

# Graduate EducationStudent Survey

## May 2009.5

### Results Overview



Date: 8/14/2009 12:31 PM PST

Responses: Completes

Filter: No filter applied

In recent years new admissions to the ORU Graduate School of Education programs have remained steady or slightly increased. However, the number of Grad students enrolling in courses has significantly declined. The purpose of the survey is to explore the possible reasons for this decline. In filling out this survey you will see several possible options describing why people are not enrolling in the classes. We want to hear your opinion even if your enrollments have not declined.

#### 1. Please select from the following reasons as to why you believe the enrollment has significantly declined:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Significant	Moderately Significant	Significant	Moderately Insignificant	Very Insignificant
1. Tuition increases have caused the program to be too expensive.	32 32%	33 33%	13 13%	18 18%	5 5%
2. There are not enough online classes.	15 15%	16 16%	19 19%	29 29%	20 20%
3. The quality of the education is not at the level that I had expected.	4 4%	4 4%	8 8%	20 20%	64 64%
4. The quality of the advisement is not at the level that I need.	9 9%	11 11%	12 12%	25 25%	43 43%
5. The quality of the administrative support is not at the level that I need.	10 10%	4 4%	17 17%	22 22%	47 47%
6. My personal priorities have changed.	12 12%	19 19%	13 13%	16 16%	39 39%
7. I have challenges with Oral Roberts University as a University as a whole.	3 3%	4 4%	8 8%	13 13%	71 72%
8. The quality of communication from the Graduate School of Education is not at the level I had expected.	12 12%	4 4%	8 8%	22 22%	52 53%
9. Others (please describe in the subsequent question).	24 33%	6 8%	6 8%	7 10%	30 41%

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Date: 8/14/2009 12:43 PM PST

Responses: Completes

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2. If you rated "others" as being a 1,2, or 3, please specify.	
#	Response
1	I am one of 23 doc students assigned to my chair. I have 4 other doc students whom I know have had significant issues trying to get feedback and assistance to get finished with the dissertation project. It seems the "church students and locals" get the help they need and the distance students get the shaft. We continue to pay tuition but get little to no progress on our research. It is extremely frustrating. We should outline the methodology, get approval, do the research, have the editors examine our work and then be done. When we get to chapters 4 and 5 and have to begin again because members have not had time to read our work, it is very discouraging. We cannot recommend the program to other professionals in our field, thus your enrollment declines and we are still paying tuition--- now for almost 7 years--- 2 of which have shown very little progress from the professors. I loved the courses and support prior to this period of time.
2	1. In this economic downturn, costs are being looked at. 6. Similarly, everything is being looked at.
3	I believe one factor may be the trend toward general declines in K-12 Christian school enrollment. To remain steady or slightly increase actually may be a significant achievement.
4	With the economy, I think for some, it can be difficult to invest in higher education.
5	I have two suggestions. The Graduate School of Education needs to work on their timely communication with their students and they need to offer more online classes.
6	The availability of specific classes at only certain times. There are a lot of modulars only offered in the fall (which for me happens to be the hardest time to come out because of the beginning of the school year).
7	This is a hard time in the economy. Even though many are satisfied with ORU, travel, lodging, plus the cost of classes, books, and food are more than people can handle. I think the Richard Roberts incident had a harming and shameful effect on the university. I don't know that this was communicated clearly enough with the distant learners. I was not equipped to answer people when they brought it up to me.
8	Many grad. students have to pay for their own courses, and this is quite a challenge.
9	If I am totally honest with you, I have noticed that in some of my classes, students in the program were, in my opinion, not prepared for what a doctoral program encompasses and were not students who should have even been in the program to begin with...ie writing and study skills, lack of background in research from their master's programs, wanting "easy" classes, just not of the quality for students I would feel comfortable having the same degree.
10	Even though you are in the middle of the country, for me you are too far away.
11	The courses are well-taught and challenging. However, the dissertation process is horrendous. No two faculty members have the same idea of what a dissertation should be. An advisor will tell a candidate that his/her idea and prospectus are great, only to hear that an administrator or committee member isn't satisfied. When help is sought, no clear-cut answers are given, plus it takes a several weeks to get an answer. Also, apparently no consideration has been given to what constitutes a dissertation for an Ed.D., since it's not intended to be a research degree. Why not have an Ed.D. project instead in which a candidate works with a school/district on a program? I won't recommend ORU's doctorate program because of this fault.
12	In my school I have several teachers that would love to enroll in ORUs graduate program, but between teaching in a Christian School and paying tuition it just seems unattainable. I had wanted to begin for several years and didn't have the funds. It would be great if we could give some sort of scholarships to teachers and educators of Christian Schools to try to equalize the two.
13	I am enrolled in a doctoral program at another university. The courses I take through the School of Education at ORU are only counted as electives or pre-requisites. In other words, it has never been my intention to continue enrolling in classes or seek a degree through ORU's School of Graduate Education. However, the courses and instructors that I have had contact with assure me that the quality of the program is excellent.
14	Right now I work 60+ hours most weeks. While the 1 course I audited was excellent, I could not justify spending dozens of hours on a lengthy paper.

15	I believe the negative press and the current economy are major players for many folks. Personally, I need the program to have more flexibility -- missing any part of a semester puts a student as much as a year behind in the program due to non-availability of classes.
16	It would be great if the grad ed. department could offer more scholarships to its grad students. There are many scholarships offered to undergrad students, but we don't get any (if there are any, it would be nice if those were made known to all students).
17	I think the professors/advisors are given too heavy of a load in regard to advisees and dissertation students to adequately meet the needs of all of them. Additionally, because we are adult students and have very involved lives and careers, it is important to be responsive, prompt, and available when we are able to fit dissertation work into our schedule. Because of our advisors' overwhelmed schedules, they are often not immediately available, and by the time they are able to meet and respond, my responsibilities have changed so that I am unable to work on things. It is terribly difficult to accommodate and mesh all our schedules to maximize productivity.
18	America's economic situation has produced financial burdens for many students, their families, and the schools which they lead.  Also the changes at ORU may cause certain students to delay enrollment until assurance is given that the school is remaining true to its founding purpose and mission.  Personally, I have enjoyed all of my classes and feel they are preparing me for something special in my future. I invest much money in my education at ORU and travel quite a ways to attend.
19	I may have overlooked or not experienced some of the issues that some students have experienced, but it appears that the same opportunities are not available to all students. It is disappointing to hear some of the experiences of my fellow students. More reasons are found to keep people out of the program than solutions to help them matriculate into the program. Possible – the marketing strategies need to be revamped.
20	Maybe the questions you are asking are wrong. Maybe you need to ask "Why are people who have invested so much not completing their doctoral program in a timely manner? Of the ones completing, who are they and who aren't they? Why do the distance ed students taking longer to complete than others? What is the level of support that is lacking to compare to other universities? What tasks do our chairs spend their time on, is that a productive use of time? How can we help the doc students finish? What are the doc students telling friends, peers, clients and community about ORU when it takes so long for professors to communicate with their students? How can ORU get the message out to the public and their doc students that they can compete with other quality universities in timeliness of completion and doc support.
21	The expense of travel and time is too much for the summer classes so there is no point in taking other classes if I cannot complete the summer requirement.
22	For me personally it has been due to personal health issue that I have not been able to pursue my studies in the way I would have liked. Tuition, of course, always plays a role too. But at the same time it is worth to work hard for something with high values. Apart from that I am just truly grateful for ORU!!!, e.g. my latest taken course with Dr. Boyd! BLESSINGS!!!
23	I think our entire nation is being affected financially, which is causing many families to prioritize by going back to basics in a lot of areas (especially finances). For me personally, I can't continue to accumulate debt for education, even if it's for a good cause. I have to plan to pay for my next degree without using loans and I think this is a major reason for the decline in graduate courses. It's not because of ORU or the quality of the education. It's just that people have to re-establish themselves financially, which puts graduated education on the "want to do list" and not as a necessity. Hopefully, the ORU administration will sincerely understand this re-prioritizing and make the graduate programs more affordable for those who have already committed to the programs, but is just having difficulty financing it. I personally have postponed my doctorate program until I find other means outside of loans. Unfortunately, it has taken a lot longer than I anticipated. I am happy with the ORU services and please know that the decrease in enrollment has more to do with what's going on in our country economically, than with the quality of the ORU education.
24	The two most significant issues in my view are (1) the costs of the class, textbooks and travel, and (2) the availability of the classes I need when I want to take them
25	Being a mom since 1 year has something to do with my lack of enrollment in courses, but lately I have also found that an American education will not be the most appropriate for me if I want to work as a teacher in my country of residence.
26	online courses should be encouraged and made available especially for international students who are desiring to

	continue school work with the university.
27	Some on the faculty seemed very arrogant and seemed to treat it like it was thier club and they would choose who they were going to let in...for example "if we dont like you you wont finish your program" was said from a faculty member to a class.
28	Financial need and lack of scholarships.
29	Christian Schools in the nation are under attack from many angles.
30	The economy is effecting enrollment in all private institutions. Our enrollment is down as well. Also, as life presents unforeseen challenges, adjustments must be made in order to maintain. I don't believe that the decline is a reflection of the quality of ORU's academic program. Continue to be encouraged.
31	The reputation is bad at the doc level. Current professors are overloaded, unresponsive and unprofessional. Word of mouth has spread.
32	1. Taking courses with undergrads is neither challenging nor enriching, specially for those who have work experience. 2. The modern teaching tools that one expects to see used in education were simply not there and presentations were basic in a profession where technology is integral. This means new grads are not entering the market at a competitive level and makes the transition into a reasonably well-equipped school difficult. 3. Since young teachers need to be well prepared, more information and instruction on getting the OK license might be needed. I would have appreciated it.
33	I believe that if more core courses were offered online this would assist in boosting enrollment. With the economy the way that it is and cost of tuition, distance learning is becoming more of a way to go with education even at the doctoral level.
34	Because of to much of work there is not enough of time for studies
35	My survey answers reflect what I hear from other students. My personal edcational experience in both the Undergraduate and Graduate Education programs has been very positive. The quality of instruction and advisement continues to be excellent.
36	I believe everyone is reprioritizing due to the economy's downfall and unfortunately that includes putting graduate education off as a priority until our finances and family are back in order. It doesn't have much to due with the quality of education at ORU, just the fiancial status of most people at this time.
37	<p>When a person is physically there and active in the program, they are a valued customer. Sad, but true, when things change, it's all business. There is no support system. That being said, my advisor never acknowledged me. He doesn't even remember me.</p> <p>I discontinued the program due to illness. As a result, ORU being a Christian based University, opened my eyes to the realization that I was only a number while paying tuition. I am disappointed that there was little or no follow-up, calls, emails, cards or Christian like loved extended during such a devasating time in my life from my "ORU Family," (with the exception of me contacting Dr. Boyd &amp; a couple of colleagues who reached out to me). It is my prayer that other students will receive communication, love and support as expected from Christians during similar situations(practice what you teach/preach).</p> <p>I could have received an academic foundation elsewhere, but wanted a Christian education accompanied by care.</p> <p>I do have plans to complete my degree, God willing. Ofcourse it won't be at ORU. I think I would have received better interaction from a secular university.</p> <p>I am grateful for this opportunity to share my feelings. I trust it will be positively received in a Christ-like manner. My words are only meant to be constructive and to be used for training purposes.</p> <p>I expected natural and greater sensitivity from the staff regarding navigating me back to ORU, student loan follow-up/assistance, or gernuine caring. Many faculty members were aware. My heart aches and I am dissappointed. I only wanted to know that someone cared, perhaps with a servant heart as taught. ORU promotes Christian education and caring. Students should not leave bitter. They should reccommend others to the program. Ask yourself, "Is this happening?"</p> <p>You should know your customers. You should not wait for a crisis, such as a decline in enrollment to care enough to send out a survry.</p> <p>Again, I am grateful for this tool to contructively vent/educate. It is well, with my soul. Continued blessings. Feel free to contact me.</p>
38	My friends have researched gradute school doctoral programs. They all agree that they prefer a program which requires either an oral comp or a written one, not both. Three friends have attended Argosy rather than Oral Roberts for this reason.I do not know if this applies to others.

39	Cooperation from other departments, such as financial aid (efficiency), library or lab (open hours), is lacking and quite frustrating.
40	Finding time for research/writing dissertation while raising family and being a principal is difficult. I would like to finish, but not sure if benefits outweigh costs for me at this time.

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