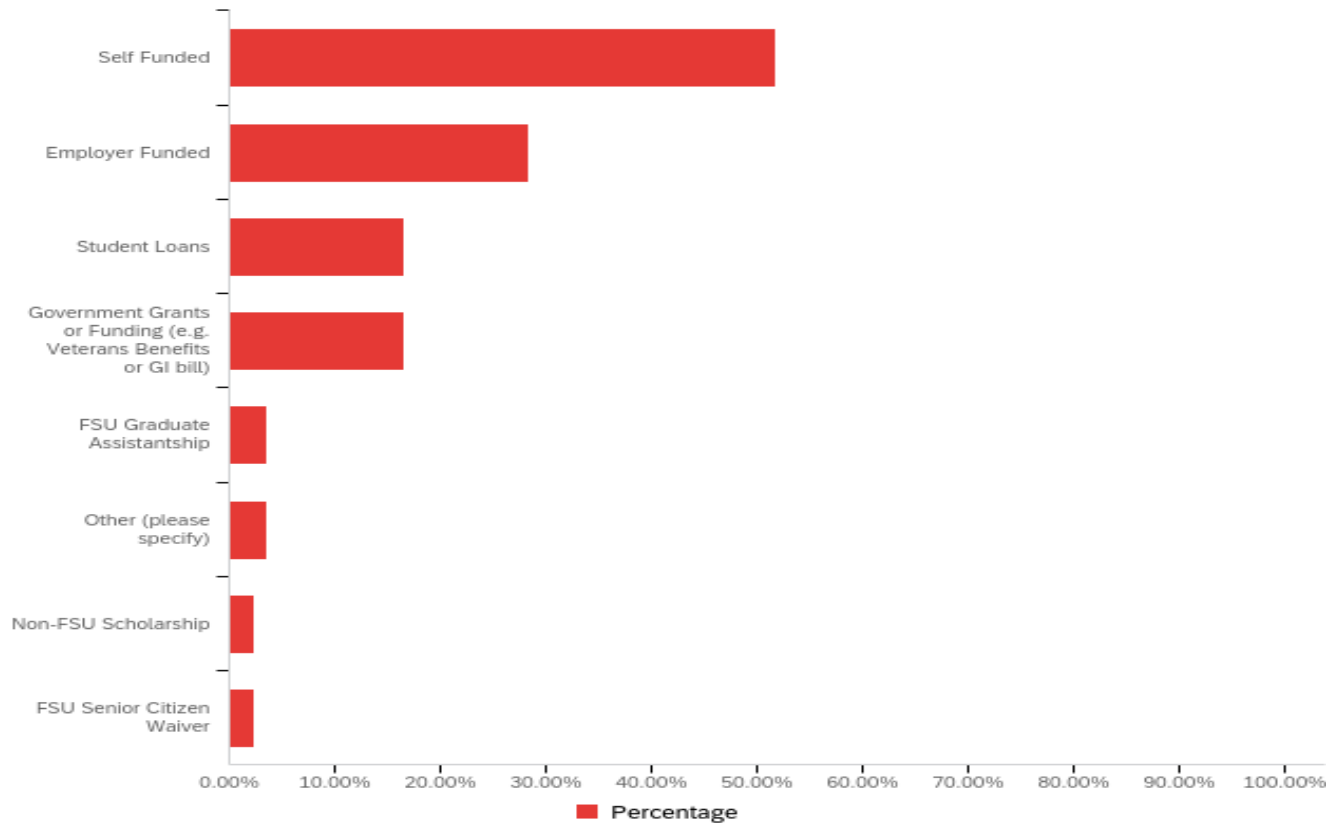
| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1st Choice | 94.05% | 79 |
| 2nd Choice | 2.38% | 2 |
| 3rd Choice | 1.19% | 1 |
| FSU was not one of my top three choices | 2.38% | 2 |
| Total | 100% | 84 |

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 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Work or Financial Obligations | 0.00% 0 | 17.50% 14 | 15.00% 12 | 45.00% 36 | 22.50% 18 | 80 |
| | 17.50% 14 | | | 67.5% 54 | | |
| Family Obligations | 2.50% 2 | 20.00% 16 | 21.25% 17 | 30.00% 24 | 26.25% 21 | 80 |
| | 22.50% 18 | | | 56.25% 45 | | |
| Location/Transportation | 15.28% 11 | 40.28% 29 | 23.61% 17 | 16.67% 12 | 4.17% 3 | 72 |
| | 55.56% 40 | | | 20.84% 15 | | |
| Immigration Regulations | 53.33% 16 | 20.00% 6 | 20.00% 6 | 6.67% 2 | 0.00% 0 | 30 |
| | 73.33% 22 | | | 6.67% 2 | | |
| Program Requirements or Structure | 3.75% 3 | 10.00% 8 | 31.25% 25 | 43.75% 35 | 11.25% 9 | 80 |
| | 13.75% 11 | | | 55% 44 | | |
| Course Availability | 2.53% 2 | 36.71% 29 | 37.97% 30 | 20.25% 16 | 2.53% 2 | 79 |
| | 39.24% 31 | | | 22.78% 18 | | |

| Question | Extremely Unchallenging | Not Challenging | Neutral | Challenging | Extremely Challenging | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Communication with Faculty | 19.51% 16 | 48.78% 40 | 23.17% 19 | 6.10% 5 | 2.44% 2 | 82 |
| | 68.29% 56 | | | 8.54% 7 | | |
| Communication with Graduate Office Staff | 10.53% 8 | 42.11% 32 | 34.21% 26 | 9.21% 7 | 3.95% 3 | 76 |
| | 54.64% 40 | | | 13.16% 10 | | |
| Communication with Graduate Advisor | 27.03% 20 | 43.24% 32 | 20.27% 15 | 6.76% 5 | 2.70% 2 | 74 |
| | 70.27% 52 | | | 9.46% 7 | | |
| Communication with Students Services Staff | 17.46% 11 | 36.51% 23 | 26.98% 17 | 14.29% 9 | 4.76% 3 | 63 |
| | 53.97% 44 | | | 19.05% 12 | | |
| Communication with Graduate Admissions Office Staff | 12.86% 9 | 48.57% 34 | 27.14% 19 | 7.14% 5 | 4.29% 3 | 70 |
| | 61.43% 43 | | | 11.43% 8 | | |
| Communication with Graduate Registrar Office Staff | 13.51% 10 | 47.30% 35 | 22.97% 17 | 10.81% 8 | 5.41% 4 | 74 |
| | 60.81% 45 | | | 16.22% 12 | | |
| Course Requirements and Coursework | 1.22% 1 | 21.95% 18 | 18.29% 15 | 45.12% 37 | 13.41% 11 | 82 |
| | 23.17% 19 | | | 58.53% 49 | | |
| Portfolio Requirement | 4.41% 3 | 16.18% 11 | 29.41% 20 | 35.29% 24 | 14.71% 10 | 68 |
| | 20.59% 14 | | | 50% 34 | | |
| Practicum Requirement | 3.03% 2 | 19.70% 13 | 27.27% 18 | 30.30% 20 | 19.70% 13 | 66 |
| | 22.73% 15 | | | 50% 33 | | |
| Comprehensive Exam | 1.92% 1 | 13.46% 7 | 19.23% 10 | 42.31% 22 | 23.08% 12 | 52 |
| | 15.38% 8 | | | 65.39% 34 | | |

How did you finance your graduate education?



| Answer | Response Percent | Percent of Cases* | Response Count |
|---|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Self-Funded | 41.51% | 51.76% | 44 |
| Student Loans | 13.21% | 16.47% | 14 |
| Employer Funded | 22.64% | 28.23% | 24 |
| Other (please specify) | 2.83% | 3.52% | 3 |
| Non-FSU Scholarship | 1.89% | 2.35% | 2 |
| FSU Graduate Assistantship | 2.83% | 3.52% | 3 |
| Government Grants or Funding (e.g. Veterans Benefits or GI bill) | 13.21% | 16.47% | 14 |
| FSU Senior Citizen Waiver | 1.89% | 2.35% | 2 |
| Total | 100% | | 106 |

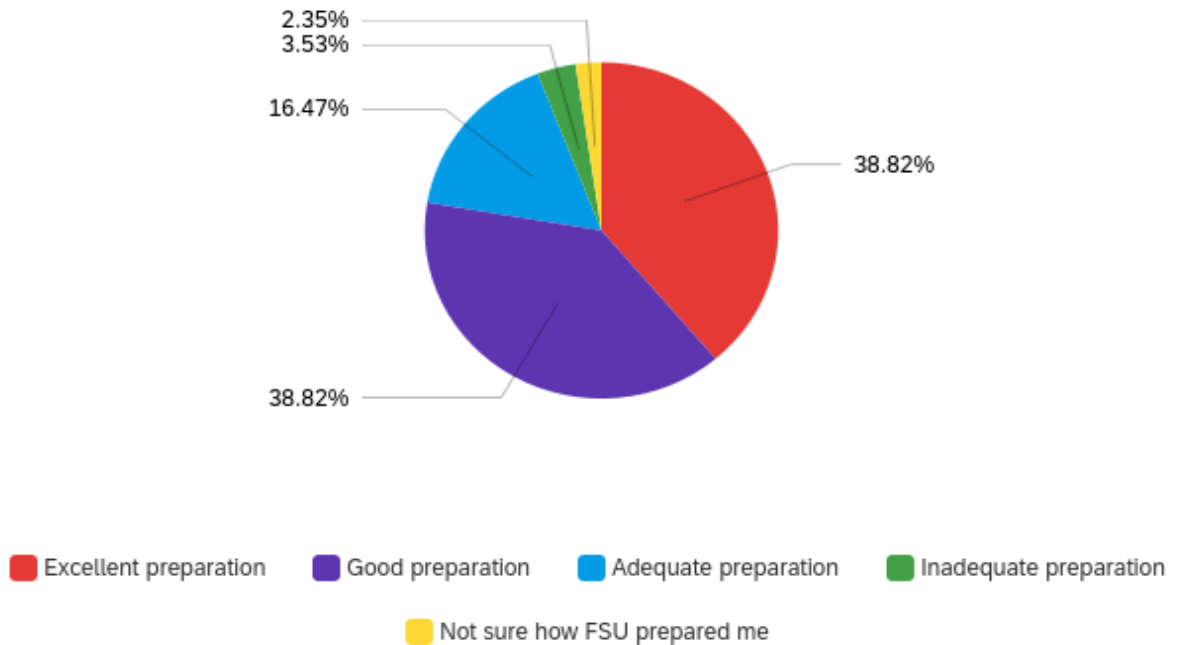
*Percent of Cases (Number of times the factor was selected divided by the sample size)

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Other (please specify) |
| PROPELL Grant |
| PROPELL Grant |
| FSU Alumni Scholarship |

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

| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| A Great Deal | 44.71% | 38 |
| Quite a Lot | 32.94% | 28 |
| Some | 15.29% | 13 |
| A Little | 4.71% | 4 |
| None | 2.35% | 2 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

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



| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Excellent preparation | 38.82% | 33 |
| Good preparation | 38.82% | 33 |
| Adequate preparation | 16.47% | 14 |
| Inadequate preparation | 3.53% | 3 |
| Not sure how FSU prepared me | 2.35% | 2 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

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

| Question | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| GRADUATE STUDIES OFFICE | 24.64% 17 | 37.68% 26 | 33.33% 23 | 2.90% 2 | 1.45% 1 | 69 |
| | 62.32% 43 | | | 4.35% 3 | | |
| GRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE | 23.68% 18 | 43.42% 33 | 26.32% 20 | 5.26% 4 | 1.32% 1 | 76 |
| | 67.10% 51 | | | 6.58% 5 | | |
| REGISTRAR'S OFFICE | 24.00% 18 | 41.33% 31 | 25.33% 19 | 5.33% 4 | 4.00% 3 | 75 |
| | 65.33% 49 | | | 9.33% 7 | | |
| FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS | 31.11% 14 | 22.22% 10 | 37.78% 17 | 8.89% 4 | 0.00% 0 | 45 |
| | 55.33% 24 | | | 8.89% 4 | | |

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

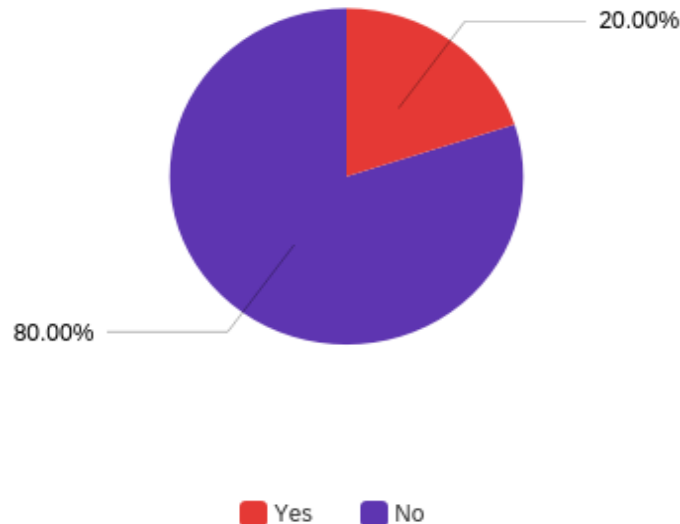
| Question | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| Diversity of students with whom you took courses | 22.89% 19 | 42.17% 35 | 24.10% 20 | 10.84% 9 | 0.00% 0 | 83 |
| | 65.06% 54 | | | 10.84% 9 | | |
| Academic quality of students with whom you took courses | 32.10% 26 | 51.85% 42 | 8.64% 7 | 4.94% 4 | 2.47% 2 | 81 |
| | 83.95% 68 | | | 7.41% 6 | | |
| Quality of instruction in your courses | 37.35% 31 | 45.78% 38 | 12.05% 10 | 2.41% 2 | 2.41% 2 | 83 |
| | 83.13% 69 | | | 4.82% 4 | | |
| Faculty expertise | 42.68% 35 | 43.90% 36 | 9.76% 8 | 3.66% 3 | 0.00% 0 | 82 |
| | 86.58% 71 | | | 3.66% 3 | | |
| Feedback you received in courses from faculty | 29.76% 25 | 57.14% 48 | 8.33% 7 | 4.76% 4 | 0.00% 0 | 84 |
| | 86.90% 73 | | | 4.76% 4 | | |
| Accessibility of instructors | 42.17% 35 | 42.17% 35 | 9.64% 8 | 6.02% 5 | 0.00% 0 | 83 |
| | 84.34% 70 | | | 6.02% 5 | | |

| Question | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | Total |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| Finding and working with your graduate program coordinator | 32.89% 25 | 38.16% 29 | 19.74% 15 | 7.89% 6 | 1.32% 1 | 76 |
| | 71.05% 54 | | | 9.21% 7 | | |
| Quality of graduate advising from major professor or graduate advisor | 39.19% 29 | 33.78% 25 | 16.22% 12 | 9.46% 7 | 1.35% 1 | 74 |
| | 72.97% 54 | | | 10.81% 8 | | |
| Degree plan flexibility and elective choices | 23.29% 17 | 39.73% 29 | 24.66% 18 | 8.22% 6 | 4.11% 3 | 73 |
| | 63.02% 46 | | | 12.33% 9 | | |
| Program coverage of relevant content | 31.33% 26 | 50.60% 42 | 9.64% 8 | 4.82% 4 | 3.61% 3 | 83 |
| | 81.93% 68 | | | 8.43% 7 | | |
| Sequencing of content across program courses | 36.14% 30 | 43.37% 36 | 15.66% 13 | 1.20% 1 | 3.61% 3 | 83 |
| | 79.51% 66 | | | 4.81% 4 | | |
| Assistance with external certification process | 30.77% 16 | 30.77% 16 | 32.69% 17 | 3.85% 2 | 1.92% 1 | 52 |
| | 61.54% 32 | | | 5.77% 3 | | |
| Availability of field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s) | 32.31% 21 | 35.38% 23 | 26.15% 17 | 4.62% 3 | 1.54% 1 | 65 |
| | 67.69% 44 | | | 6.16% 4 | | |
| Quality of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s) | 48.39% 30 | 33.87% 21 | 9.68% 6 | 4.84% 3 | 3.23% 2 | 62 |
| | 82.26% 51 | | | 8.07% 5 | | |
| Timing of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s) | 46.03% 29 | 31.75% 20 | 17.46% 11 | 1.59% 1 | 3.17% 2 | 63 |
| | 77.53% 49 | | | 4.76% 3 | | |
| Length of graduate program | 34.94% 29 | 44.58% 37 | 15.66% 13 | 3.61% 3 | 1.20% 1 | 83 |
| | 79.52% 66 | | | 4.81% 4 | | |
| Support in planning and completing thesis, projects in lieu, or portfolio, or comprehensive exam | 31.17% 24 | 45.45% 35 | 15.58% 12 | 5.19% 4 | 2.60% 2 | 77 |
| | 76.62% 59 | | | 7.79% 6 | | |
| Assistance with finding employment | 21.95% 9 | 19.51% 8 | 43.90% 18 | 12.20% 5 | 2.44% 1 | 41 |
| | 41.46% 17 | | | 14.64% 6 | | |

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

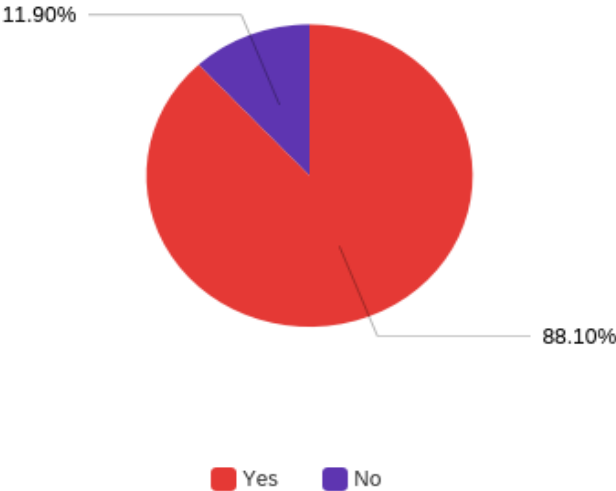
| Question | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Total |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| My graduate degree from FSU has brought me closer to achieving my goals | 41.67% 35 | 46.43% 39 | 7.14% 6 | 2.38% 2 | 2.38% 2 | 84 |
| | 87.10% 74 | | | 4.76% 4 | | |
| My graduate experience at FSU was rewarding | 39.76% 33 | 42.17% 35 | 12.05% 10 | 3.61% 3 | 2.41% 2 | 83 |
| | 81.93% 68 | | | 6.02% 5 | | |
| My graduate coursework at FSU was challenging | 29.76% 25 | 52.38% 44 | 14.29% 12 | 2.38% 2 | 1.19% 1 | 84 |
| | 82.14% 69 | | | 3.57% 3 | | |
| My graduate degree from FSU is marketable | 35.71% 30 | 48.81% 41 | 10.71% 9 | 3.57% 3 | 1.19% 1 | 84 |
| | 84.52% 71 | | | 4.76% 4 | | |

Did you receive your undergraduate degree from FSU?



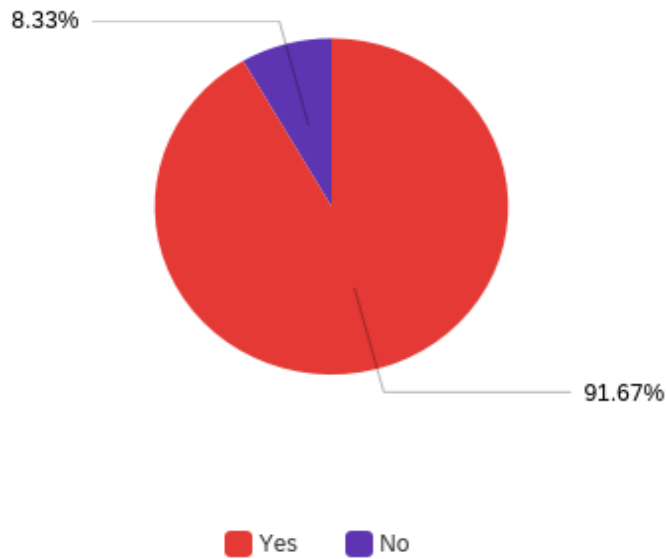
| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 20.00% | 17 |
| No | 80.00% | 68 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

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



| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 88.10% | 74 |
| No | 11.90% | 10 |
| Total | 100% | 84 |

Would you recommend FSU to other potential students?

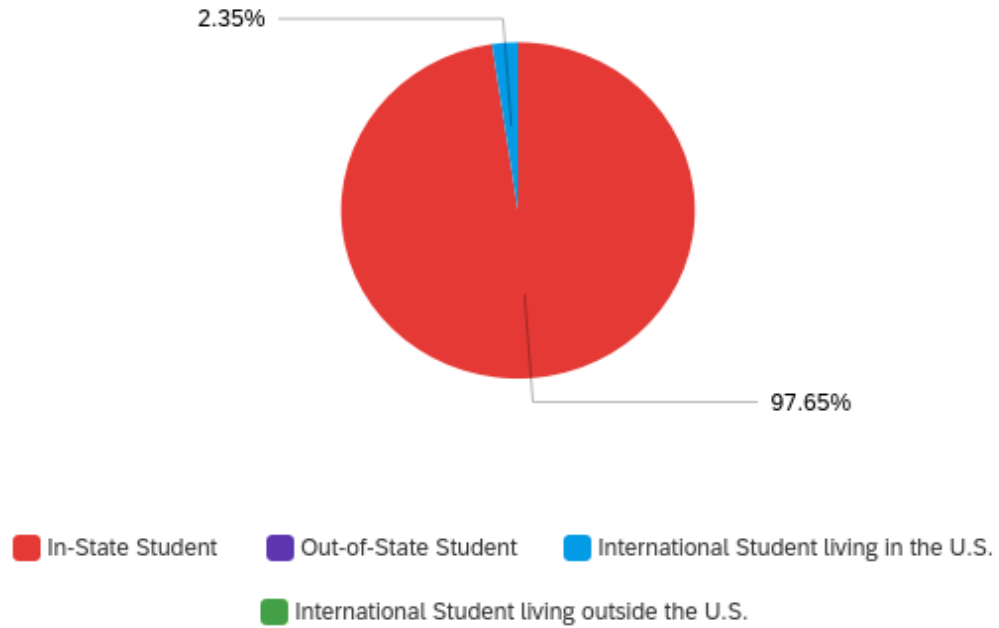


| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 91.67% | 77 |
| No | 8.33% | 7 |
| Total | 100% | 84 |

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

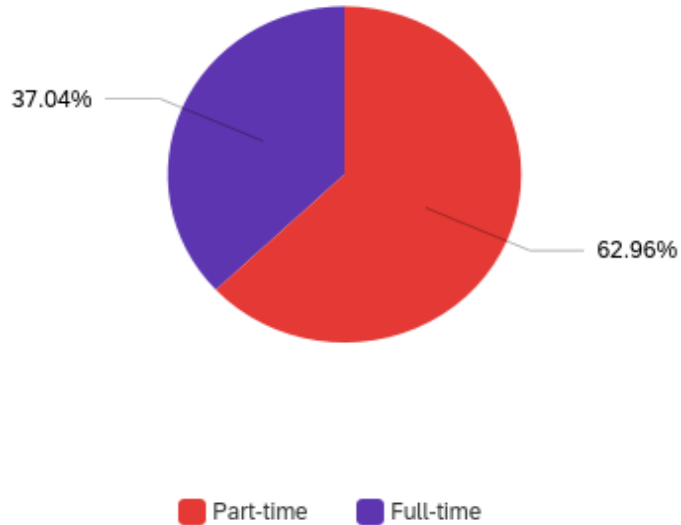
| Zip Codes by County | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Middlesex County | 43.20% | 35 |
| Worcester County | 19.75% | 16 |
| Norfolk County | 18.52% | 15 |
| Bristol County | 4.93% | 4 |
| Plymouth County | 4.93% | 4 |
| Essex County | 3.70% | 3 |
| Suffolk County | 3.70% | 3 |
| Hampden County | 1.23% | 1 |
| Total | 100% | 81 |

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 | 97.65% | 83 |
| Out-of-State Student | 0.00% | 0 |
| International Student living in the U.S. | 2.35% | 2 |
| International Student living outside the U.S. | 0.00% | 0 |
| Total | 100% | 85 |

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



| Answer | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Part-time | 62.96% | 51 |
| Full-time | 37.04% | 30 |
| Total | 100% | 81 |

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: | 61.10% | 78 |
| My courses were online: | 75.68% | 84 |