Survey

- Administered in the Fall of 2009
- Participants
  - School of Graduate Studies
  - Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
  - Weatherhead School of Management
  - School of Law
- 3857 invitations sent to students enrolled in these schools
- Invitation contained a link to the online survey
Sample quality

- A total of 1200 students responded to invitation (31.1% response rate)

- A significantly higher proportion of women responded
  - Response rate – Women: 35%, Men: 27%

- A significantly higher proportion of native students responded
  - Response rate – Native students: 33%, International students: 27%

- Response rates did not differ by ethnicity, degree pursued, age, or credits taken for progress
Results from All Respondents
Satisfaction with Faculty

- In general, respondents rated the faculty positively with the majority saying they agree or strongly agree that:
  - Faculty members are willing to work with them (86%)
  - Students in their program are treated with respect by faculty (82%)
  - Their own relationships and interactions with faculty are good (85%)

- Similarly, a majority rated as excellent or very good:
  - The intellectual quality of the faculty (89%)
  - The quality of instruction in courses (64%)

- Students were somewhat less satisfied with the quality of academic advising; only 46% felt advising was excellent or very good
Satisfaction with Peers/Climate

- Most students (71%) rated the intellectual quality of their fellow graduate/professional students as excellent or very good.
- Most (80%) agreed or strongly agreed that, overall, the climate of their program is positive.
- Students were somewhat less satisfied with other aspects of the campus climate; specifically, only 42% said their student life experience was excellent or very good.
- Similarly, only 38% of students felt that the opportunities to interact across disciplines were excellent or very good.
Among students who sought guidance in matters of professional development, the majority were satisfied; specifically, most students were very or generally satisfied with:

- Advice they received on how to prepare for a job interview (78%)
- Assistance in developing professional contacts outside their program (70%)
- Advice on how to search for jobs (72%)
- Advice on how to prepare a resume/CV (78%)
Post-Graduation Plans

**Current state of employment plans immediately after finishing degree (N=437)**

- Employed/definite job offer in my field of study: 29%
- Employed, but not in my field of study: 3%
- Still seeking employment in my field: 47%
- Not seeking employment immediately: 9%
- Other: 13%
Post-Graduation Plans

- The majority of graduating students (59%) plan to stay in the Midwest
  - 49% plan to stay in Ohio
  - 99% plan to remain in the United States

- A large percentage of international student graduates (44%) plan to stay in the Midwest
  - 27% plan to stay in Ohio
  - 85% plan to remain in the United States
Post-Graduation Plans

How satisfied are you with your current employment options?

- Very Satisfied: 18%
- Satisfied: 22%
- Neutral: 31%
- Dissatisfied: 19%
- Very Dissatisfied: 10%
Overall Satisfaction

If you were to start your graduate/professional career again…*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Probably</th>
<th>Definitely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would you select CWRU?</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you recommend CWRU to someone considering your program?</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you select the same field of study?</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not
Would you select CWRU?

If you were to start your graduate/professional career again, would you select CWRU?*

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not; Ns do not sum to 1200 due to students pursuing degrees in more than one school
If you were to start your graduate/professional career again, would you select the same field of study?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>GRAD (N=541)</th>
<th>LAW (N=272)</th>
<th>MGMT (N=254)</th>
<th>MSASS (N=163)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probably</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<td>56%</td>
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Would you recommend CWRU?

Would you recommend CWRU to someone considering your program?*

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not; Ns do not sum to 1200 due to students pursuing degrees in more than one school.
Results from Respondents in the School of Graduate Studies
Introduction

- The next series of charts examines the overall satisfaction of students in the School of Graduate Studies, broken out by school of major
  - Overall differences by school
  - Satisfaction by school and gender
  - Satisfaction by school and minority status (for the purpose of this analysis, Caucasian and Asian students are considered majority, all other ethnicities are considered minority)
    - Due to the small number of minority respondents, we are only able to examine differences by minority status among students in ENGR and MED

- A small number of PhD students from WSOM, MSASS, and FPB responded to the survey

- These students are included in the ALL category but there was an insufficient number of respondents to examine school-by-school differences by gender and minority status
Would you select CWRU?

If you were to start your graduate/professional career again, would you select CWRU?*

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not
Would you select CWRU?

If you were to start your graduate/professional career again, would you select CWRU?*

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not

**p<.05
If you were to start your graduate/professional career again, would you select CWRU?*

*Response options: Probably, Definitely, Maybe, Probably not, Definitely not
Would you select the same field of study?

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Results from PhD Students
PhD students (N = 353) were asked to respond to a series of questions regarding their thesis/dissertation advisors.

Results on the next two slides highlight some results from these survey items.
The majority of students agreed or strongly agreed that their advisor:

- Is knowledgeable about formal degree requirements (83%)
- Serves as their advocate when necessary (92%)
- Gives constructive feedback of their work (90%)
- Has helped them secure financial support for their graduate work (88%)
- Promotes their professional development (86%)
- Provides information about multiple career paths (65%)
- Assists them in their search for employment (69%)
- Promotes appropriate authorship of manuscripts/presentations published about their research/creative projects (88%)
- Overall, performs the role well (86%)
Thesis/Dissertation Advisor

- PhD students felt their advisors were somewhat or very helpful in:
  - Preparing for written (77%) and/or oral (76%) qualifying exams
  - Finding a dissertation topic (90%)
  - Writing a dissertation prospectus or proposal (86%)
  - Doing research for the dissertation (89%)
  - Writing the dissertation (87%)

- Though students were satisfied with their thesis/dissertation advisor, the majority (79%) said they consider at least one other faculty member to be an informal advisor with over a quarter (26%) saying they had at least three informal mentors.

- Finally, 68% of students said that they would probably or definitely select the same thesis/dissertation advisor if they were to start their career again.
Conclusions

- Students are generally satisfied with their experience as graduate students at CWRU
  - Most students would choose CWRU if they were to start their graduate/professional career over again, and most would recommend CWRU to their peers
  - Students are generally satisfied with faculty, program climate, and their professional development
  - Students are, on average, highly satisfied with their thesis/dissertation advisor
  - Most students plan to stay in the Midwest upon graduation
Conclusions

- Though students are generally satisfied, there are aspects of the graduate student experience that could use improvement
  - Less than half of the students surveyed were satisfied with academic advising
  - Less than half of the students surveyed were satisfied with their student life experience
  - Just over a third of the students surveyed were satisfied with opportunities to interact across disciplines
Conclusions

- Among all respondents who are pursuing graduate degrees in the School of Graduate Studies, there are no significant differences in satisfaction by gender or by minority status.

- Gender differences exist among those pursuing graduate degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences:
  - Women in CAS are less likely to say they would choose CWRU if starting their career again.
  - Women in CAS are less likely to say they would recommend CWRU to someone considering their program.
Future Directions

- Today’s presentation is an initial look at results from this survey

- Types of questions asked but not yet examined
  - Satisfaction with campus services and resources
  - Financial support
  - Health insurance
  - Social activities
  - Campus safety
  - Parking
  - Differences by gender/ethnicity/school/degree/etc.

- Where do we go next?