

## 2017 Doctoral Experience Survey: Mean Ratings on Scaled Items by Survey Year

### Life Sciences

#### Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Overall Experiences (Life Sciences)

1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

Please rate each of the following:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Academic experience at Cornell	3.92	3.93	3.96	
Student life experience at Cornell	3.52	3.63	3.67	
Overall experience at Cornell	3.73	3.87	3.88	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\* <.05 (based on comparison of means)

#### Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Quality of Academic Degree Program (Life Sciences)

1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

Please rate each of the following:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Quality of graduate curriculum	3.53	3.63	3.54	
Quality of graduate-level teaching	3.62	3.74	3.61	
Opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	3.79	3.84	3.92	
Quality of academic advising and guidance	3.61	3.65	3.64	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\* <.05 (based on comparison of means)

#### Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Advising and Mentoring - Quality (Life Sciences)

1 = strongly disagree, 2 = generally disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree,  
4 = generally agree, 5 = strongly agree

Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning advising in your graduate degree program:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
My advisor clearly states expectations for my academic progress.	3.82	3.74	3.70	

My advisor has reasonable expectations for my academic progress.	4.11	4.05	4.03	
My advisor is available when needed (in-person, via email, other).	4.48	4.35	4.42	
My advisor gives me constructive feedback on my work.	4.19	4.10	4.08	
My advisor promotes my professional development.	4.09	3.98	3.97	
My advisor discusses my research with me on a regular basis.	4.29	4.16	4.24	
My program is providing adequate instruction on research ethics and responsible conduct of research pertinent to my field of study.	4.06	4.06	3.99	
My program is preparing me adequately for my current career goals.	3.83	3.88	3.71	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Advising and Mentoring - Opportunities (Life Sciences)**

1 = very ineffective, 2 = somewhat ineffective, 3 = neither effective nor ineffective, 4 = somewhat effective, 5 = very effective

If the following opportunities were available to you in your program and you participated in them, please rate the effectiveness of each.	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Written set of expectations about academic requirements and expected progress in your program.	3.72	3.90	3.89	
Organized exposure to faculty and their current research interests.	4.06	4.06	4.04	
Early research opportunities (e.g., laboratory rotations, research assistantships, faculty-advised research projects or papers).	4.36	4.36	4.27	
Written assessment of your academic progress other than course grades and qualifying exams at least annually.	3.89	3.82	3.70	
** A meeting with your Director of Graduate Studies and/or other faculty to assess your academic progress at least annually.	3.99	3.88	3.63	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Program Climate (Life Sciences)**

1 = strongly disagree, 2 = generally disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = generally agree, 5 = strongly agree

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your academic degree program.	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Students in my program are treated with respect by faculty.	4.28	4.27	4.21	

My peers value my research/scholarship.	4.25	4.23	4.22	
I don't have to work harder than my peers to be perceived as a legitimate scholar (reversed)	2.93	2.87	3.04	
My own relationships and interactions with faculty are positive.	4.27	4.27	4.21	
My program supports students in pursuing career interests in academia.	4.36	4.36	4.39	
My program supports students in pursuing career interests outside of academia...	3.46	3.59	3.54	
My program is responsive to student concerns.	3.80	3.72	3.74	
Financial support for students in my program is distributed fairly.	4.07	3.95	3.87	
My program's procedures are fair and equitable to all.	4.01	3.99	3.90	
Students in my program are collegial.	4.30	4.30	4.35	
I feel included in the informal network in my program.			3.95	
I am comfortable voicing my views and opinions in front of others in my program.	3.85	3.89	4.02	
Faculty in my graduate field support my academic success.			4.32	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

#### Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Student Representation (Life Sciences)

1 = strongly disagree, 2 = generally disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = generally agree, 5 = strongly agree

Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning student representation on campus:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
The senior leadership at Cornell is committed to addressing issues of importance to graduate students.	3.47	3.34	3.42	
The Graduate School services as an advocate for graduate students at Cornell.	3.58	3.50	3.59	
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly effectively represents the concerns of graduate students.	3.47	3.50	3.51	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Campus Climate (Life Sciences)**

1 = strongly disagree, 2 = generally disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = generally agree, 5 = strongly agree

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding campus climate:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Cornell demonstrates a strong institutional commitment to diversity.			3.97	
I have found a community at Cornell where I feel like I belong.			3.91	
Students here are respectful of one another when discussing controversial issues or perspectives.			4.09	
I feel safe at Cornell	4.42	4.49	4.51	
I don't feel left out at Cornell (reversed)	3.98	3.85	3.93	
I feel accepted at Cornell	4.14	4.07	4.20	
I feel valued at Cornell	3.82	3.82	3.89	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Resources and Services (Life Sciences)**

1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

Rate the quality of the following resources and services provided by Cornell:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Your personal workspace (e.g., desk or office).	3.73	3.72	3.58	
Library and electronic research resources.	4.53	4.46	4.48	
** Funding provided for your stipend, tuition, and health insurance.	4.27	4.03	4.02	
Laboratory, clinical, studio, or other physical facilities.	4.00	3.91	3.87	
Programs and advising offered by Career Services.	3.56	3.70	3.60	
Campus health care services.	3.67	3.62	3.68	
Psychological counseling services.	3.70	3.57	3.51	

Health insurance provided by Cornell.	3.59	3.56	3.65	
Information technology resources.	3.98	3.99	3.96	
Programs and services for international students.	3.89	3.94	3.83	
Services for students conducting research/scholarship away from campus...			3.58	
Facilities and resources to support physical fitness.			3.34	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: Obstacles to Academic Success (Life Sciences)**

1 = major obstacle, 2 = minor obstacle, 3 = not an obstacle

Rate the extent to which the following have been obstacles to your academic progress in the last year:	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
Program structure or requirements	2.67	2.62	2.68	
** Availability of faculty**	2.71	2.55	2.63	
Relationship with advisor	2.58	2.57	2.54	
Competition among your peers	2.81	2.76	2.74	
Cost of housing	2.52	2.43	2.43	
Family obligations	2.51	2.49	2.53	
Insufficient financial support from Cornell	2.68	2.64	2.68	
Immigration laws and regulations	2.79	2.79	2.82	
Physical health			2.67	
Mental health			2.43	
Academic or social isolation	2.56	2.56	2.45	
Your self-confidence	2.33	2.29	2.19	
Time management	2.25	2.23	2.24	
Feeling overwhelmed by all that you have to do			1.91	

Food insecurity (skipped meals or not enough food due to finances)

2.86

Current job market

2.45


2.44

2.36

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)

**Mean Ratings by Survey Year: How likely to stay in program to degree? (Life Sciences)**

1 = very unlikely, 2 = somewhat unlikely, 3 = not sure, 4 = somewhat likely, 5 = very likely

	Survey Year			Trend (not to scale)
	2013	2015	2017	
How likely are you to stay in your program until you achieve your ultimate degree objective?	3.69	3.79	3.77	

Statistical differences: \*\*p<.01, p\*<.05 (based on comparison of means)