

UW-Whitewater College of Education
Graduate Program in Education Survey Results
April 27, 2006

Graduate Program Survey

The MS C&I task force requested more information about public perceptions of the graduate programs offered by the College of Education. A survey was conducted in the spring of 2006 asking respondents if they pursued graduate study at UWW and if so why they chose our programs. If they did not choose to do graduate study at UWW they were also asked where they went to graduate school and why they chose to study that institution. Those surveyed were asked for their suggestions on how to improve our program and if they wanted to be contacted about their answers on the survey.

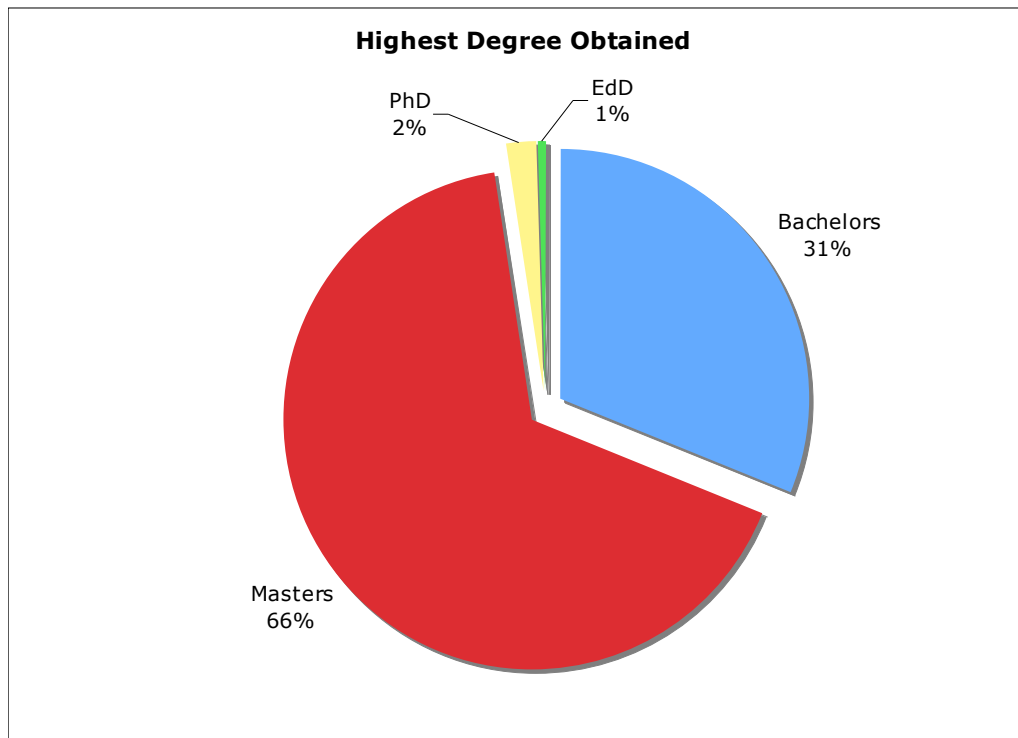
201 cards were completed. Survey cards were filled out by teachers taking one of three sections of CIGENRL 770 Supervision of Student Teachers (n=65), UWW alumni as part of a follow-up to the 2006 alumni survey (n=39), and current cooperating teachers (n=97).

The survey card asked for their highest degree obtained (Bachelor's Master's, PhD, EdD, MFA and "other").

Responses were:

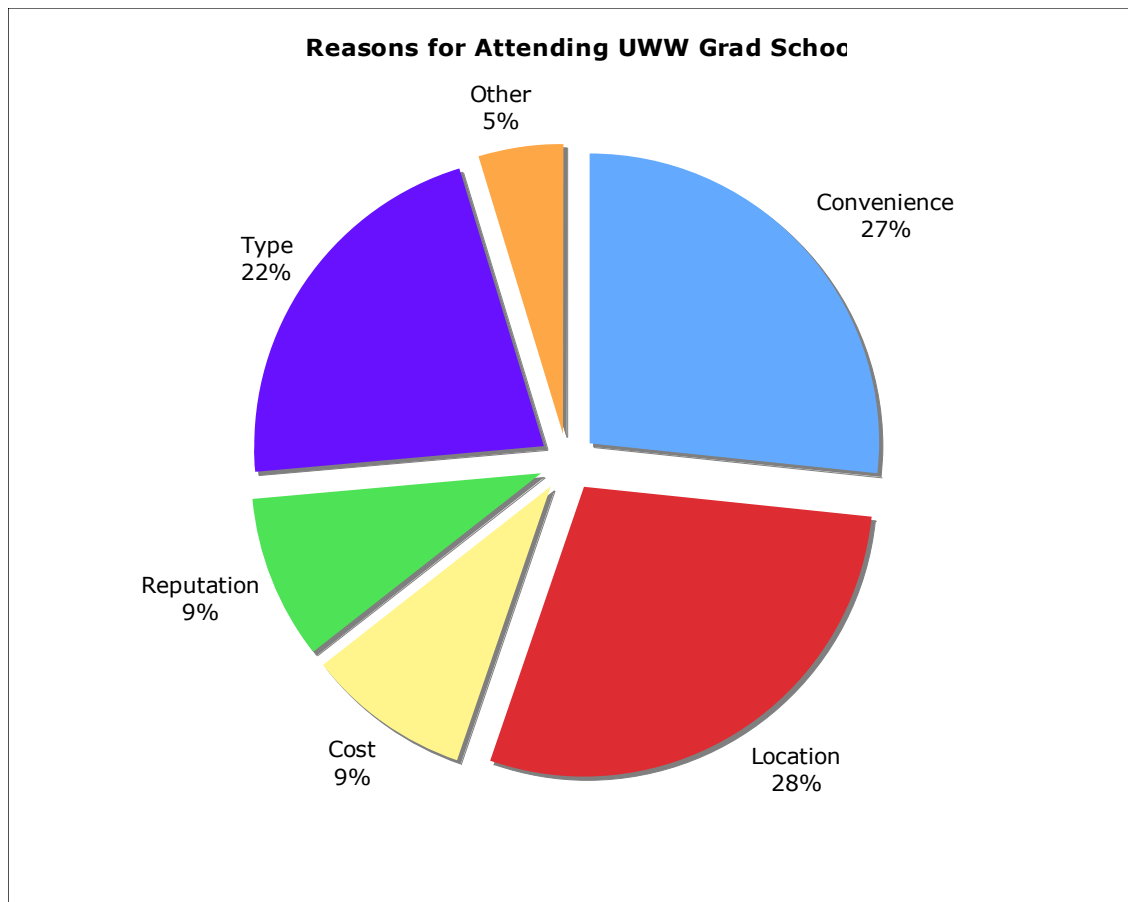
62	Bachelor's
133	Master's
4	PhD
1	EdD
0	MFA
0	Other
1	No answer on card

This translates to the following percentages:



Respondents were almost equally divided between those who had pursued graduate study at UWW (42%) and those who did not (58%). Three respondents checked “yes” and “no” and explained they had taken one or two courses at UWW but did not graduate with a degree.

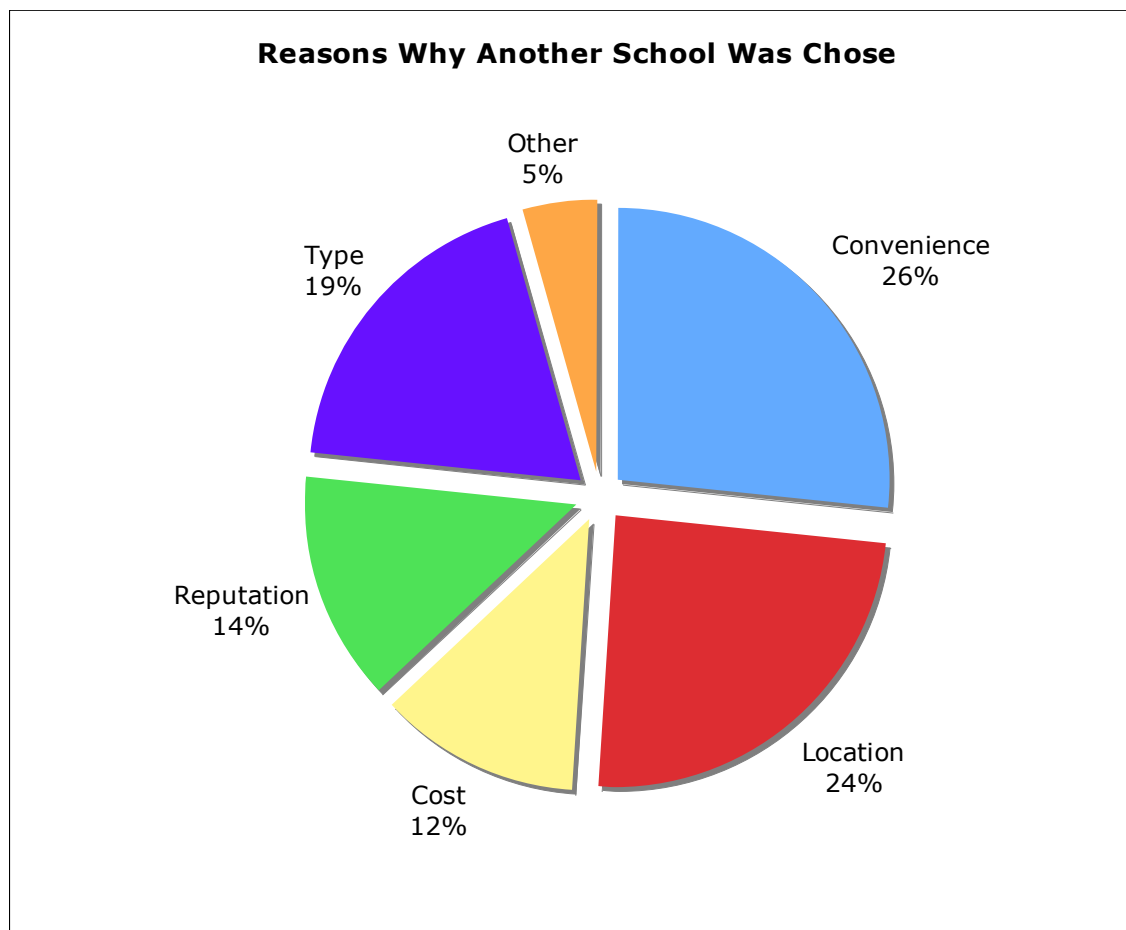
The top three reasons why respondents who pursued graduate study at UWW were convenience (27%), Type of degree offered (22%), and location (28%).



Respondents who did graduate study elsewhere were asked to list the schools they attended. Those who responded to this question and listed a school (n=96) named 30 different institutions. Schools named more than three times in the survey were:

Number of Times named	School
18	UW-LaCrosse
15	National Louis University
8	UW-Madison
7	Aurora University
6	UW-Milwaukee
5	Virterbo University
5	Cardinal Stritch University
4	Marian College

It is interesting to note that several of the respondents listed UW-LaCrosse's Learning Communities program for graduate study. There were many reasons why respondents indicated why they chose graduate study at other schools but convenience (26%) and location (24%) were the primary answers.



While there were relatively few comments, perhaps the most interesting part of the survey were the descriptive answers the respondents gave for reasons for attending and reasons for not attending UWW and suggestions to improve our graduate program in the future.

Descriptive reasons for attending UWW graduate school included:

- I needed to add a certification to my teaching license. Your program was the most accommodating. Fewer classes required.
- Type oft certification offered- elementary keyboarding
- The guidance and instruction of Dr. Anne Zarinnia and Prof. Schroeder is excellent!
- It's the college I received my B.S. degree from
- Cooperative program with Madison's Ed Admin Masters
- They always sent me great student teachers
- Got my bachelor degree at UWW and felt the education I received quality. I wanted that same quality for my Masters Program
- Availability of WSSLEC online program

Descriptive reasons for attending another university included:

- Practical Application to classroom
- (I was an) undergrad there
- (They) came to Fort Atkinson
- It provided a multicultural experience
- Offers most classes on weekends
- Accelerated program
- Learning Community Program, 1 Weekend a month
- Beloit Learning Community, BMHS

Suggestions to improve our graduate programs in education:

The following suggestions have been grouped into themes.

Advising issues

1. Solid Advising for undergraduate and graduate students.
2. Better advisors, who are better educated and aware of school policies and requirements and are more readily available.
3. Communication between advisor and student. My advisor has yet to contact me (1 year later). Calls and numerous emails have been sent to her. Also be more clear about procedures, no real support for Grad Students.
4. Informative counseling.
5. More practical application
6. None at this time, however, my concerns lie in my undergraduate experience

7. I had to make too many phone calls and be transferred to too many people just to get basic info about a grad program. I felt that the whole system was disorganized with that first impression and never pursued it past that.

Alternate scheduling and class formats:

1. Perhaps offer wider variety of on-line courses other than the online MBA.
2. Make it as accommodating as possible for teachers who are teaching full time. As few classes as possible.
3. Add more options for working teachers such as Gen. Ed. Cert. classes at night
4. I live in Milwaukee, I would be interested if there was a weekend program available
5. Offer more during the summer and in the evenings during the school year. Also, off-campus classes could be helpful
6. Convenience for working students.
7. Make more required classes available during the summer sessions
8. More online courses, they work for working adults
9. More online/distance education courses convenience
10. Location (I live in Fontana and work in Walworth).
11. They offered a 2 year program that met only on weekends during the school year and the site for all classes was my school.
12. Administrative program that can be completed at UWW without needing to go to Madison.
13. Location, convenience and timing to complete the program.
14. Offer off-site locations. Offer better or more flexible schedule.
15. More evening courses, even in summer.
16. Look into Learning Communities
17. Learning Community Style
18. Offer more graduate courses for a MSE on evenings and weekends
19. Keep offering off campus courses, they are great
20. Offer convenient locations and lower prices
21. re-evaluate the times of classes
22. Offer a great number of classes after June 10
23. Length of your program, classes only offered at certain times.
24. Extend the seven year limit on completion for full-time working teachers
25. Classes in summer after summer school 1pm-on.
26. Do what LaCrosse does, excellent program. (One weekend a month for 2 years. My capstone was my classroom project)
27. After flexible locations-not just in Whitewater, come to Milwaukee area
28. Continue offering a wide variety of courses and degree programs Possible outreach or off-campus programs in the Milwaukee area
29. At Aurora classes were held Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday for 2 weekends. Work was then mailed to professor 2 weeks after class. This was a huge benefit for working teachers. I did not want to be enrolled in a program that had class 1 time a week. Through Aurora I could take 2 classes per semester. Summer course lasted 1 week.

30. Online programs with full time job, It's much more convenient to meet on weekends with study groups or at night via online than to sit through courses.
31. Have local groups that meet off campus-they are critical
32. Outreach and accelerated (sic) format
33. Offer class off site
34. To earn my school administration degree, I didn't want to start at Whitewater, and have to finish at Madison
35. More courses offered both semesters as opposed to only 1
36. I would like the convenience of video courses
37. Seminar 1 or 2 day periods (1 hour) student teachers and classroom teachers discussing their experiences
38. Make them available in other cities/buildings (ie off campus classes)
39. Maybe have weekend grad classes off site in areas such as Milwaukee or Waukesha.

New program ideas:

1. Offer workshops/courses for other than credit?
2. Include English Education
3. In my degree, more direct training on working with at-risk students
4. More varied coursework. Now finding many repetitive coursework and field experiences; Ending soon Master's in reading
5. For MSE-Reading Program, a class in coaching (literacy coach) would be very helpful.
6. More reading instruction
7. Offer PhD
8. Offer advanced level education courses that focus on subject material rather than methods.
9. Return to the MEPD program
10. Continue to make them timely and relevant
11. would like to see PHD program-In reading, curriculum or administration
12. Offer ways for current teachers to obtain certifications in other areas
13. Add a graduate program for music education majors
14. Continue to offer Professional Development as a program.
15. Learning Communities are a fantastic way to get a Masters Degree. I'd like to do a PHD the same way.
16. Bring back the MEPD program
17. Offer PhD Program(s) in Education

Costs and funding:

1. Make students aware of grants scholarships and work with school districts to assist students to further their education, and help to eliminate his costs in order to do so.
2. Cost
3. Cost is another factor - many people earning a graduate degree already have student loans.
4. Lower prices

5. Lower the cost of classes
6. Cost
7. I'm not sure. I was happy with UW-Milwaukee's Master's Program, albeit expensive
8. Cost, vary classes and programs. Parking is terrible

Instructional issues:

1. Very disappointed with the quality of instruction in reading program. Professors need to spend more time in "real" schools
2. I personally think the reading program needs to be stepped up and current research taught and practiced
3. Improved organization of and quality of practicum experiences
4. Need special ed. Classes.
5. I graduated in 1984. Not sure what the program is doing now. Then: needed to be teaching more of what was in the "real world", and less "university world."
6. Student teachers in Comm. Dis need more knowledge of curriculum and integrating therapy into classroom curriculum

Kudos:

1. You are doing fine. I like the off-campus options.
2. Keep up the good work!
3. I preferred doing my graduate studies here than my undergraduate. I had wonderful professors.
4. I was very satisfied with my graduate program
5. I thought it was great
6. I had a positive experience with Jerry Schwenn in P.E.
7. It was great. UW-Whitewater has the finest reputation!
8. I enjoyed the convenience of taking classes at both Madison and Whitewater
9. I was pleased with my program when I took all my classes. Keep up with the quality!
10. Thought it was great. However, I had to wait a couple of years before my classes were offered

Other:

1. None-don't know much about it
2. I really can't say what the grad program is like, but I do appreciate the thoroughness of my undergrad degree.
3. Publicize programs more to individual schools

4. More department collaboration
5. Do not cancel classes after they are posted.
6. I have not taken enough classes to say. This is my first. So far, so good.
7. Never considered Whitewater, don't know much about it.
8. Credits should be easily transferred from any campus if it's the same university. Seems like UW-Milwaukee and Whitewater are 2 different universities because credits don't transfer
9. Can't say; I've never taken classes at Whitewater
10. I don't know enough about the current program (I graduated in 1980!) I could be referring new teachers to you however.
11. Not familiar with your programs
12. Work ethic and professional attitude need to be stressed. One doesn't automatically pass the student teaching experience
13. None at the moment-First student teacher from your program that I've worked with is doing well
14. Less hoops to jump through
15. As a co. operative teacher, I would have like to speak with a supervisor before our session began.
16. Tried to pursue Prek-6 degree and was denied, will go to Edgewood now!
17. Require a weekly report for interns and student teachers. It can be a reflection tool and a better means of communication between all participants in the program.
18. Keep standards high
19. I am perfectly satisfied with my practicum student and her supervisor
20. The program has prepared your students well. To plan/connect lesson to the state goals are very important. The portfolio is a good way for students to formulate their programs
21. It was so long ago (about 30 years) that what I would say would be too long ago to be valid.
22. I don't know because I haven't taken classes through UW-Whitewater
23. Many of the classes I took didn't help me in my jobs (teaching). Classes should be to make me a better teacher
24. My Master's from UW-Whitewater no longer exists. It was great for working teachers.
25. None, because I know nothing about it. I haven't taken any courses through your graduate program
26. Shorten the duration of student teaching but have students in their placement everyday. It is so hard for student teachers to follow evaluations/day to day events when they are only here 2 days a week.
27. I suggest having cooperative teachers to take a graduate class (3 credit) for free for every student teacher we host.