

USP Program Evaluation Results

2008-09 Academic Year

In this spring's biennial program survey students commented on a number of substantive areas covering how they viewed their degree programs, advising, course availability, progress toward graduation, as well as new initiatives students would like to see in USP. The full report is posted on the Urban Studies D2L site. Below is a brief summary of the survey highlights:

Students' use of time and views on the curriculum/required courses:

- Hours students devoted to a class in urban studies: the largest category (mode) was **7-10 hours per course per week** (41%).
- Students reported spending considerable time in paid employment in conjunction with their studies: **21-30 hours**, and **more than 30 hours** both had the highest percentage of responses (35%); 12 percent responded they did not work.
- On the Phd curriculum, with a ranking scale of 1="too applied" and 5="too theoretical" and 3="the right balance", students viewed the **PhD program** as mostly (44%) the right balance between the two poles (6% viewed the program as too applied and 25% as too theoretical).
- For the **Master's program**, students generally viewed their program as having "the right number of required courses" (71%); this category was also the mode for the **PhD program** but a somewhat lower percentage of responses (54%).

USP Program strengths:

- Approximately **94%** found courses in USP to be challenging and intellectually enriching
- **82%** felt there was clear information about requirements and expectations
- **82%** believed that USP faculty show respect and value students
- For students with a chair/major professor: **75%** were satisfied with the level of support/guidance they had received
- **76%** of students felt faculty take an active interest in their students
- **75%** responded that USP provides a clear, annual assessment of student progress

Program weakness:

- **41%** of students viewed the lack of regularly offered classes as a cause for slowing their progress toward completing their degree

Some possible new initiatives:

- **88%** of students would like more internship opportunities
- **76%** would like to see more professional development and career placement assistance