

# GRADUATE COHORT STUDY

## Returning Participants



**About this survey:** This questionnaire asks about your experiences as an applicant and new student in your graduate program. This information will help us understand what leads to successful recruitment and retention of women in computer science and computer engineering.

**Confidentiality:** Please read the confidentiality statement on the inside cover of this booklet, and complete and return the questionnaire if you agree to the conditions. It explains that your name will not be associated with your responses. Members of the project team are pledged to maintain the confidentiality of participants. Respondent names are stored separately from completed questionnaires. The questionnaire has an identification number so that we can match your responses over the course of your participation in the program. Public reports of this research will not identify or connect responses to any individual, department, or institution.

**Questions:** Betsy Bizot will respond to questions about the survey. You can reach her by email at [bizot@cra.org](mailto:bizot@cra.org).

**Returning your completed booklet:** When you finish filling out this questionnaire, please bring it to the Registration Desk before leaving the workshop.

# Informed Consent Agreement

**Please read this consent agreement carefully before you decide to participate in the study.**

**Purpose of the research study:** The purpose of the study is to identify and understand factors that affect women's representation in computer science and computer engineering graduate programs.

**What you will do in the study:** You will respond to questions about your experiences as an applicant and new graduate student and about your opinions and observations of your department.

**Time required:** Completing the questionnaire takes approximately 25 minutes.

**Risks:** There are no anticipated risks.

**Benefits:** There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research study.

**Confidentiality:** The information that you give in the study will be handled confidentially. Your information will be assigned a code number. The list connecting your name to this code will be kept in a locked file. When the study is completed and the data have been analyzed, this list will be destroyed. Your name will not be used in any report. The crosswalk list will be destroyed when analyses are complete.

**Voluntary participation:** Your participation in the study is completely voluntary. Return of the questionnaire with responses indicated constitutes your consent to participate.

**Right to withdraw from the study:** You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

**How to withdraw from the study:** If you want to withdraw from the study, please write "withdraw" on your questionnaire and return it uncompleted.

**Payment:** You will receive no payment for participating in the study.

**Who to contact if you have questions about the study:** Joanne McGrath Cohoon; Science, Technology and Society; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va 22904; tel 434.924.6120

## **Who to contact about your rights in the study:**

Luke Kelly, Chairman, Institutional Review Board for the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Barringer Wing, Room 4365  
University of Virginia  
P.O. Box 800392, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0392.  
Telephone: (434) 243-2915

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

Most of the questions in this survey are answered by circling a single number to indicate your response, or by circling DK/NA when you don't know the answer or the question does not apply to you.

Questions that you do not wish to answer may be skipped. Your participation is completely voluntary.

Instructions indicate how to proceed in sections of the questionnaire that only apply to some respondents.

Please follow all skip instructions after marking a response to the initial question. If no skip instructions are provided, please continue to the next question.

There is space for comments at the end of the questionnaire.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this questionnaire. We appreciate your help.**

## EXPERIENCES AS A GRADUATE STUDENT

1. Are the following services offered to you as a student in your graduate program? (Please circle one response for each item.)

a. Orientation programs	Yes	No	Don't know
b. Formal mentoring by advanced graduate students	Yes	No	Don't know
c. Formal mentoring by faculty members who offer more than advice on course selection	Yes	No	Don't know
d. Official support groups for women	Yes	No	Don't know
e. Diversity coordinator	Yes	No	Don't know
f. Accommodations so you can fill gaps in your undergraduate background	Yes	No	Don't know

2. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your current degree program in each of the following areas?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	DK/NA
a. Curriculum (courses offered and course content)	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. Quality of instruction	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. Quality of advising	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. Facilities or equipment	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. Graduate student funding	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. Career mentoring	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. Supportiveness of faculty	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
h. Supportiveness of administration	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
i. Opportunities to do research	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
j. Opportunities to teach	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
k. Dissemination of important information	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA

3. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about your experience of the work environment in your graduate program?

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA
a. I feel comfortable talking to my faculty advisor about my plans for the future.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. I frequently feel overwhelmed by the fast pace or heavy workload of my courses.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. I am comfortable asking questions in class.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. Some courses are meant to weed out students from the program.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. I am confident in my ability to complete this graduate program.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. Graduate students have a voice in departmental governance.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. Graduate students can switch advisors without negative consequences.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA

**4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience of the social environment in your graduate program?**

	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>DK/NA</i>
a. I feel included in a social network that includes faculty members.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. My department has a supportive environment.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. The student community is supportive.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. I have sometimes felt excluded from formal or informal study groups.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. I feel part of a peer community among graduate students.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. I do not have time to interact with other graduate students.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. I rely on my fellow graduate students for advice or information about academic issues.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
h. All the other students in my graduate program treat me respectfully.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
i. All the undergraduates in my department treat me respectfully.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
j. I sometimes feel isolated within my department.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
k. The department provides enough social options that I could find a way to participate.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
l. The demands of my graduate program leave me with adequate time to have a social or family life.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA

**5. Please indicate the extent to which you personally agree or disagree with the following statements:**

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>DK/NA</i>
a. To succeed academically, I need to minimize outside activities while I am in graduate school.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. I will succeed in graduate school because of my innate technical ability.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. If I fail, it will probably be my own fault.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. Faculty advising should be restricted to academic matters.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. It is important for me to participate in study groups.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. I should do collaborative research.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. Competition among graduate students is a desirable part of graduate school.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
h. The department should actively recruit students from underrepresented groups (i.e., women, minorities, students with disabilities).	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
i. Activities meant to diversify the graduate student body will lower the academic quality of incoming students.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
j. The environment in the University is supportive of women.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
k. CS/CE as a discipline is inherently unattractive to most women.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
l. It is important for me to participate in student support groups specifically for women.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA

**6. Have you observed any gender differences in your program's graduate students regarding any of the following characteristics?**

a. Motivation	Yes	No	Not Observed
b. Aptitude	Yes	No	Not Observed
c. Potential for achievement	Yes	No	Not Observed
d. Access to opportunities within the department	Yes	No	Not Observed
e. Access to opportunities within the profession	Yes	No	Not Observed
f. Other (Please specify) _____			

**7. If you chose "Yes" in answer to any of the items in Question 6, please briefly describe the gender differences you observed.**

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**8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your intended career?**

	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>DK/NA</i>
a. I want a career that involves teamwork.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. I want a career creating new technology or applications.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. I want a career that has social impact.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. I want a career in which I can exercise considerable leadership.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. I want a career that has high earnings potential.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. I want to be prepared for a wide variety of career options.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. I want a career that is compatible with the personal lifestyle to which I aspire.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
h. I want to do research.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
i. I want to teach.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
j. I want my work time to be flexible.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
k. I want a prestigious occupation.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
l. I want to decide for myself what I will work on.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
m. I want to work in a particular geographic location.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
n. Other important career characteristic: (Please specify)						
o. My graduate studies will prepare me for a career like that specified in items a through n above.	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA

**9. Have the following factors increased or decreased your confidence in your ability to complete this program?**

	<i>Strong Decrease</i>	<i>Some Decrease</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Some Increase</i>	<i>Strong Increase</i>	<i>DK/NA</i>
a. Grades	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. Workload	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. English fluency	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. My technical expertise relative to other students	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. Research experience(s)	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. My relationship with my advisor	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. Other influence on your confidence: (Please specify)	-2	-1	0	1	2	

**10. What experiences have increased or decreased your enthusiasm for your graduate program?**

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**11. Since entering your CS/CE graduate program have you ever contemplated leaving?**

- 1 No → Please skip to Question 14 below.
- 2 Yes →▼

<b>Please identify your reasons for thinking of leaving.</b>		
a. To take a job	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
b. Your academic performance to date	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
c. Program limitations	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
d. Constantly having to “prove yourself” in your graduate work	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
e. Personal reasons not related to the department or program	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
f. Economic reasons	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
g. To enter another field	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
h. Because you were not confident in your abilities	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
i. Because your advisor was not confident in your abilities	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
j. Did not pass preliminary exam	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
k. The work is too demanding	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
l. Poor relations with other students	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
m. Unpleasant living environment in the geographic area	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
n. Sexism you have experienced or observed	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
o. Other reason ( <i>Please specify</i> ):		

**12. Have you felt that it was necessary for you to prove that you have sufficient ability to any of the following people?**

a. Your advisor	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
b. Your instructors	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
c. Male graduate students	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
d. Female graduate students	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>

**EXPERIENCES IN THE GRAD COHORT PROGRAM**

**13. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with last year's Graduate Cohort meeting in each of the following areas?**

	<i>Very dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat dissatisfied</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat satisfied</i>	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>DK/NA</i>
a. Peer networking	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
b. Peer support	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
c. Mentoring	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
d. Formal presentations by senior researchers	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
e. Role models	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
f. Networking with computing professionals	-2	-1	0	1	2	DK/NA
g. Other aspects of the meeting (Please specify)	-2	-1	0	1	2	

**14. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the Graduate Cohort electronic activities since last year's meeting?**

- 1 Very dissatisfied
- 2 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Somewhat satisfied
- 5 Very satisfied
- 6 Don't know/Not applicable

**15. Which electronic activities were most satisfying?**

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**16. Which electronic activities were least satisfying?**

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**17. How active have you been in the Grad Cohort Program since last year's meeting?**

- 1 Not at all active
- 2 Slightly active
- 3 Moderately active
- 4 Very active
- 5 Extremely active
- 6 Don't know/Not applicable

**18. Please describe the Grad Cohort activities you engaged in since last year's meeting.**

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**19. How helpful has the Grad Cohort Program been as you transitioned from student to researcher?**

- 1 Not helpful
- 2 Slightly helpful
- 3 Moderately helpful
- 4 Very helpful
- 5 Extremely helpful
- 6 Don't know/Not applicable

**20. Please describe how the Grad Cohort Program has been helpful or unhelpful as you transitioned from student to researcher.**

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**21. How much impact did the Grad Cohort Program have on your home department this year?**

- 1 No noticeable impact
- 2 Slight impact
- 3 Moderate impact
- 4 Much impact
- 5 Extreme impact
- 6 Don't know/Not applicable

**22. Please describe any impact the Grad Cohort Program had on your home department.**

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**23. What were the reasons you did not attend Grad Cohort meeting this year?**

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**24. Under what conditions would you attend next year's Grad Cohort meeting?**

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**25. How can the Grad Cohort Program be most helpful to you as a graduate student in computing?**

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## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

### 26. What type of computing program are you in?

- 1 Computer Science
- 2 Computer Engineering/Electrical and Computer Engineering
- 3 Computer Information Systems/Information Systems
- 4 Other computing discipline (*Please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### 27. What is your degree program? (*Please circle one response.*)

- 1 Master's degree only
- 2 Master's on the way to a Ph.D.
- 3 Ph.D. program
- 4 Not enrolled in a CS or CE graduate program at this institution

### 28. What is your current status in your program?

- 1 Full-time
- 2 Part-time
- 3 Other (*Please specify.*) \_\_\_\_\_

### 29. What are your current sources of financing for your computing-related graduate degree? (*Please check all that apply.*)

- a.  Teaching assistantship
- b.  Research assistantship
- c.  Fellowship
- d.  Scholarship
- e.  Grant
- f.  Loan
- g.  Tuition waiver
- h.  Corporate sponsorship
- i.  Other financing (*Please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**30. Do you currently have a job outside the department for more than 10 hours a week?**

- 1 Yes, I work **part time** at an outside job
- 2 Yes, I work **full time** at an outside job
- 3 No, I do not work at an outside job

**31. What is your marital status?**

- 1 Never married
- 2 Married
- 3 Divorced or legally separated
- 4 Widowed

**32. Are you the primary care giver to any children?** (A primary care giver is the person mostly responsible for child care.)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**33. Are you a:** *(Please circle only one)*

- 1 Native born U.S. citizen
- 2 Naturalized U.S. citizen
- 3 A non-U.S. citizen with permanent residency
- 4 A non-U.S. citizen with a temporary visa

**34. If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident:**

A. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

B. Please indicate your race. (Check all that apply)

- a.  White
- b.  Black or African American
- c.  American Indian or Alaska native
- d.  Asian
- e.  Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- f.  Other race *(Please specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_

**35. If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, please print your country of origin:**

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36. **Thank you again for participating! Please share any additional comments in the space below.**



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME  
TO  
COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.**

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED  
QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE  
REGISTRATION DESK BEFORE  
LEAVING THE WORKSHOP.**

**If you forget to hand it in before leaving the workshop,  
please mail this questionnaire to  
Betsy Bizot, Computing Research Association,  
1100 Seventeenth Street NW, Suite 507,  
Washington, DC 20036-4632.**