

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
tired of taking classes	1	2	3
constant pressure	1	2	3
wanted a break from school	1	2	3
didn't have the broad background I thought a doctoral student should have before entering graduate school	1	2	3
felt my academic background was too weak	1	2	3
didn't have enough confidence	1	2	3
I was too shy	1	2	3
felt inadequate to Ph.D. standards	1	2	3
failing prelims shook my confidence	1	2	3
lost confidence as graduate school progressed	1	2	3
I wasn't creative enough	1	2	3
no home support for being in grad school	1	2	3
no emotional support from family, friends, and others	1	2	3
socially isolated in personal life	1	2	3
health problems	1	2	3
other _____	1	2	3

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please write any final thoughts or comments below or on the back of this sheet. Do you have suggestions for how to improve the environment for graduate students in the EECS department?

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
I felt like an outsider in my research group	1	2	3
no peers to discuss my work with	1	2	3
pressure to publish	1	2	3
other _____	1	2	3

IV. Personal:

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
I realized that I didn't need a Ph.D. in EECS for the career I wanted	1	2	3
realized I didn't want an academic career	1	2	3
wanted to get work experience	1	2	3
summer/coop job led to work much more exciting or cutting-edge than my Berkeley research	1	2	3
the economy improved, so I could get a job in industry	1	2	3
I could have the same or better research possibilities in industry without all the other requirements (prelims etc.)	1	2	3
saw friends leave, who then made much more money and had more personal time	1	2	3
couldn't decide on a general research area	1	2	3
outside activities were more interesting and rewarding	1	2	3
wanted to get on with my life	1	2	3
disliked being split between an outside job and school	1	2	3
had trouble balancing personal and school life	1	2	3
wanted to be near family elsewhere	1	2	3
I was homesick	1	2	3
difficult to manage a long-distance relationship with my significant other	1	2	3
wanted to live elsewhere	1	2	3
disliked work hanging over my head and having no time off	1	2	3

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
few good role models among the more senior students	1	2	3
didn't see senior students get jobs I would be interested in	1	2	3
problems with housing	1	2	3
problems with transportation/parking	1	2	3
problems with crime and safety	1	2	3
other _____	1	2	3

III. Research/Advisor:

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
could not find a research project	1	2	3
couldn't get into the research group doing the work I was interested in	1	2	3
could not find a match on the faculty for my research interests	1	2	3
was unexcited by my research topic	1	2	3
the focus of my research group shifted to an area of little interest to me	1	2	3
lack of guidance from advisor	1	2	3
my advisor didn't provide any specific timeline for progress	1	2	3
my advisor was uncaring about students' professional development	1	2	3
my advisor expected too much grunt work (not enough research content in the work)	1	2	3
my research area was marginal to my advisor's core interest	1	2	3
my advisor and I didn't get along	1	2	3
my advisor was hard to work with	1	2	3
my advisor never encouraged me or complimented me	1	2	3
my advisor discouraged me from getting a Ph.D.	1	2	3
my advisor didn't treat me with respect	1	2	3
my advisor left or didn't get tenure	1	2	3

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
classes were too difficult or too much work	1	2	3
frustrating trying to get credit for classes I took at other schools or in other areas	1	2	3
changing research group/project to improve the situation was too difficult	1	2	3
not enough financial support	1	2	3
always had to TA to support myself	1	2	3
problems getting integrated in first year (no office/copy card/workstation)	1	2	3
no one to help students to clarify requirements and deadlines	1	2	3
little or no respect from other students	1	2	3
little or no respect from faculty	1	2	3
little or no respect from staff	1	2	3
a particular professor made my life miserable	1	2	3
a faculty member discouraged me from getting a Ph.D.	1	2	3
unencouraging treatment of students by faculty	1	2	3
hostile atmosphere	1	2	3
competitive environment	1	2	3
impersonal atmosphere	1	2	3
combative discussion style	1	2	3
professors encouraged a pressure-filled atmosphere	1	2	3
students encouraged a competitive atmosphere	1	2	3
disliked having to prove myself all the time	1	2	3
bad office situation	1	2	3
friends in other EECS Ph.D. programs were treated much better	1	2	3
bias against racial/ethnic minorities	1	2	3
EECS department was unsupportive/unaware of issues of women students	1	2	3
uncomfortable with skewed ratio of men to women	1	2	3
senior grads seemed bitter and unhappy	1	2	3

My main reasons for choosing Berkeley were:

it was the best program I was accepted into	
it had faculty with whom I wanted to work	
it has a great reputation	
geographic area was good for my significant other	
it was the only school I applied to/was accepted into	
liked the Bay Area	
liked the atmosphere of the EECS department at Berkeley	
wanted a change from my undergraduate school	
friends recommended it to me	
it was the most affordable school I got into/gave the best financial support	
it had the best research facilities	
other _____	

To what extent did the following affect your decision to leave Berkeley? (Please rank from 1 to 3 where 1 means it was a major factor, 2 means it was a contributing factor, and 3 means it was not a factor.) Indicate the most important factor by circling the item.

II. Berkeley environment:

	major factor	a factor	not a factor
did not pass prelims	1	2	3
did not pass qualifying exam	1	2	3
my G.P.A. wasn't high enough to continue for the Ph.D	1	2	3
prelims were intimidating	1	2	3
process of finding an advisor difficult at Berkeley	1	2	3
too many hoops to jump through to get the Ph.D	1	2	3
degree took too long	1	2	3
too many classes required	1	2	3

Did you have fellowship support? Number of years _____	yes	no
Did you have parenting responsibility while at Berkeley? If yes, who had the primary responsibility for the children's care? (circle one) myself the other parent shared	yes	no
Did you have a specific, firm area of research interest when you started? If yes, did you end up working in that area?	yes	no
Did you pass all of your prelim requirement?	yes	no
Are your present career goals related to EECS research and/or teaching?	yes	no
What is your career now? _____		
Have you received a Ph.D. in EECS elsewhere?	yes	no
If not, do you still intend to get a Ph.D. in EECS?	yes	no
Have you pursued an advanced degree in another field after leaving Berkeley EECS?	yes	no
Are you happy with your decision to leave the Ph.D. program at Berkeley?	yes	no
Who was your advisor? (optional) _____		

Please rank all reasons that apply with “1” being the most important reason. If an item does not apply, mark it with an “X”. You may duplicate a number if you can’t decide between two choices.

My main reasons for deciding to pursue an EECS Ph.D. were:

fascinated by the subject	
important to my family	
wanted to be a professor	
prestige of the Ph.D. degree	
wanted to prepare myself for research in EECS	
default next step after undergraduate school	
to enhance my earning potential	
to improve my career opportunities	
didn't like work in industry	
other _____	

Please answer every item. If you think an item is ambiguous, feel free to write in what you mean by your answer. Some questions may appear redundant; they seek to distinguish details.

I. Background Information:

Please list undergraduate and graduate institutions you attended. If this format is not appropriate, please describe your background.

Institution	Years attended	Degrees (if any)	Date of degree	Major area

Regardless of what you said on your graduate school application, how sure were you that you wanted a Ph.D. when you started at Berkeley?	sure 1 2 3 4 5	not sure 5
When did you enter Berkeley for the graduate program? _____		
When did you leave? _____		
If there were gaps in your stay at Berkeley, please list the months and years you were here. _____		
Did you obtain a graduate degree from Berkeley before you left?	yes	no
How many years did you take off between undergraduate and graduate school? _____		
Are you male or female?	M	F
Are you in an ethnic/racial group under-represented in EECS?	yes	no
Were you an international student?	yes	no
If yes, did your visa allow you to get a job in the U.S.?	yes	no
Was your undergraduate school significantly different from Berkeley in style? (i.e. small, rural, single-sex)	yes	no
Do you believe your preparation for graduate school was non-traditional?	yes	no
Do you think that you were as well-prepared academically for EECS graduate school as the other people who started with you?	yes	no
While you were in EECS graduate school, were you married or in a long-term relationship?	yes	no
If yes, for how many years of graduate school? _____		