

STUDENTS' SURVIVAL RATE AT THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

This study is a brief analysis of the survival rate of students taking up MSIT from NEUST Graduate School. This was conducted in August 2020 to determine students' survival trend while at the same time probing on the possible factors underlying such trend as basis for planning.

Specifically, this was conducted to determine 1) the survival trend of students enrolled in the program, and 2) the reasons behind the trend, as well as to identify appropriate course of action that may be recommended based on the results of the analysis.

Survival rate was computed based on Cohort's computations, which is T1 over T2 multiplied by 100 while the data for the second objective were taken from the participants responses to the question "Why did you not continue your MSIT studies".

Participants in the study were students enrolled for the first time in the program from 2015 to 2019. They were purposively chosen on the basis of their not continuing their MSIT course. Out of the target 175 students, only 70 or 40% responded to the e-mailed interview question. This 70 officially became the respondents of the study.

FINDINGS

1. The survival trend of MSIT Students from 2015-2020

Analysis of the survival rate of students enrolled at the MSIT program from 2015 to 2020, based on Table 1, proved to be low as indicated by an average of 76.71, albeit the increasing trend from 72.22 in 2015 to 81.63 in 2019. The figures indicate that not many of those who enrolled in the program were able to complete it within the course of the 3 years they are expected to have finished their masters.

Table 1. *Summary table of MSIT Survival Rate*

2. Reasons for not continuing with MSIT

As was mentioned earlier, while the trend was going up, the fact still remained, 76.72 percent is not a good indicator of survival.

To determine the possible reason behind it, the respondents were asked if they continued their studies elsewhere, and if they did not, to cite their reason or reasons for not continuing. The result was as follows:

15 or 21.43 % shifted to and graduated from another course not related to information technology.

18 or 25.71 % admitted they just intentionally earned 29 academic units to qualify for promotion

22 or 31.43% admitted they find conceptualizing thesis for MSIT very difficult they could not move on.

15 or 21.43% sited financial concern as reason for not continuing their studies.

It was also discovered along the course of chitchatting with the respondents that the 15 who shifted course and the 18 who just earned units were teaching at Dep ED. The fifteen decided to take MAT VTE instead as it was more aligned to their current profession, while the 18 just used the units they earned to get promoted at work.

| SY | AY MSIT Survival Rate Enrolment | | Rate |
|-------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| | Current year (T1) | 3 Years back (T2) | |
| 15-16 | 26 | 36 | 72.22 |
| 16-17 | 21 | 29 | 72.41 |
| 17-18 | 23 | 30 | 76.67 |
| 18-19 | 25 | 31 | 80.65 |
| 19-20 | 40 | 49 | 81.63 |
| | 27 | 35 | 76.72 |

Those who admitted they find conceptualizing a research project for MSIT difficult on the other hand proves that there is a need to guide the students more in terms of researching along their discipline; while the responses of those who encounter financial difficulty proves that not all who are seeking advance higher education can afford its price, an indicator that even the GS students need financial assistance like those provided in the undergraduate.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the following are thus concluded.

1. The survival rate of students in the MSIT program needs improvement.
2. Majority of MSIT students have various excuses for not completing their courses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are therefore laid out based on the conclusions of the study.

1. The GS may consider development and implementation of a policy to ensure students enrolling in any GS program shall complete their respective courses.
2. The MSIT may consider developing its own research agenda and may create a possible pool of research concepts where students can choose research topics from.
3. The GS, through its students' services may consider finding ways and means by which a financial assistance program may be provided for students doing their thesis and dissertations.