

Appendix B – GSS NFR Debriefing Survey Questions

As part of the methodological research on the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS), NSF is interested in learning more information about how the institutions define and identify doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers (NFRs), other than postdocs.

We have a few questions that we would like to ask you about the NFR data you reported to GSS.

- A1. Does your organizational unit have a commonly used definition for doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers, other than postdocs?

Yes (*go to A2*) No

- A2. [IF YES] What is the definition?

- A3. Please see the job titles below and provide additional job titles for the research staff employed in your organizational unit.

Check the job title used to identify NFRs and provide any additional criteria used to report NFRs by each applicable job title.

	Job title	Check if this job title applies to NFRs	Comments or Additional criteria Used
A4a	Research scientist (any level – Principal, Senior, Full, Associate, Assistant)		
A4b	Research associate (any level)		
A4c	Research assistant		
A4d	Visiting scholar or fellow		
A4e	Postdoctoral fellow or researcher		
A4f	Instructor (any level)		
A4g	Research investigator		
A4h	Other research staff – specify job title:		

- A5. How did you determine who is to include in your count as a NFR (a nonfaculty doctorate-holding researcher, other than a postdoc)?

A6. Below is a table showing how you reported NFRs for your organizational unit.

Doctoral degree type	Men	Women	Total
Number of nonfaculty researchers with a professional degree (such as MD, DVM, DO, or DDS)			
Number of nonfaculty researchers with a doctoral degree (such as PhD, ScD, DEng)			
Number of nonfaculty researchers with both a professional degree and a doctoral degree (such as MD-PhD, DVM-PhD)			
Number of nonfaculty researchers with doctoral degree type unknown			
Total nonfaculty researchers (sum rows A-D)			

a. Did you have any difficulty in reporting doctoral degree type for the NFRs?

Yes (go to A6b) No (go to A6c)

b. [IF YES] What were the difficulties involved in reporting NFRs' doctoral degree type?

c. Was it clear that the only professional degrees to be reported in the first doctoral type category were the doctorate-level professional degrees?

Yes No

[IF 2010 NFR # GTE (2009 NFR # * 1.15), GO TO SECTION B; OR ELSE GO TO SECTION C]

B1. It appears that the number of NFRs at your institution has increased significantly in the past few years. Your institution reported:

- <2009 NFR #> NFRs in 2009
- <2010 NFR #> NFRs in 2010
- <2011 NFR #> NFRs in 2011
- <2012 NFR #> NFRs in 2012

Has the definition and/or process you use to identify NFRs changed in the past few years?

Yes (go to B2) No (go to B3)

B2. [IF YES] Can you please explain what has changed? *Please check all that apply.*

- B2a. More units were added that employ NFRs [ONLY FOR COORDINATORS]
- B2b. NFR identification process was changed, e.g., pulling information from a central database
- B2c. Institution adopted new definitions for NFRs
- B2d. Other changes – please specify _____

B3. Can you explain the relatively large increase in the number of NFRs your institution reported in 2010 from 2009?

[IF 2010 NFR # IS GT 2010 POSTDOC #, GO TO SECTION C; OR ELSE GO TO SECTION D]

C1. In 2010, you reported: <2010 NFR #> NFRs compared to <2010 POSTDOC #> postdocs.

Is it possible that your institution may have included some postdocs in the number of NFRs in 2010?

Yes No

C1a. [IF YES] What are some of the difficulties your institution may have in reporting postdocs separately from NFRs?

C1b. [IF NO] Can you provide any information that may help explain the higher number of NFRs than postdocs at your institution?

[IF ZERO NFRS REPORTED, GO TO SECTION D]

D. Your school reported data on postdocs, but did not report other nonfaculty doctorate-holding researchers.

D1. Do you know whether your school has other nonfaculty doctorate-holding researchers (NFRs)?

Yes (go to D2) No (go to D3)

D2. [IF YES] Why were you unable to report the NFRs?

D3. [IF SCHOOL HAS GTE 40 POSTDOCS] Most schools that report postdocs also report having NFRs. Although your institution reported <2010 POSTDOC #> postdocs in 2010, you did not report any NFRs. Can you provide any information that might be helpful to explain the differences?
