



**I. First, let's do some quick introductions.**

A. Please tell us your first name, what year you are in your program, what degree program you are in, and where.

**II. I would like to begin with a discussion about your life as a grad student in your department. Let's start with faculty and how they affect you.**

***A. How common is it for the faculty in your department to take an interest in your progress toward your degree?***

1. PROBE: What is that like for you?

***B. What expectations do faculty have of you?***

1. PROBE: How are you affected by them (faculty expectations)?

2. PROBE: How does your workload affect the time you have for a social or family life?

3. PROBE: Are some faculty expectations too high?

4. PROBE IF YES: Can you give me an example of what you mean by expectations that are too high, and how you are affected by that?

***C. How would you describe your interactions with your advisor?***

1. PROBE: Do you talk with your advisor about non-academic issues?

***D. What has been your experience with asking more than one faculty member for advice?***

***E. What happens if you switch advisors?***

***F. What is your experience doing research with a faculty member?***

***G. How would you describe the quality of instruction in your program?***

***H. How comfortable are you with asking questions in class?***

- a. PROBE: What affects your level of comfort (with asking questions in class?)
- b. PROBE: Can you give me an example?
- c. PROBE: Does the instructor affect your comfort?
  - 1) IF YES, How

***I. Have you experienced favoritism or discrimination in your graduate program?***

**40 minute point**

**III. I also have a few questions about your interactions with students and other people in the department.**

***A. How would you describe your interactions with other students?***

***B. Have you collaborated with other students?***

- 1. IF YES: How was that?

***C. Does the number of women in your program affect your experience as a student?***

- 1. IF YES, Can you give me an example of how?

***D. Does your department have formal programs that support women? ONLY IF NECESSARY, GIVE EXAMPLES - A DIVERSITY COORDINATOR OR ACM-W.***

- 1. IF YES - Does that affect you in any way? How?

**IV. Now I have some questions for those of you who have ever thought of leaving the department. How many of you have considered it? IF NONE, LIST REASONS IN B THROUGH D BELOW TO GIVE THEM A SECOND CHANCE, BUT THEN SKIP TO SECTION VI IF NONE RESPOND.**

IF YES:

- A. Would you tell us why you thought about it?
  
- B. I have a list of reasons that some students cited for thinking about leaving, and I would like you to tell me which of these fit best with your own experience.
  - a. **work is too demanding**
  - b. **having to prove themselves**
  - c. **not confident in their own abilities**
  - d. **advisor is not confident in their [student] abilities**
  - e. **dissatisfied with their funding**
  - f. **PROBE for all – What does that mean?**
  
- C. How does thinking about leaving affect whether you would strongly recommend your program to someone else? PROBE FOR EXAMPLES.

**1 hr point**

**V. Now I'd like you to talk about your experience with the Grad Cohort Program.**

1. Think back to last year's meeting, and choose which aspects of that meeting have been helpful to you.
  
2. Which aspects of last year's meeting have not been helpful to you?

## **GRAD COHORT STUDY**

Computing Research Association      Spring 2005

**3. Now, I'd like you to tell me what Cohort activities you participated in during the year since the last meeting. First talk about helpful activities.**

**4. Which activities has the program offered this year that have not been helpful to you?**

**a) PROBE FOR EXAMPLES OF: peer networking, peer support, networking with computer professionals, mentoring**

**5. Did your membership in the Grad Cohort affect your own graduate program in any way?**

**a) PROBE: Was there anything you brought back to the other students in your program?**

**b) IF YES, How? IF NO, Why not?**

**6. What do you hope to get out of the Grad Cohort Program this year?**

**VI. SUMMARIZE Does that sound like an accurate summary?**

**VII. Are there any other points you would like to add about your experience as a graduate student in CS or as a member of the Grad Cohort for Women?**

**Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. If you have any questions or comments about the project, please send them to [jmcohoon@virginia.edu](mailto:jmcohoon@virginia.edu)**