

## Results of GPSA Alumni Survey Conducted February 2005

Total alumni to date: 13  
Total responses to survey: 9

### Question 1.

Indicate the year of graduation for one or both officially completed GPSA degrees.

	PhD major	PhD minor	MS major	MS minor
2003	-	-	67%	11%
2004	11%	-	11%	-

### Question 2.

Please indicate how well the GPSA program prepared you for success in your current position.

Prepared me very well	Prepared me well	Prepared me adequately	Prepared me weakly	Did not prepare me at all	I can't answer this question
34%	11%	22%	11%	22%	-

### Comments offered under question 2.

“The curriculum provides a broad understanding of many issues surrounding sustainable agriculture, yet students are also able to "drill down" into more specific areas as they see fit. I appreciated the flexibility of the program in that respect. Also, the "systems" approach is proving incredibly useful in my professional AND personal life. It helps me understand the complexities of situations and helps me think through potential solutions.”

“I also had previous life and work experiences that prepared me as well. I found the GPSA program to be a very well suited for a career changer like myself.”

“Given my previous background and professional experience, I feel that the program prevented me from devoting more time to my actual educational needs. I had to take several courses (the core courses) that did not add significantly to my knowledge. I strongly feel that I would have benefited more from my stay at ISU if I had more time for independent studies.”

**Question 3.**

Please indicate the extent to which your current position fits the following definition: “a career that contributes to agricultural sustainability.”

My current position clearly fits this definition	My current position fits the definition to a good degree	My current position fits the definition somewhat	My current position fits the definition poorly	My current position does not fit the definition	I can't answer this question
56%	-	22%	-	22%	-

Comments offered under question 3.

“I resumed my job at an agricultural research institute in Brazil, and was given the coordination of a statewide program on agroecology, comprising research, research/development and development projects. All projects are oriented towards (more) sustainable agriculture.”

“It was a bit difficult to find a job that fit exactly with the definition, especially with my geographical constraints. But, nearly everyone that finds out about my involvement with GPSA is very interested. I think it will take a little time before the industry has job descriptions that fit exactly.”

“I currently work as an Lab Technician for a scientist at the National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory. The major focus of this lab is water quality and the prevention of erosion through best management practices. I also work with the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute - they've developed a program model that tracks a farm's Active Organic Matter, Total P and Total K over time based on their past and predicted crop rotations and amendments. So I've been working with farmers and further developing the Organic Matter Budgeting Model.”

**Question 4.**

Is your current position the same as the first position in which you were employed or working after or upon graduation of the program?

Yes	No	I am not sure
67%	22%	11%

**Question 5.**

Indicate the fit of your first position after graduating from the GPSA program with the following definition: “a career that contributes to agricultural sustainability.”

My first position clearly fit this definition	My first position fit the definition to a good degree	My first position fit the definition somewhat	My first position fit the definition poorly	My first position did not fit the definition	I can't answer this question
50%	-	50%	-	-	-