

## 2023 Graduate Student Exit Survey

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# Methodology and Background

## Instrument Design and Timeline

The American University of Armenia (AUA) conducted its 2023 *Graduate Student Exit Survey* from June 20 to July 4, 2023. Typically, this survey had been conducted in April based on petition to graduate lists in previous years. However, in 2023, unforeseen events led to a delay in conducting the survey, resulting in a lower response rate and data that may not be fully representative of the entire student population. Therefore, for the 2023 survey, only partial reporting is available, which includes the description of select questions and demographic information. Regrettably, the 2023 survey results will not be incorporated into the longitudinal reporting of the Graduate Student Exit Survey (for internal use only). The delay in conducting the survey and the resulting lower response rate have introduced potential biases and inconsistencies in the dataset, making it challenging to draw accurate and meaningful comparisons over time. While the 2023 survey may not have yielded a full set of results, the data collected still holds value in contributing to the ongoing assessment and improvement of the university's graduate programs.

The objectives of the survey were to gather information from graduate students about the level of student satisfaction related to the curriculum, academic environment, extracurricular activities, and services provided at the university, as well as to identify areas of possible improvements.

This report describes the methodology used for the survey and presents the findings in tables.

A total of 66 (46.2%) out of 143 graduating students participated in the survey. The results of 39 partially completed surveys were excluded in the analyses, **thus denoting a response rate of 18.9%**.

### *Sample, Procedures, Response Rate*

Academic Program	Survey recipients	Survey respondents	Percent Completed (%)
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	6	1	16.7%
Master of Political Science and International Affairs (MPSIA)	17	4	23.5%
Master of Laws (LL.M.)	32	5	15.6%
Master of Science in Computer and Information Science (MSCIS)	9	2	22.2%
Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (MATEFL)	13	4	30.8%
Master of Science in Economics (MSE)	7	0	0.0%
Master of Public Health (MPH)	12	5	41.7%
Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering and Systems Management (MEIESM)	5	0	0.0%
Master of Science in Management (MSM)	1	0	0.0%
Master of Arts Human Rights and Social Justice (MAHRSJ)	2	0	0.0%
Graduate Certificates (GC)	39	6	15.4%
Total	143	27	18.9%

Sex	Graduating students	Survey respondents	Percent Completed (%)
Female	106	22	20.8%
Male	37	5	13.5%
Total	143	27	18.9%

The following procedures were followed:

- A letter from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment was sent to each graduating student with a request to complete the survey. The letter included an explanation of the importance of the survey and the link to the on-line survey.
- One reminder email message was sent on June 27, 2023 by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

### **Description**

Upon completion of the on-line survey, data was analyzed in SPSS. Descriptive analysis includes frequencies, calculation of mean values and standard deviations for categorical variables with Likert scale type response options.

# Background Information

Response rate: 18.9 %

## Program of Respondents<sup>1</sup>

	N	%
MBA	1	3.7%
MPH	5	18.5%
MATEFL	4	14.8%
MSCIS	2	7.4%
LL.M.	5	18.5%
MEIESM	0	0.0%
MPSIA	4	14.8%
MSE	0	0.0%
MSM	0	0.0%
GC	6	22.2%
Total	27	100.0%

## Sex of Respondents

	N	%
Female	22	81.5%
Male	5	18.5%
Total	27	100.0%

## College of Respondents

	N	%
CBE	1	3.7%
CHSS	13	48.1%
CSE	2	7.4%
CHS	5	18.5%
GC	6	22.2%
Total	27	100.0%

## Among the graduate schools that you considered, was AUA your:

	N	%
First choice	23	85.2%
Second choice	4	18.4%
Third choice or lower	0	0.0%
Total	27	100.0%

## What was your employment status during most of your graduate education?

	N	%
Did not work	3	11.1%
Work occasionally (either part time or full time)	4	14.8%
Worked regularly part time	6	22.2%
Worked regularly full time	14	51.9%
Total	27	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> GC stands for Graduate Certificate

# Graduate Experience

## Overall satisfaction

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	Good/Excellent	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
Overall and in general, how would you rate your experience in your program? (N=27)	96.3 %	4.5	0.6

### To prospective graduate students I would recommend: (N=27)

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
I would recommend my graduate program to prospective students.	92.6%	4.2	0.5
My program provided me with the skills needed in my field.	85.2%	4.0	0.6
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	88.9%	4.1	0.6

## Faculty and Courses

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### Courses. The level of agreement with the followings: (N=27)

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
In general, the courses I took were well taught.	85.2%	4.0	0.6
The courses I took were valuable for my future career.	77.8%	4.0	0.7
The sequence of courses was appropriate.	85.2%	3.9	0.6

### Faculty. The level of agreement with the followings: (N=27)

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Mean (scale 1-5)	St. dev.
On the whole, faculty members were well qualified to teach their courses.	83.5%	4.2	0.6
Overall, faculty in my academic program were interested in the professional development of students.	85.2%	4.2	0.7
Interactions among students and faculty were characterized by mutual respect.	92.6%	4.3	0.6
There were opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	74.0%	4.0	0.8

## Answers to Open-Ended Questions (coded)<sup>2</sup>

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<b>What are the three things that you like most about AUA?</b>			
<b>N</b>	<b>Response Option</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Overall atmosphere	16	59.3%
2	Faculty	14	51.9%
3	Faculty - Student Interaction	11	40.7%
4	Curriculum	5	18.5%
5	Resources	9	33.3%
6	Facilities	10	37.0%
7	Students	9	33.3%
8	Other	2	7.4%
	<b>Total</b>	27	

<b>What are the three most important things AUA could do to improve the quality of the graduate experience? (Open-ended, Responses coded)</b>			
<b>N</b>	<b>Response Option</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Overall atmosphere	2	7.4%
2	Faculty	8	29.6%
3	Faculty - Student Interaction	8	29.6%
4	Curriculum	13	48.1%
5	Policies and Procedures	9	33.3%
6	Facilities	7	25.9%
7	Other	12	44.4%
	<b>Total</b>	27	

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<sup>2</sup> The percent is calculated based on the total number of respondents.

# Expectations for after graduation

What are your immediate employment/education plans? (N=27)

Statement	%
I am currently employed and am not seeking alternative employment.	37.0%
I am currently employed but am seeking alternative employment.	33.3%
I am unemployed and seeking employment.	18.5%
I am unemployed but not seeking employment.	0.0%
I will be / am continuing my graduate education.	3.7%
Other	7.4%