

Framingham State University

Office of Institutional Assessment

Graduate Student Exit Survey Report 2020-21

Domestic Students

Target Population: 227

Total Respondents: 73

Response Rate: 32.16%

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Executive Summary

Strengths of FSU Graduate Programs

- 96% of respondents classified their level of preparation as excellent, good, or adequate.
- 91% of respondents would recommend FSU to other potential students.
- 93% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate degree from FSU has brought them closer to achieving their goals.
- 89% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate experience at FSU was rewarding.
- 89% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their graduate degree from FSU is marketable
- 90% of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with faculty expertise.
- 90% of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of instruction in their courses.
- 89% of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with feedback they received in courses from faculty.

Areas of concern

- 73% of respondents indicated that work or financial obligations were extremely challenging or challenging.
- 60% of respondents indicated that course requirements and coursework were extremely challenging or challenging.
- 58% of respondents indicated that the comprehensive exam was extremely challenging or challenging.

Qualitative Analysis

Below is a summary of the qualitative data. Responses are at the end of the survey.

Strengths of FSU Graduate Programs

- Flexibility, convenience, and quality of program.
 - Hybrid model for courses specifically convenient.
- Faculty were knowledgeable and supportive.
- Cost
- Location
- Diversity and inclusion

Ways to make the FSU graduate studies more attractive

- Increase the variety and offering of courses.
- Increase advertising for the graduate programs.
- Faculty and staff who are knowledgeable and responsive.

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

- Improve communication with advisors, administration, and faculty.
- Increase the availability and flexibility of courses.
- Connect graduate students to mentoring, internship, and career resources.

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

Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 2 years	22.22%	16
2 - 3 years	52.78%	38
3 - 4 years	20.83%	15
4- 6 years	2.78%	2
6 - 8 years	1.39%	1
More than 8 years	0.00%	0
Total	100%	72

Majors of Graduate Respondents

Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Master of Arts: Counseling Psychology	1.37%	1
Master of Arts: English	1.37%	1
Master of Business Administration: Biotechnology Operations	1.37%	1
Master of Business Administration: Management	2.74%	2
Master of Education: Art	5.48%	4
Master of Education: Education Technology (100%)	8.22%	6
Master of Education: Elementary Education	1.37%	1
Master of Education: Nutrition Education - Nutrition Education Specialist (100% online)	4.11%	3
Master of Education: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)	1.37%	1
Master of Education: Secondary Education	5.48%	4
Master of Education: Special Education	1.37%	1
Master of Education: The Teaching of English as a Second Language	8.22%	6
Master of Healthcare Administration	5.48%	4
Master of Human Resources	4.11%	3
Master of Public Administration	9.59%	7
Master of Science: Food and Nutrition, Specialization Coordinated Program in Dietetics	5.48%	4
Master of Science: Food and Nutrition, Specialization Food Science and Nutrition Science	1.37%	1
Master of Science: Food and Nutrition, Specialization Nutrition Science	2.74%	2
Master of Science: Nursing - Education	12.33%	9
Master of Science: Nursing - Leadership	6.85%	5
Professional Science Master's Degree in Biotechnology	9.59%	7
Total	100%	73

How did you first hear about FSU graduate programs?

Answer	Response Percent	Percent of Cases*	Response Count
FSU Website	29.76%	34.25%	25
I am a FSU Alumni	13.10%	15.07%	11
Word of Mouth from FSU Alumni	11.90%	13.70%	10
Other Websites	11.90%	13.70%	10
Other (please specify)	8.33%	9.59%	7
From a Co-worker	8.33%	9.59%	7
From an Employer	5.95%	6.85%	5
Word of Mouth from current FSU Student	4.76%	5.48%	4
From an Undergraduate Faculty Member	2.38%	2.74%	2
Graduate Fair/Career Fair	2.38%	2.74%	2
Newspaper	1.19%	1.37%	1
Brochure	0.00%	0.00%	0
Radio	0.00%	0.00%	0
Total	100%		73

Other (please specify)
Program advisor's name was listed in an email list-serv I am already on for dietitians; contacted her for program info
Own research
My husband
Local resident
Grew up in the area and knew it was supposed to be a good teaching program
Department of Education MA

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

If you selected "Other Websites" above, please specify which websites in the space provided:

Google search for specific programs
google
Dese
Eatright.org
I was in search of a possible graduate program in elementary math that might qualify me to be hired as a math coach someday later in my career. I looked into FSU because it is close to where I live, wasn't too expensive, and its school of education had a good reputation. I googled M.Ed. programs in the area and then looked at FSU's website.
Google
I googled different graduate programs and came across FSU
Google

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)	17.01%	78.08%	57
Program/Degree Options (2 nd)	16.42%	75.34%	55
Location (3 rd)	13.73%	63.01%	46
Ability to complete degree/program/coursework online and/or hybrid	13.43%	61.64%	45
Convenient Course Times	11.34%	52.05%	38
Academic Reputation	7.46%	34.25%	25
Unique Program Offered at FSU	6.27%	28.77%	21
The Faculty	5.37%	24.66%	18
Through Recommendations	4.18%	19.18%	14
Size of Academic Program	3.28%	15.07%	11
Number of Graduate Students	0.90%	4.11%	3
Other (please specify)	0.60%	2.74%	2
Research Facilities	0.00%	0.00%	0
The Administrative Staff	0.00%	0.00%	0
Total	100%		73

Other (please specify)
My own personal dedication/connection with the school
Ability to take one class at a time.

*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	13.89%	10
No	86.11%	62
Total	100%	72

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

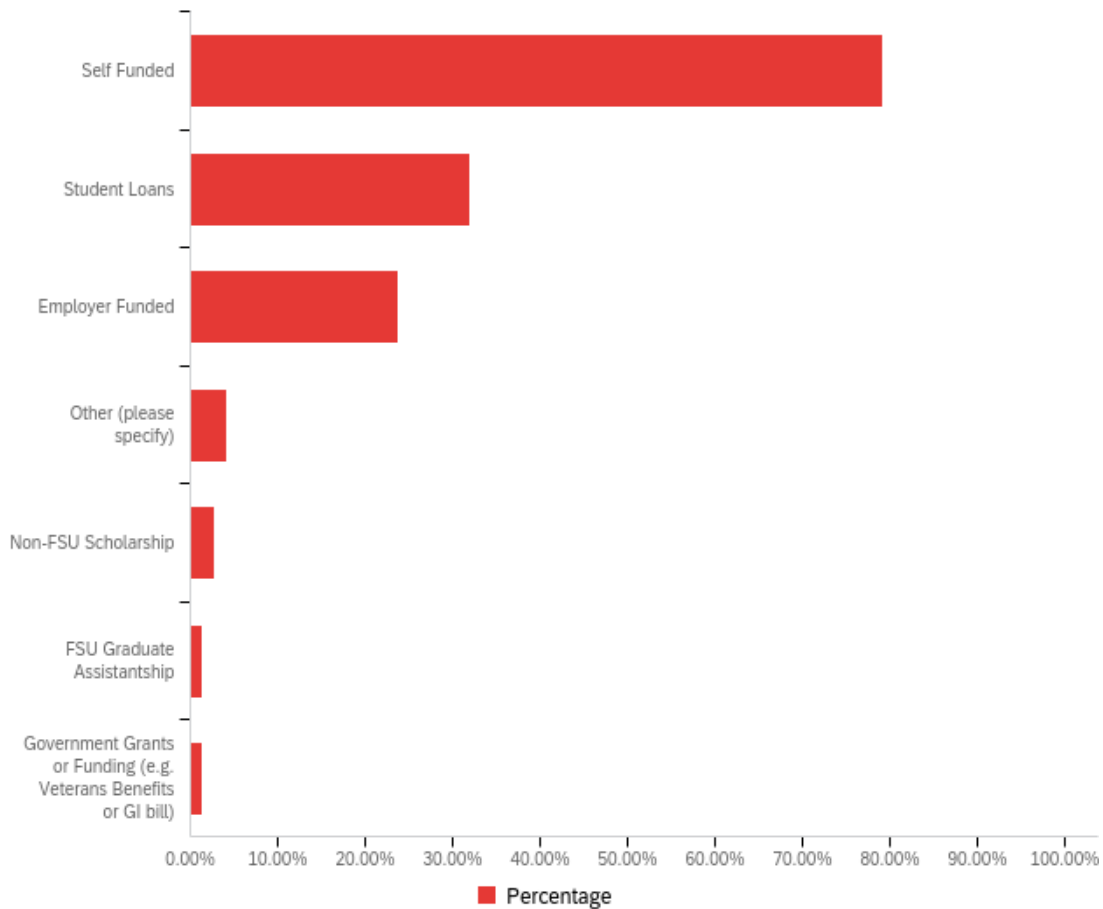
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
1st Choice	90.28%	65
2nd Choice	8.33%	6
3rd Choice	1.39%	1
FSU was not one of my top three choices	0.00%	0
Total	100%	72

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	1.43% 1	10.00% 7	15.71% 11	62.86% 44	10.00% 7	100% 70
	11.43% 8			72.86% 51		
Family Obligations	4.35% 3	20.29% 14	21.74% 15	46.38% 32	7.25% 5	100% 69
	24.64% 17			53.63% 37		
Location/Transportation	14.08% 10	38.03% 27	32.39% 23	12.68% 9	2.82% 2	100% 71
	52.11% 37			15.50% 11		
Immigration Regulations	37.50% 9	33.33% 8	16.67% 4	12.50% 3	0.00% 0	100% 24
	70.83% 17			12.50% 3		
Program Requirements or Structure	2.90% 2	15.94% 11	39.13% 27	37.68% 26	4.35% 3	100% 69
	18.84% 13			42.03% 29		
Course Availability	7.04% 5	35.21% 25	30.99% 22	25.35% 18	1.41% 1	100% 71
	42.25% 30			26.76% 19		
Communication with Faculty	21.43% 15	45.71% 32	22.86% 16	7.14% 5	2.86% 2	100% 70
	67.14% 47			10.00% 7		
Communication with Graduate Office Staff	16.42% 11	44.78% 30	17.91% 12	13.43% 9	7.46% 5	100% 67
	61.20% 41			20.89% 14		
Communication with Graduate Advisor	24.29% 17	55.71% 39	7.14% 5	5.71% 4	7.14% 5	100% 70
	80.00% 56			12.85% 9		
Communication with Students Services Staff	8.16% 4	42.86% 21	26.53% 13	14.29% 7	8.16% 4	100% 49
	51.02% 25			22.45% 11		

Communication with Graduate Admissions Office Staff	12.70% 8	53.97% 34	17.46% 11	11.11% 7	4.76% 3	100% 63
	66.67% 42			15.87% 10		
Communication with Graduate Registrar Office Staff	15.15% 10	42.42% 28	25.76% 17	9.09% 6	7.58% 5	100% 66
	57.57% 38			16.67% 11		
Course Requirements and Coursework	0.00% 0	11.43% 8	28.57% 20	54.29% 38	5.71% 4	100% 70
	11.43% 8			60.00% 42		
Portfolio Requirement	1.96% 1	17.65% 9	35.29% 18	37.25% 19	7.84% 4	100% 51
	19.61% 10			45.09% 23		
Practicum Requirement	3.85% 2	7.69% 4	38.46% 20	32.69% 17	17.31% 9	100% 52
	11.54% 6			50.00% 26		
Comprehensive Exam	0.00% 0	11.11% 5	31.11% 14	40.00% 18	17.78% 8	100% 45
	11.11% 5			57.78% 26		

How did you finance your graduate education?



Answer	Response Percent	Percent of Cases*	Response Count
Self-Funded	54.81%	78.08%	57
Student Loans	22.12%	31.51%	23
Employer Funded	16.35%	23.29%	17
Other (please specify)	2.88%	4.11%	3
Non-FSU Scholarship	1.92%	2.74%	2
FSU Graduate Assistantship	0.96%	1.37%	1
Government Grants or Funding (e.g. Veterans Benefits or GI bill)	0.96%	1.37%	1
FSU Senior Citizen Waiver	0.00%	0.00%	0
Total	100%		73

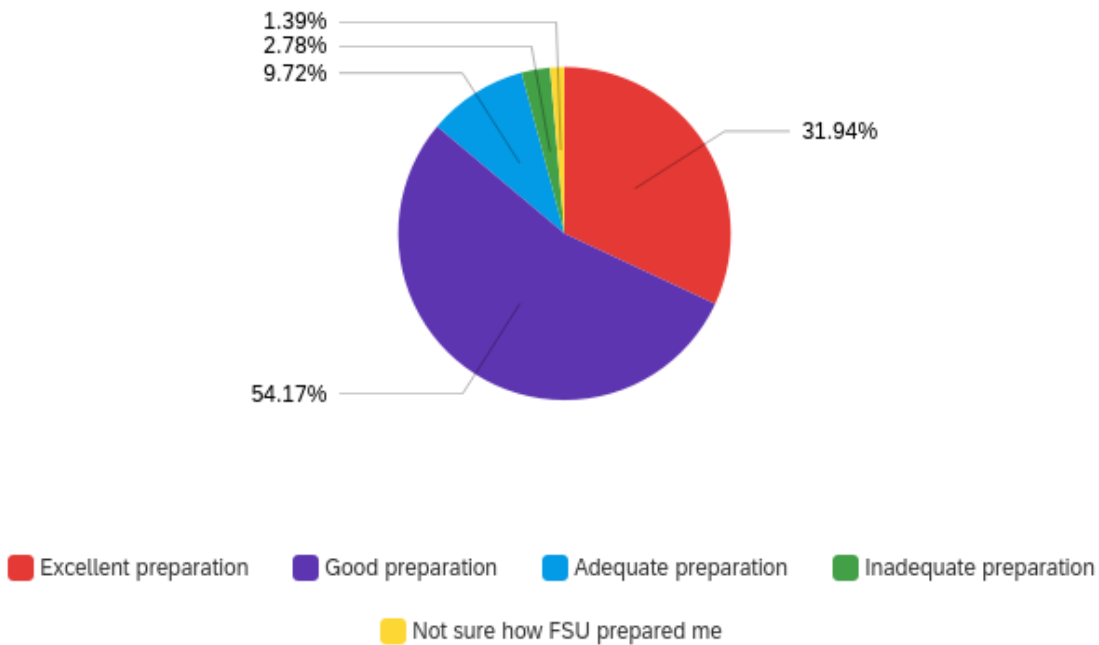
Other (please specify)
FSU Scholarship for STEM
Graduate scholarship
program specific scholarship

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

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

Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
A Great Deal	43.06%	31
Quite a Lot	37.50%	27
Some	18.06%	13
A Little	0.00%	0
None	1.39%	1
Total	100%	72

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



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent preparation	31.94%	23
Good preparation	54.17%	39
Adequate preparation	9.72%	7
Inadequate preparation	2.78%	2
Not sure how FSU prepared me	1.39%	1
Total	100%	72

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	25.00% 16	43.75% 28	23.44% 15	6.25% 4	1.56% 1	100% 64
	68.75% 44			7.81% 5		
GRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE	25.00% 17	51.47% 35	23.53% 16	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100% 68
	76.47% 52			0.00% 0		
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE	21.74% 15	49.28% 34	20.29% 14	2.90% 2	5.80% 4	100% 69
	71.02% 49			8.70% 6		
FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS	19.15% 9	34.04% 16	34.04% 16	8.51% 4	4.26% 2	100% 47
	53.19% 25			12.77% 6		

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

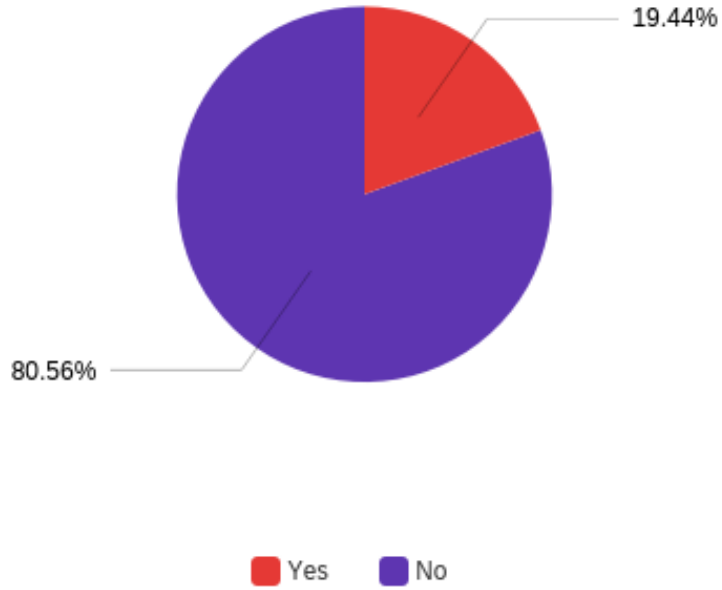
Question	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
Diversity of students with whom you took courses	25.71% 18	48.57% 34	24.29% 17	0.00% 0	1.43% 1	100% 70
	74.28% 52			1.43% 1		
Academic quality of students with whom you took courses	22.22% 16	56.94% 41	16.67% 12	4.17% 3	0.00% 0	100% 72
	79.16% 57			4.17% 3		
Quality of instruction in your courses	28.77% 21	61.64% 45	6.85% 5	1.37% 1	1.37% 1	100% 73
	90.41% 66			2.74% 2		
Faculty expertise	36.99% 27	53.42% 39	8.22% 6	1.37% 1	0.00% 0	100% 73
	90.41% 66			1.37% 1		
Feedback you received in courses from faculty	31.94% 23	56.94% 41	2.78% 2	5.56% 4	2.78% 2	100% 72
	88.88% 64			8.34% 6		
Accessibility of instructors	39.73% 29	47.95% 35	8.22% 6	2.74% 2	1.37% 1	100% 73
	87.68% 64			4.11% 3		
Finding and working with your graduate program coordinator	37.14% 26	42.86% 30	10.00% 7	5.71% 4	4.29% 3	100% 70
	80.00% 56			10.00% 7		
Quality of graduate advising from major professor or graduate advisor	39.44% 28	35.21% 25	12.68% 9	8.45% 6	4.23% 3	100% 71
	74.65% 53			12.68% 9		
Degree plan flexibility and elective choices	19.12% 13	42.65% 29	29.41% 20	8.82% 6	0.00% 0	100% 68
	61.77% 42			8.82% 6		
Program coverage of relevant content	24.66% 18	54.79% 40	16.44% 12	2.74% 2	1.37% 1	100% 73
	79.45% 58			4.11% 3		

Sequencing of content across program courses	27.40% 20	47.95% 35	20.55% 15	2.74% 2	1.37% 1	100% 73
	75.35% 55			4.11% 3		
Assistance with external certification process	26.53% 13	30.61% 15	34.69% 17	2.04% 1	6.12% 3	100% 49
	57.14% 28			8.16% 4		
Availability of field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	25.00% 14	25.00% 14	33.93% 19	8.93% 5	7.14% 4	100% 56
	50.00% 28			16.07% 9		
Quality of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	17.86% 10	46.43% 26	26.79% 15	7.14% 4	1.79% 1	100% 56
	64.29% 36			8.93% 5		
Timing of your field experience(s)/practicum(s)/internship(s)	18.64% 11	45.76% 27	30.51% 18	1.69% 1	3.39% 2	100% 59
	64.40% 38			5.08% 3		
Length of graduate program	28.77% 21	63.01% 46	6.85% 5	1.37% 1	0.00% 0	100% 73
	91.78% 67			1.37% 1		
Support in planning and completing thesis, projects in lieu, or portfolio, or comprehensive exam	32.31% 21	35.38% 23	26.15% 17	6.15% 4	0.00% 0	100% 65
	67.69% 44			6.15% 4		
Assistance with finding employment	14.89% 7	23.40% 11	42.55% 20	8.51% 4	10.64% 5	100% 47
	38.29% 18			19.15% 9		

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

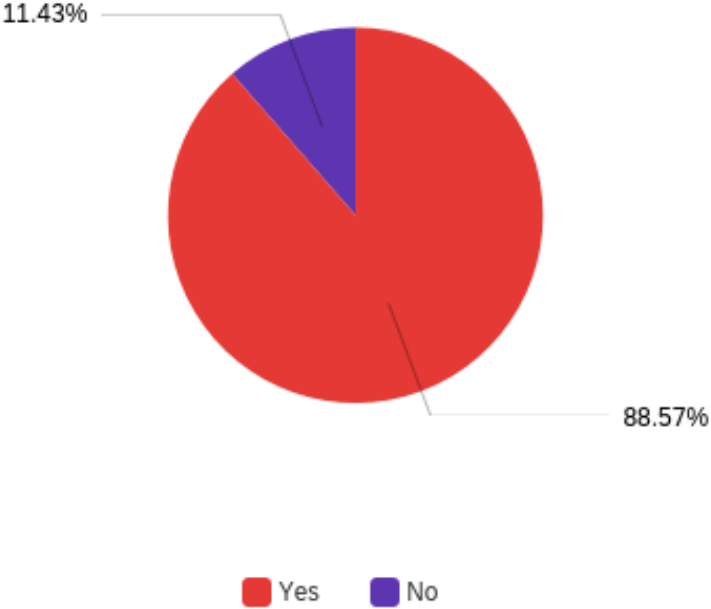
Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
My graduate degree from FSU has brought me closer to achieving my goals	38.03% 27	54.93% 39	5.63% 4	1.41% 1	0.00% 0	100% 71
	92.96% 66			1.41% 1		
My graduate experience at FSU was rewarding	38.89% 28	50.00% 36	6.94% 5	2.78% 2	1.39% 1	100% 72
	88.89% 64			4.17% 3		
My graduate coursework at FSU was challenging	26.39% 19	58.33% 42	9.72% 7	4.17% 3	1.39% 1	100% 72
	84.72% 61			5.56% 4		
My graduate degree from FSU is marketable	26.39% 19	62.50% 45	8.33% 6	2.78% 2	0.00% 0	100% 72
	88.89% 64			2.78% 2		

Did you receive your undergraduate degree from FSU?



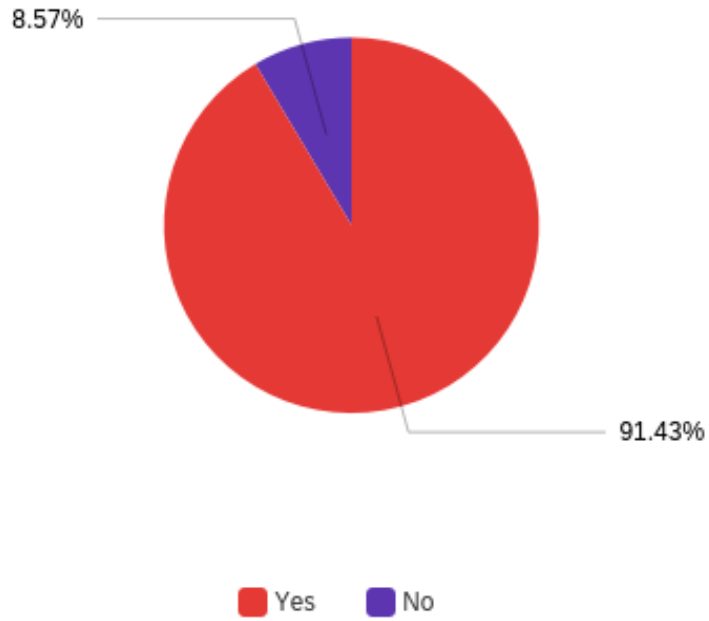
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	19.44%	14
No	80.56%	58
Total	100%	72

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



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.57%	62
No	11.43%	8
Total	100%	70

Would you recommend FSU to other potential students?

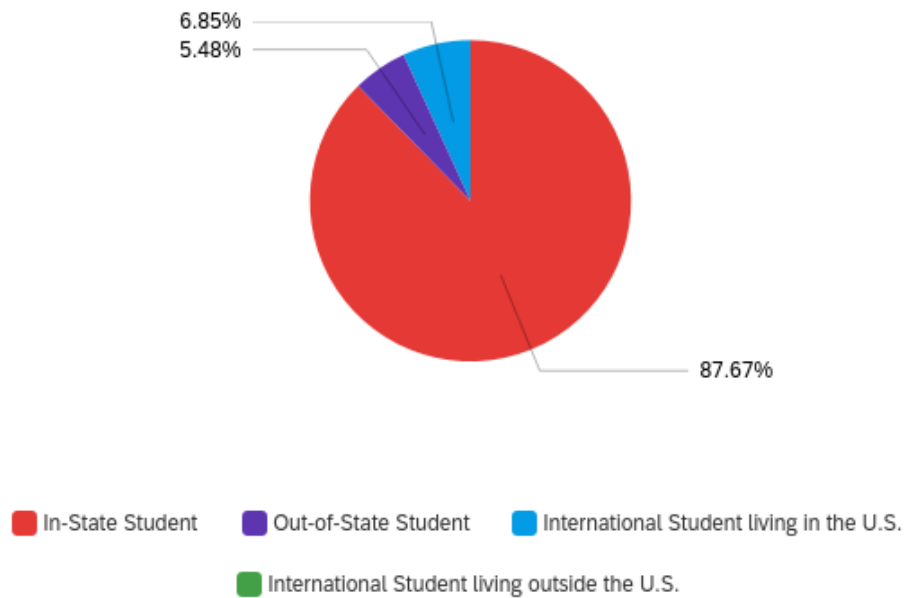


Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.43%	64
No	8.57%	6
Total	100%	70

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

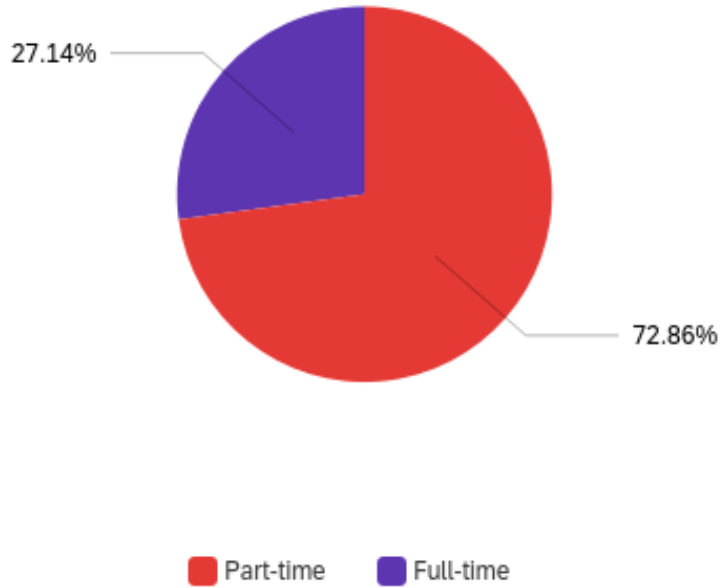
Zip Codes by County		
Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Middlesex County	37.31%	25
Worcester County	29.85%	20
Norfolk County	17.91%	12
Suffolk County	2.99%	2
Essex County	2.99%	2
Bristol County	2.99%	2
Outside of Massachusetts	4.48%	3
Barnstable County	1.49%	1
Total	100%	67

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	87.67%	64
Out-of-State Student	5.48%	4
International Student living in the U.S.	6.85%	5
International Student living outside the U.S.	0.00%	0
Total	100%	73

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



Answer	Response Percent	Response Count
Part-time	72.86%	51
Full-time	27.14%	19
Total	100%	70

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

Field	Average Percentage	Count
I would have preferred online:	58.95%	63
My courses were online:	59.75%	71

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%.