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Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:50 AM
Subject: Doctoral Student Survey 2021

Yale

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

A Message from Dean Cooley

Copied to: DGSs, Chairs, registrars

In this message: Tell us about your graduate school experience; read about changes inspired by the previous survey; take the survey!

October 26, 2021

Dear Nicole,

To better understand how the university can support you during your time at Yale, we invite you to participate in the Doctoral Student Survey about your graduate school experience. Our goal is to collect feedback on a range of issues that directly impact your life and your research. We administer this survey every three years with the assistance of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Yale Office of Institutional Research (OIR).

We estimate that the survey will take about fifteen minutes for most students to complete. Please answer all the questions that pertain to you. A high response rate is crucial for making the results useful.

[Please click here to take the survey.](#)

The most important thing to know is that this survey translates into action.

Graduate student responses to the 2018 survey directly catalyzed many helpful changes at the program level, as well as in the Graduate School overall. This survey is one of the most powerful ways to express your concerns to us and inspire needed action within your departments. Here are several examples resulting from the previous survey:

American Studies created a graduate advisory committee with representation across all class cohorts; instituted advising teams of four faculty for each first- and second-year student in coursework; regularized a program officer position to support students with job placement and post-graduate opportunities; and in addition to a First Chapter Colloquium, instituted a 75% or three-chapter meeting to ensure support throughout the dissertation writing process.

Anthropology formed a regularly-convening Climate Committee including graduate students, faculty, and staff (the committee produced an official statement regarding values and inclusiveness to be included in the student handbook and departmental website); engaged in curriculum revision; held separate bystander intervention workshops for students, faculty, and staff; formed an anti-racist reading group; and hosted a series of anti-racist pedagogy seminars.

Chemistry focused on the departmental Diversity Action Plan responses indicating that female and other under-represented students were less likely to find the environment welcoming. In response, the department created a 'diversity corner' in their newsletter and flyers to stress inclusiveness; started requiring a diversity statement from faculty applicants; held workshops on sexual harassment and discrimination; and initiated a mentoring program to provide personal guidance to incoming graduate students.

History of Art revised the graduate Methods course; continued conversations about anti-racist pedagogy and curriculum; provided DEI training and teach-ins; offered 'Difficult Conversations' training sessions; created 'Futures in Art History' workshops; began the 'Alumni Forum' lecture series; and restored the program's social events, currently taking place outside in accordance with the university's guidelines

Linguistics organized a Qualifying Paper group meeting for second- and third- year students; addressed specific departmental climate concerns and tensions between research areas; and offered a new course for first-years, LING 519: Perspectives on Grammar.

Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry created an ombudsman position to offer students a confidential resource (unrelated to evaluation of academic performance) to consult for advice on personal issues; discussed issues of belonging with students; and focused on transparency and expectations for qualifying exam procedures.

Political Science expanded their third-year prospectus writing workshop from one semester to a full year; included professional development in first-, second-, and third-year courses; hosted four job market roundtables with alumni; and created a new writing group initiative.

Sociology held a listening session with graduate students and plans to resume more in-person research, advising, workshops, and other events with faculty and graduate students as we emerge from the pandemic.

As responses to the Doctoral Student Survey are completely confidential, you will have the opportunity to express views that might be uncomfortable or challenging to air through other means. **No student will be identified** in any report to the Graduate School deans or to any program. The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) will aggregate responses for analysis to maintain the highest standard of survey integrity, including confidentiality.

[Please click here to take the survey.](#)

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your views with us. If you have any questions about the survey or how it is used, please contact [Dean Robert Harper-Mangels](#) for more information.

Sincerely,
Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Vice Provost of Postdoctoral Affairs
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