

## **WELCOME SCREEN**

Welcome to the Doctoral Student Survey.

You have been selected to participate in this survey because you have been identified as an underrepresented minority doctoral student (defined for the purpose of this study as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Hispanic/Latino/Latina).

The goal of the study is to provide information to help improve doctoral education, particularly among underrepresented minorities, and we hope that we can count on your participation in this survey. Your responses, opinions, experiences, and recommendations will be invaluable in helping improve doctoral education and to help current and future students complete their degrees in a timely fashion.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and input.

To acknowledge your consent and eligibility to participate in this survey as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Hispanic/Latino/Latina, click "NEXT."

## **SCREENING QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is your status in the doctoral program?**

- I am actively pursuing the degree **[GO TO QUESTION 2]**
- I am on a leave of absence **[GO TO QUESTION 2]**
- I have permanently withdrawn from the program **[GO TO DISQUALIFICATION]**
- I have earned my doctoral degree **[GO TO DISQUALIFICATION]**

**[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]**

### **2. Which doctoral degree are you pursuing?**

**[ESSAY]**

**[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]**

### **3. Which of the following have you COMPLETED? (Select all that apply.)**

- All coursework
- Preliminary/qualifying exams
- Research
- Dissertation writing
- Dissertation defense
- None of these (you are still taking courses)

**[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]**

## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

*The following questions are about your undergraduate education.*

**4. In what year did you earn your undergraduate degree?** If you have earned multiple undergraduate degrees, indicate the year of the degree most relevant to your doctoral studies.

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**5. Did you earn this undergraduate degree from a Historically Black College or University, Hispanic-Serving Institution, Tribal College, or other minority-serving institution?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**6. From what institution did you earn your undergraduate degree?**

**[OPEN ENDED]**

**7. Which of the following best describes your status as an undergraduate student?**

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Some part-time, some full-time

**8. At any point during your undergraduate experience, did you receive a Pell Grant?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**9. Did you have opportunities to conduct research prior to enrolling in this doctoral program?**

- Yes **[GO TO QUESTION 10]**
- No **[GO TO QUESTION 12]**

**[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]**

**10. What research opportunities did you have prior to enrolling in this doctoral program? (Select all that apply.)**

- Class-based undergraduate research experience
- Honors thesis/project
- Employer-based research
- Summer research program (e.g., SROP, Leadership Alliance, etc.)
- McNair Scholars Program
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]**

[RANDOMIZE CHOICES. ANCHOR "OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)" TO THE BOTTOM.]

11. How influential was this prior research experience in your decision to enroll in THIS doctoral program?

- Very influential
- Somewhat influential
- Not very influential
- Not at all influential

**SELECTION AND ADMISSIONS**

*Please consider your admission to and enrollment in this doctoral program when responding to the following questions.*

12. During the time in which you were deciding whether or not to enroll in this doctoral program, were any of the following available and, if so, did they influence your decision to enroll?

Information about ...	Available and they influenced my decision to enroll	Available but did not influence my decision	Not available	Don't know
Doctoral completion and/or attrition rates was ...				
Job placement rates and/or information was ...				
Support for underrepresented minorities was ...				
Faculty profiles was ...				

[RANDOMIZE CHOICES]

**ADVISING**

*Please reflect on the academic advising you received during your doctoral studies.*

13. Do you currently have an academic advisor who is readily available to meet and converse with you during the following stages of your doctoral career? Select either "Yes," "No," or "N/A" for each item.

[MATRIX: FORCE SELECTION "Yes," "No," or "N/A" FOR EACH]

	Yes	No	N/A
All coursework			
Preliminary/qualifying exams			
Research			
Dissertation writing			
Dissertation defense			

**14. Overall, how frequently have you met with your advisor(s) to formally discuss your academic progress?**

- More than once a month [GO TO QUESTION 15]
- Monthly [GO TO QUESTION 15]
- Once a semester/quarter [GO TO QUESTION 15]
- Once a year [GO TO QUESTION 15]
- Never [GO TO QUESTION 18]

[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]

**15. Overall, how useful has the feedback from your advisor(s) been?**

- Very useful
- Generally useful
- Not very useful
- Not at all useful

**16. Using only a few words or short phrases, how would you describe your overall relationship with your advisor(s)?**

[ESSAY]

**17. Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the quality of the relationship between you and your advisor(s)?**

- Very satisfied
- Generally satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*The following questions inquire about the financial support required for your undergraduate and graduate education.*

**18. Approximately how much money did you PERSONALLY borrow in STUDENT LOANS for your UNDERGRADUATE education?**

- None
- \$5,000 or less
- \$5,001 to \$20,000
- \$20,001 to \$50,000
- \$50,001 or more

**19. At this point in time, approximately how much money have you PERSONALLY borrowed in STUDENT LOANS for your GRADUATE education?**

- None
- \$5,000 or less
- \$5,001 to \$20,000
- \$20,001 to \$50,000
- \$50,001 or more

**20. From which of the following sources did you receive financial support for your GRADUATE education to date?** Include living expenses as well as tuition, fees, and other costs required for your graduate education. *(Select all that apply.)*

- Assistantship, fellowship, scholarship, grant, traineeship
- Paid internship, clinical residency
- Loans (any source)
- Spouse/partner employment
- Personal earnings or savings
- Family earnings or savings
- Employer reimbursement/assistance
- Support from a foreign government
- Other *(please specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_

**[RANDOMIZE CHOICES. ANCHOR “OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)” TO THE BOTTOM.]**

**CURRICULAR PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES**

*Please consider the doctoral program requirements when responding to the following questions.*

**21. Were program expectations CLEARLY ARTICULATED by the university, department, and/or advisor during the following stages of your doctoral career?** Select either “Yes,” “No,” or “N/A” for each item.

**[MATRIX: FORCE SELECTION “Yes,” “No,” or “N/A” FOR EACH]**

	Yes	No	N/A
Coursework			
Preliminary/qualifying exams			
Research			
Dissertation writing			
Dissertation defense			

**22. Does/did your doctoral program provide you with research opportunities designed to prepare you for dissertation research BEFORE the conclusion of your coursework?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**PROGRAM ENVIRONMENT**

**23. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
I feel integrated into the program environment in meaningful ways					
My program environment is supportive					
I have opportunities to communicate with individuals within my program about my experiences					
I am able to share my perspectives with individuals within my program					
My perspectives are respected and valued					

**[RANDOMIZE CHOICES]**

**24. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

<b>In this program ...</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
My race/ethnicity is a factor in the manner in which I am treated					
All students are seen as being equally capable and expected to succeed					
Performance standards are the same for all students regardless of their race/ethnicity					
I have been subjected to racism					
Faculty are aware of issues facing underrepresented minority students					
This program is doing a good job helping underrepresented minority doctoral students succeed					

**[RANDOMIZE CHOICES]**

**25. What changes do you think would improve the program environment for underrepresented minority doctoral students?**

[ESSAY]

**26. Is there at least one individual within your program environment who is willing and able to serve as an advocate and/or offer guidance when you are faced with personal or professional challenges?**

- Yes
- No

**27. Since entering this program, how often have you felt:**

	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	N/A
Isolated from other students					
Supported by a network of students					
Your family responsibilities interfered with your educational performance					
Your work responsibilities interfered with your educational performance					
Worried about your mental or physical health					
Your family fully supports your academic aspirations					
Financially burdened					
As though you are losing interest in this field					

[RANDOMIZE CHOICES]

**28. Have you ever had concerns about not being able to complete your doctoral degree?**

- Yes, frequently [GO TO QUESTION 29]
- Yes, occasionally [GO TO QUESTION 29]
- No [GO TO QUESTION 30]

[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]

**29. What are/were your primary concerns about not being able to complete your doctoral degree?**

[ESSAY]

**FACTORS RELATED TO COMPLETION**

**30a. To what extent have the following DOCTORAL PROGRAM factors contributed to your ability to continue in your doctorate program to date? (Check all that apply.)**

	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a small extent	Not at all	N/A
Financial support					
My advisor					
Faculty support					
Program climate					
Program quality					
Professional/career guidance					
Program requirements					
Other (please specify) _____					

**[RANDOMIZE CHOICES. ANCHOR “OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)” TO THE BOTTOM.]**

**30b. To what extent have the following PERSONAL factors contributed to your ability to continue in your doctorate program to date? (Check all that apply.)**

	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To a small extent	Not at all	N/A
Financial support					
Other mentors					
Motivation and determination					
Family (non-financial) support					
Social environment/peer group support					
Professional/career guidance					
Personal circumstances					
Other (please specify) _____					

**[RANDOMIZE CHOICES. ANCHOR “OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)” TO THE BOTTOM.]**

**31. What has been the MOST POSITIVE aspect of your doctoral program?**

**[ESSAY]**

**32. What has been the LEAST POSITIVE aspect of your doctoral program?**

**[ESSAY]**

**33. What would you recommend your program and/or university do to help underrepresented minority students complete their doctoral program?**

**[ESSAY]**



## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

**34. What is your marital status?** *(Check only one.)*

- Spouse/partner/living together [GO TO QUESTION 35]
- Widowed/separated/divorced [GO TO QUESTION 36]
- Never married [GO TO QUESTION 36]
- Prefer not to answer [GO TO QUESTION 36]

[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]

**35. Is your spouse/partner currently working?**

- Yes, full-time
- Yes, part-time
- No

**36. Are you ...**

- Male
- Female

**37. Not including yourself or a spouse/partner, how many dependents do you have?**

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more

**38. What is your age? Are you ...**

- Under 25
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 49
- 50 or older

**39. Did one or more of your parents earn an UNDERGRADUATE degree?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**40. Did one or more of your parents earn a GRADUATE degree?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**41. What is your citizenship status?**

- U.S. citizen [GO TO QUESTION 42]
- Non-U.S. citizen with permanent U.S. resident visa (green card) [GO TO QUESTION 42]
- Non-U.S. citizen with temporary visa [GO TO THANK YOU]
- Prefer not to answer [GO TO QUESTION 42]

[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]

**42. Are you Hispanic or Latino/Latina?**

- Yes [GO TO END OF SURVEY]
- No [GO TO QUESTION 43]

[RESPONSE REQUIRED. ERROR MESSAGE: An answer to this question is required.]

**43. What is your racial background?**

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- White
- Two or more races

**\*\*\* END OF SURVEY \*\*\***

**DISQUALIFICATION PAGE**

This survey is intended only for U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Hispanic/Latino/Latina enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics doctoral programs at selected institutions. Thank you for your willingness to participate.

**THANK YOU PAGE**

Thank you for participating in this survey. We appreciate your time and input.