

GPSS Report
Graduate Program Review
Genetic Epidemiology Masters in Science
June 12, 2009

On May 29th, the University of Washington Graduate & Professional Student Senate had the GPSS Chief of Staff attend a 60 minute program review meeting with 4 graduate students in the Genetic Epidemiology (GE) Master of Science degree program. The program review was also attended by a peer committee, who facilitated and asked students questions pertaining to their program. This review evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the program from the perspectives of the Genetic Epidemiology students. This report summarizes students' feedback for consideration in the Graduate School Council's review of the program. This report also includes responses from 3 students on the UW Catalyst Survey.

Advising and Mentoring

- Students had 2nd year students mentor them throughout the program, and gave praise to Karen Edwards as an advisor.

Committees

- The process of finding a committee is straight-forward, and not difficult.

Career Services

- Students stated the GE program did not specifically perform career services tasks, and instead they received emails from the Graduate School and Global Health list servs, or the Career Center on campus.

Curriculum

- Students expressed concern about the delay of genetic epidemiology courses in their curriculum. They were worried about the fact they were not introduced to GE until their third quarter.
- There was one core course in particular they felt was irrelevant to their degree, but was told by Karen it was too late to revamp the course now for the next quarter.
- There was a great deal of praise for the epidemiology and biostatistics courses.

Progress

- Students felt there were making good academic progress and will graduate on time.

Satisfaction with the Program

- All of the students expressed a wish to have a PhD program.

Overview

Overall, the students were satisfied with their program. Many of the students did wish GE was provided as a PhD. Students also praised the interdisciplinary nature of the program, particularly the combination of biostatistics and epidemiology. Students also stated that they would recommend this program to others who are interested in statistics as well as the health field.