

# 2021 NASPA FACULTY SURVEY: APPLICATIONS, ENROLLMENT, AND FUNDING

Due to the pandemic, interest in graduate programs has varied across the country. In Summer, 2021 the NASPA Faculty Council with support from the larger NASPA organization disseminated a survey to program directors of Master's degree programs in student affairs and higher education as a way to assess trends and patterns of graduate school applications and better understand program delivery, size, and offerings.

We received responses from 84 institutions. Of these, 73% were from public, 4-year institutions and 27% from private, non-profit, 4-year institutions. The total enrollment of the institution

where programs were housed varied: 45% institutional enrollment over 20,000; 32% between 10,000 – 19,000; 13% enrollments between 5,000 – 9,999 and 10% under 5,000. Of those who participate in the survey, 56% were from programs that were in-person, 20% were hybrid, 16% were virtual, and 8% listed "other."

We asked participants to provide data on applications and sources of funding. These tables provide information on survey responses.

*Thank you for those who have participated in the survey and thank you to Alexis Wesaw and Jill Dunlap for their assistance with the survey. To our knowledge there has been no formal tracking of this information and we hope to continue collecting this data as a way to understand trends in graduate preparation programs.*

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ann Gansemer-Topf, Faculty Council Director at [anngt@iastate.edu](mailto:anngt@iastate.edu)*

**Tables 1 and 2** provide a comparison of the applicants, interview day attendees, applicants offered admissions, and applicants who accepted the offer of admission. **Table 1** provides the overall results; **Table 2** provides a breakdown by program type (i.e., in-person, hybrid, and virtual). You will notice that the mean number of students is lower for 2020-2021 than 2019-2020 for all areas and programs except for on-line programs where the mean number of applicants who accepted the offer of admission was the same for each year.

**TABLE 1**

Number of applicants, interview-days attendees, students accepted, and students admitted to higher education/student affairs programs, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

	Mean	Median	N
<b>This year (2020-2021)</b>			
Applicants to higher education program	50	40	85
Interview-days attendees	25	22	57
Applicants offered admissions	29	25	87
Applicants who accepted offer of admission and plan to enroll	19	15	89
<b>Last year (2019-2020)</b>			
Applicants to higher education program	57	45	80
Interview-days attendees	28	25	53
Applicants offered admissions	32	28	78
Applicants who accepted offer of admission and plan to enroll	22	20	83

**TABLE 2**

Number of applicants, interview-days attendees, students accepted, and students admitted to higher education/student affairs programs by program format, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

	In-person			Hybrid			On-line		
	Mean	Median	N	Mean	Median	N	Mean	Median	N
<b>This year (2020-2021)</b>									
Applicants to higher education program	60	43	52	28	25	17	32	18	8
Interview-days attendees	30	25	40	9	3	11	2	2	1
Applicants offered admissions	32	26	54	21	22	17	25	14	8
Applicants who accepted offer of admission and plan to enroll	19	16	56	14	14	17	24	14	8
<b>Last year (2019-2020)</b>									
Applicants to higher education program	67	56	49	38	34	17	35	25	7
Interview-days attendees	33	30	37	15	11	11	2	2	1
Applicants offered admissions	34	30	48	28	30	17	28	15	7
Applicants who accepted offer of admission and plan to enroll	21	22	52	21	19	17	24	14	7

**Table 3** illustrates the primary sources of funding by program type. For in-person programs, the Division of Student Affairs is the largest source of funding; for hybrid and on-line programs, students (self-pay/self-funded) are the largest source of funding. **Table 4** illustrates that between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, 10% of institutions saw an increase in number of paid assistantships, 42% experienced no change, and 35% decreased. These percentages vary by program type.

**TABLE 3**

Primary sources of funding for graduate students, by program format

	All		In-person		Hybrid		On-line	
	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.
Department	17%	17	22%	13	5%	1	19%	3
Division of Student Affairs	56%	58	71%	42	45%	9	25%	4
College	18%	19	19%	11	15%	3	13%	2
Institution	39%	40	37%	22	45%	9	44%	7
Self-pay/Self-funded	55%	57	41%	24	70%	14	75%	12
Other	14%	14	15%	9	15%	3	6%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>16</b>

**TABLE 4**

Change in the number of paid assistantships from before the pandemic to now, by program format

	All		In-person		Hybrid		On-line	
	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.	Pct.	Freq.
Increased	10%	10	10%	6	10%	2	6%	1
Stayed the same	42%	43	49%	29	40%	8	25%	4
Decreased	35%	36	36%	21	35%	7	25%	4
N/A—program does not offer assistantships	14%	14	5%	3	15%	3	44%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>