

MASTER'S PHASE III SURVEY

Introduction

Thank you for your previous participation in the American Sociological Association's (ASA) survey on the cohort of 2009 master's degree candidates in sociology. Your cohort's experiences have been widely disseminated throughout the discipline (two research briefs on the study's findings can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/research/masters.cfm>). **Today, we are asking you to fill out the final survey for your cohort.**

By now, most of you have obtained your degree and are either in the labor force, or graduate school, or both. In this last survey, we want to learn about your post-graduation experiences, but also your satisfaction with your graduate school experiences. In the current tight job market, we want to know who has found jobs and what sociological skills they use, how satisfied they are with this job, and what they wished they had learned. For those of you who have advanced to another degree, we want to learn more about your degree field.

Even if you did not respond to the previous wave of the ASA survey we hope that you will respond to this one. The ASA is conducting a series of surveys of master's students and their post-graduate experiences. The purpose of the master's survey is to provide information on master's students and recipients to sociology departments programs so they may develop more effective programs that lead to jobs that encompass sociological skills or to further graduate education.

The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be saved if you need to leave the survey. **Those who complete the survey will receive a gift certificate for \$10.00.** Your answers are important to future sociology graduate students. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

Confidentiality

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR) is responsible for data collection. To protect student responses, the CSR computing environment requires a high level of computer and data security. Once the confidential information provided by respondents is transmitted to ASA, it will be transferred to a freestanding computer (not attached to the internet) in a locked room. No individual-level data will be shared with departments or the schools from which respondents attended. Rather, reports providing grouped or aggregated data will be made available to you and to them. The survey is entirely voluntary and no individual should feel any pressure to complete it. If you have any questions please contact Roberta Spalter-Roth at spalter-roth@asanet.org or call at 202-383-9005, ext. 317.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact Jo Ellen Sherow, Director of Research Compliance, Ohio University, (740) 593-0664.

Will you participate in this survey?

- * Yes, proceed with the survey.
- * No, I decline to participate

SECTION I. DEGREE STATUS

The following series of questions ask about the status of your Master's degree, other degrees you have completed or are currently working on since obtaining your Master's degree.

QA1. Have you completed your Master's degree in sociology?

- * Yes
- * No

(IF YES, SKIP TO "WHEN DID YOU COMPLETE THIS DEGREE?")
(IF NO, SKIP TO "WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO COMPLETE THIS DEGREE?")

QA1a. When did you complete this degree?

Month _____ Dropdown box
Year _____ Dropdown box

QA1b. When do you expect to complete this degree?

Month _____ Dropdown box
Year _____ Dropdown box

QA2. Since completing your Master's degree in sociology, have completed or are you working on a graduate or professional degree?

- * Yes
- * No

(IF YES, SKIP TO "WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DEGREE ...")

(IF NO, SKIP TO "APPROXIMATELY, WHAT WAS THE LEVEL OF YOUR CUMULAT...")

QA2a. Which of the following degrees have you completed or have you been working on since obtaining your Master's degree in sociology?

- * Master's (including MBA)
- * Post-Master's certificate
- * PhD
- * Other Doctorate (Ed.D, DSC, etc.)
- * Other professional degree (JD, MD, LLB, ThD, DDS, etc.)
- * Other (please specify) _____

(IF PHD IS SELECTED, SKIP TO "SELECT THE FIELD OF STUDY THAT...")

(IF PHD IS NOT SELECTED, SKIP TO SECTION II)

QA2a1. Using the drop down menu, select the field of study that best describes this PhD program.

Sociology
Criminal Justice/Criminology
Education
Political Science
Psychology
Race or Ethnic Studies
Social Work
Women's Studies
Other Social Science
Other, Non-Social Science

QB3. What was the primary reason for selecting your PhD field of study?

- * Intrinsic interest.
- * For more challenging jobs.

- * Job advancement.
- * I want to teach and do research.
- * Steady job with a decent salary.
- * Other, please specify: _____

QA4. When did you complete or approximately when do you expect to complete this PhD degree?

Month _____ Dropdown box
 Year _____ Dropdown box

SECTION II. EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

The next series of questions ask about your employment status during the week of October 18, 2010.

QB1. Were you employed for pay (or profit) during the week of October 18, 2010 (even if on paid or unpaid leave during this week)? Include self-employment and independent contracting.

- * Yes
- * No

(IF YES, SKIP TO "HOW MANY EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS DID YOU...")
 (IF NO, SKIP TO "IF YOU WERE NOT EMPLOYED FOR PAY (OR PROF...")

QB2. If you were not employed for pay (or profit) during the week of October 18, 2010 which of the following statements best describes the reasons for your situation at that time? (Please check all that apply).

- * I was seeking work and was willing to relocate, but I was unable to find a suitable position.
- * I was seeking work, but found no suitable position in my area, and I did not want to relocate.
- * I was enrolled in school.
- * I had an accident, illness, or health problem.
- * I was involved with family/home/dependent care.
- * I felt that no jobs were available to me.
- * Other (please specify)

QB3. If you were not employed for pay (or profit) during the week of October 18, 2010, but were looking for work, how many MONTHS had you spent as of October 18, 2010 actively searching for employment?

Number of months _____

(THEN RESPONDENTS NOT IN LABOR FORCE SKIP TO SECTION III)

QB4. How many employment positions did you hold during the week of October 18, 2010?

- * One
- * Two
- * Three

QB6. In the boxes below, please estimate the number of hours during the week of October 18, 2010 that you spent working in each of your places of employment.

Primary employment is defined as the position in which you work the most hours or fits with your career.

Primary (number of hours per week) _____
Secondary (number of hours per week) _____
Third Position (number of hours per week) _____
Total hours of work _____

QB5. Which of the following categories best describes your employer at your primary job during the week of October 18, 2010?

If your employer was a school, select "state government" for state schools or "local government" for schools run by the local school district. Most private schools are "private, not-for-profit."

- * PRIVATE, FOR-PROFIT (company, business, or individual paying you wages, salary, or commissions)
- * PRIVATE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT (tax-exempt or charitable organization)
- * SELF-EMPLOYMENT (in own, incorporated business, professional practice, or firm)
- * LOCAL GOVERNMENT (e.g. city, county, district)
- * STATE GOVERNMENT
- * U.S. MILITARY or COMMISSIONED CORPS (e.g. USPHS, NOAA) (active duty)
- * U.S. GOVERNMENT (as a civilian employee)
- * OTHER (please specify) enter _____

QB6. Was your primary employer during the week of October 18, 2010 an educational institution?

- * Yes
- * No

(IF YES, SKIP TO "WHAT TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BEST...")
(IF NO, SKIP TO "WHAT IS YOUR ANNUAL SALARY FOR YOUR PRIMA...")

QB7. What type of educational institution best describes this primary employer?

- * A preschool, elementary, or middle school system.
- * A secondary school or system.
- * A 2-year college, junior college, or technical school.
- * A 4-year college or university, other than a medical school.
- * A medical school (including university affiliated hospitals or medical centers).
- * A university-affiliated research institute.
- * Other (please specify) _____

QB9. What is your annual salary for your primary job BEFORE deductions?

Include all wages, salaries, bonuses, overtime, commissions or consulting fees. Please do not include investment income.

- * Under \$30,000.
- * \$30,000 - \$49,000.
- * \$50,000 - \$69,000.
- * \$70,000 - \$99,000.
- * \$100,000 and above.

QB11. Was your October 18, 2010 primary employment permanent or temporary? That is, there is an implicit or explicit contract with your employer for on-going employment for longer than 1 year.

Include semester-by-semester adjunct positions and temporary self-employment or consulting.

- * Permanent
- * Temporary

QB10. When did you begin working at your primary place of employment?

- * Prior to working on your Master's.
- * While working on your Masters.
- * After completing your Master's.

QB11. If you were working at your October 18, 2010 primary employment PRIOR to completing your Master's degree, how did receiving your Master's degree affect the following aspects of the job you held? If you are still working on your degree, please select N/A.

- | | A great deal | Somewhat | Not much or at all | N/A |
|---|--------------|----------|--------------------|-----|
| * Salary level | | | | |
| * Level of responsibility | | | | |
| * Job security | | | | |
| * Degree of interesting or rewarding work | | | | |
| * Degree of technically demanding work | | | | |
| * Management activities expected | | | | |
| * Other (please specify) _____ | | | | |

QB12. The next question is about your work activities on the principal job you held during the week of October 18, 2010. Which of the following work activities occupied 10 percent or more of your time during a typical work week on this job?

Select all that apply.

- * Accounting, finance, budgets, contracts.
- * Applied research - study directed towards gaining scientific knowledge to meet a recognized need.
- * Basic research - study directed towards gaining scientific knowledge primarily for its own sake.
- * Computer applications, programming, systems development.
- * Employee relations - including recruiting, personnel development, and training.
- * Managing or supervising.
- * Policing or law enforcement.
- * Professional services (e.g. health care, counseling, financial services, legal services).
- * Sale, purchase, marketing, customer service, public relations.
- * Teaching.
- * Working with diverse groups.
- * Other (please specify) _____

QB13. On which two activities from the list above did you work the most hours during a typical work week on this job?

Activity worked the most hours _____

Activity worked the second most hours _____

QB14. How closely was the primary position you held during the week of October 18, 2010 related to what you learned as part of your Master's degree in sociology?

- * Very closely related to my field in sociology.

- * Somewhat related.
- * Slightly related.
- * Not related at all.

QB15. Does your use of a sociological training in your work include any of the following?

- * Use of core sociological concepts such as stratification, roles & statuses, institutions.
- * Use of sociological literature or theories to inform critical and contrasting points of view (e.g. analyzing ideas, reviewing literature, formulating pertinent comments).
- * Use of sociological literature in solving problems, making and analyzing logical arguments.
- * Application of sociological theory or literature (e.g. seeing practical implications of abstract sociological ideas, analyzing real-world policies and processes).
- * Research methods, including data gathering, surveys, statistical analysis, and interviewing.
- * I do not use any of the above sociological training in my work

QB16. Please give us an example of how you use a sociological training (i.e. concepts, methods) in your work.

(essay text box entry)

QB17. Overall, how satisfied were you with your October, 18 2010 position at your primary employer?

- * Very Satisfied.
- * Satisfied.
- * Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- * Dissatisfied.
- * Very Dissatisfied.

SECTION III. MASTER'S PROGRAM EVALUATION.

The next series of questions ask you to rate the adequacy of various aspects of the training you received in your Master's program.

ANALYTICAL SKILLS

QC1. Knowing what you know now, how adequate was your Master's program in developing the following core analytical skills?

Very adequate Somewhat adequate Not adequate Not applicable

- * Core sociological concepts, (e.g. stratification, culture, status, institutions).
- * Critical skills (e.g. analyzing ideas, reviewing literature, formulating pertinent comments).
- * Creativity (e.g. conceiving interesting concepts, questions, types of analyses).
- * Problem solving (e.g. understanding and solving problems, making and analyzing logical arguments).
- * Application (e.g. seeing practical implications of abstract ideas, analyzing real-world policies and processes).
- * Working with diverse groups of people.
- * Other, with the exception of research or technical skills (please specify) _____

RESEARCH SKILLS

QC2. Knowing what you know now, how adequate was your Master's program in developing the following research or technical skills?

Very adequate Somewhat adequate Not adequate Not applicable

- * Designing research projects such as conceptualization, deciding on methods, forms of data analysis.
- * Survey research methods such as sampling, questionnaire construction, etc.
- * Statistical analysis.
- * Qualitative methods.
- * Program evaluation.
- * Computer applications, programming, systems development (SPSS, SAS, Visual Basic, etc.).
- * Data management, data mining.
- * Writing grant proposals.
- * Research integrity/ethics.
- * Visual presentation skills.
- * Policy analysis -- such as the evaluation of alternative policies intended to address social, economic, or physical problems.
- * Other research or technical skills (please specify) _____

JOB SEARCH

QC3. Assuming help from your graduate department is useful, how adequate was the help from your department in your post-graduate job search and job attainment? If you did not want or did not need mentoring help, please click on the response "did not need."

Very adequate Somewhat adequate Not adequate Did not need.

- * Help from my graduate department in providing opportunities to interact with non-academic professionals (e.g. suggesting internships).
- * Help from graduate school mentors or department in preparing me for job search (e.g. resume writing, translating skills for non-academics).
- * Help from graduate school mentors or department in locating jobs (e.g. suggesting organizations).
- * Help from graduate school mentors or department in providing recommendations.
- * Overall, I would rate the contacts that I made with faculty and other sociologists during graduate school were very adequate, somewhat adequate, or not adequate in helping me in my professional job search and attainment.

QC4. Is there anything that you wish you would have learned in your Master's program that was not covered in the curriculum?

Please rate your top three areas by placing a 1, 2, or 3 in the text box next to your choice.

- __ Research methods.
- __ Statistics.
- __ Internships or other outside activities
- __ Theory
- __ More specialization (if so, please specify field in addition to rank)
- __ Statistical packages for data analysis
- __ Graphics packages.
- __ Grant writing.
- __ Career counseling.
- __ Other (please specify in addition to rank) _____

QC5. Are you a member of any of the following professional associations? Please select all that apply.

- * American Sociological Association.
- * Regional sociological association or society.
- * Other professional society (please specify) _____
- * I am not a member of a professional society.

SECTION IV. DEMOGRAPHICS.

In this next series of questions, we ask about the educational history of your parents and/or guardians, your marital or partner status, and whether you had children living with you as part of your family during the week of October 18, 2010.

QD1. What is the highest level of education completed by your father or male guardian?

- * Less than a high school diploma.
- * High school diploma or equivalent.
- * Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees).
- * Graduated from a 4-year college (Bachelor's degree).
- * At least some graduate or professional schooling.

QD2. What is the highest level of education completed by your mother or female guardian?

- * Less than a high school diploma.
- * High school diploma or equivalent.
- * Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees).
- * Graduated from a 4-year college (Bachelor's degree).
- * At least some graduate or professional schooling.

QD3. What is your marital or partner status?

- * Single.
- * Living with partner.
- * Married.
- * Separated.
- * Divorced.
- * Widowed.

QD4. During the week of October 18, 2010, did you have any children living with you as part of your family?

- * Yes
- * No

Q98. Would you please provide us with your current contact information including your email address so that we can get back to you if there are any problems with your answers to the survey?

Current address _____
Email address _____
Click here to edit form fields _____

Thank you for participating in this survey. Please put any additional comments that you have comments in the space provided below.

(essay text box)