

Lab Review Survey conducted by the Caltech Graduate Student Council (GSC)

As part of the ongoing efforts of the GSC to provide a better quality of life and school environment to the graduate students at Caltech, a survey on life and student-advisor interactions in the lab has been conducted since 2001. All recent Ph.D. graduates and alumni who had graduated since 1991 are eligible to complete the survey. All survey responses are kept anonymous and data are only published when there are at least three surveys from different individuals on each advisor. The goal of the survey is to provide incoming students with a useful database about each division, each department, and ultimately each advisor, in order for them to choose a principal investigator and lab that would best match their needs and interests.

The lab review survey results are published in the order of the survey questions reproduced below, where we have also indicated the total number of respondents for each P.I. In subsequent pages of the survey results, we have used key words from each category to shorten the length of texts in the data sheets.

1. How long were you this P.I.'s advisee (in years)?
2. How available was your advisor when you wanted to meet with him/her (1=little, 5=very)?
3. Was your advisor hands off (1) or hands on (5)?
4. Was your advisor more inclined to support experimental work (1), theory and modeling (5) or both (3)?
5. How much freedom did students have to choose their own research project (1=little, 5=much)?
6. Did you have a thesis committee?
7. How much freedom did your supervisor give students to select faculty members for you to get your thesis done (1=little, 5=much)?
8. How effective was your advisor at laying out a plan of what needed to be done for you to get your thesis done (1=not very, 5=very)?
9. How much did you value the advice of your advisor, e.g. has great ideas, is a great troubleshooter? (1=little, 5=very much)?
10. How much mentorship did senior students and postdocs provide in the lab (1=little, 5=much)?
11. How willing was your advisor to support you, advocate for you and push for your advancement (1=not very, 5=very)?
12. How encouraging was your advisor about sending his/her students to conferences (1=not very, 5=very)?
13. How hard (1) or easy (5) was it for you to get the financial support for purchases you needed to pursue your thesis work?
14. How effective and fair was your advisor at resolving conflicts (1=not very, 5=very)?
15. How highly do you regard the personal ethic of your advisor (1=little, 5=very)?
16. How warm was the advisor/advisee relationship in the lab (1=not very, 5=very)?
17. How collaborative was the atmosphere of the lab (1=not very, 5=very)?
18. Did you graduate with a degree from the lab?
19. How many years did it take to graduate?

The following one page shows results for the P.I.s in the area of Applied Mechanics and Civil Engineering, listing data of the P.I.'s in alphabetical order by last name.

Last updated in August 2007 by the GSC academics committee (gscacad@caltech.edu).

Principal Investigator (PI)	John F. Hall	Thomas H. Heaton
Number of Respondents-----	4	5
# of years as this P.I.'s advisee-----	4.50	6.20
Availability of your advisor (1=little, 5=very)-----	4.25	4.80
Was your advisor hands off (1) or hands on (5)?-----	2.50	2.20
Your advisor's inclination: experiment (1), theory (5) or both (3)-----	3.25	4.00
Freedom to choose your own research (1=little, 5=much)-----	4.25	5.00
Thesis committee?-----	4Y	5Y
Freedom to select thesis committee (1=little, 5=much)-----	4.50	4.80
Effectiveness of your advisor on laying out a plan (1=not very, 5=very)-----	3.50	2.60
How much did you value your advisor's advice? (1=little, 5=very much)-----	4.50	5.00
Mentorship from senior students and postdocs (1=little, 5=much)-----	2.75	2 (3 N/A)
Your advisor's willingness to support/advocate for you (1=not very, 5=very)-----	4.00	5.00
Your advisor's encouragement for conferences (1=not very, 5=very)-----	3.50	3.80
Obtaining financial support for research purchases (1=hard, 5=easy)-----	4.25	3 (3 N/A)
Effectiveness and fairness of advisor at resolving conflicts (1=not very, 5=very)-----	4 (1 N/A)	5 (3 N/A)
Your regard on the personal ethic of your advisor (1=little, 5=very)-----	4.50	5.00
How warm was the advisor/advisee relationship? (1=not very, 5=very)-----	3.25	4.80
How collaborative was the atmosphere of the lab? (1=not very, 5=very)-----	3.75	4 (3 N/A)
Did you graduate with a degree from the lab?-----	4Y	5Y
How many years did it take to graduate?-----	4.50	6.60

For 1-5 scaled questions, average scores are given. Yes/no responses are given in # of yes, # of no.

A response which is blank or not applicable is marked "N/A"; the average score of the remaining responses is calculated and the number of "N/A" responses is given. "Co-adv" means co-advised by another P.I.