

# Faculty Satisfaction Feedback (2016)

## Grant Assist Program, Social Sciences & Humanities

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The [Grant Assist Program \[GAP\]](#) is an initiative of the Office of the Vice-President (Research), begun in 2011 for CIHR researchers. Support specifically targeted for researchers in the social sciences and humanities [SS&H] was initiated in the spring of 2013. The goal of the [SS&H GAP](#) is to support researchers applying to the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \[SSHRC\]](#), and to improve the caliber of grants submitted. The SS&H GAP offers peer review feedback processes, private mentoring, bridge funding, capacity-building workshops, information panels, grant editing, research assistants, access to sample successful grants and an extensive archive of grant-crafting resources.

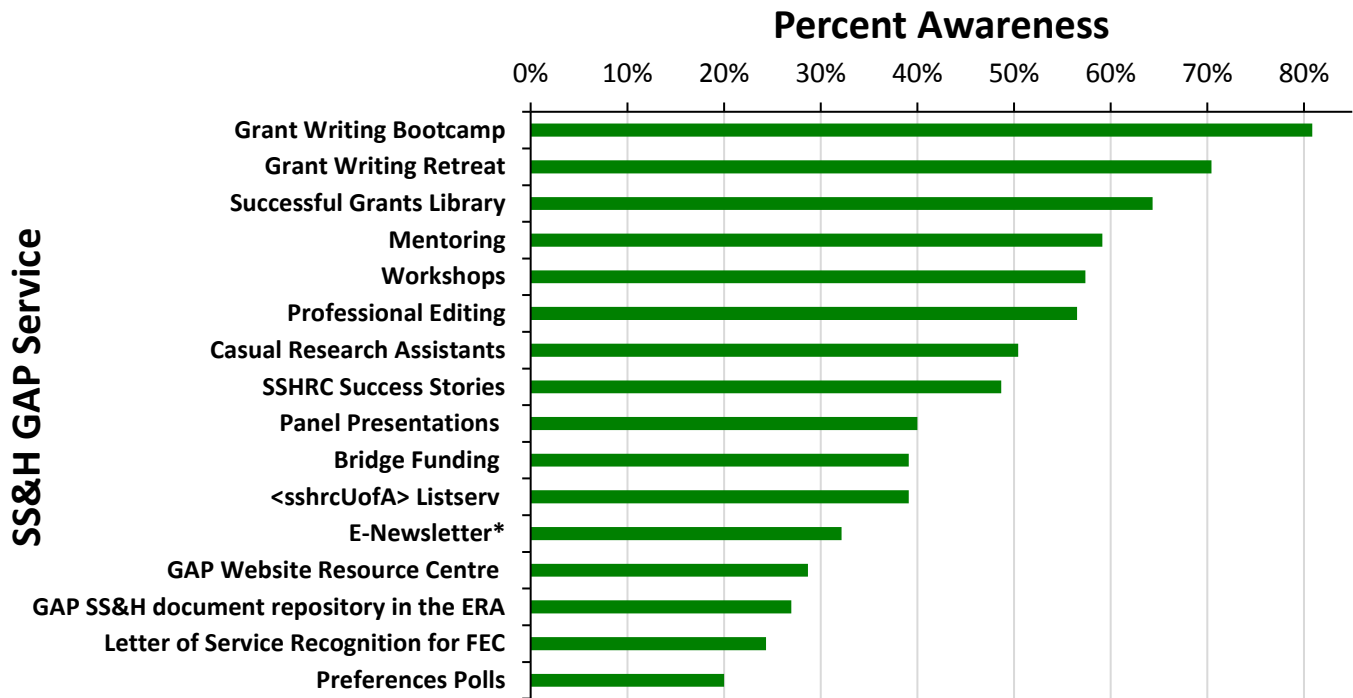
This document summarizes responses to a survey conducted in late Fall 2016. The purpose of the survey was to continue to evaluate the SS&H GAP (Fall 2015 – 2016) and to monitor changes in uptake of the program since the [2015 survey](#). The survey was sent to 710 continuing faculty members who have had any contact with the SS&H GAP since 2013. 115 responses were received [16% response rate]. Strong satisfaction with and support for the program and the director are indicated. Suggestions for improvement include support for French language applications and improved access to professional editing.

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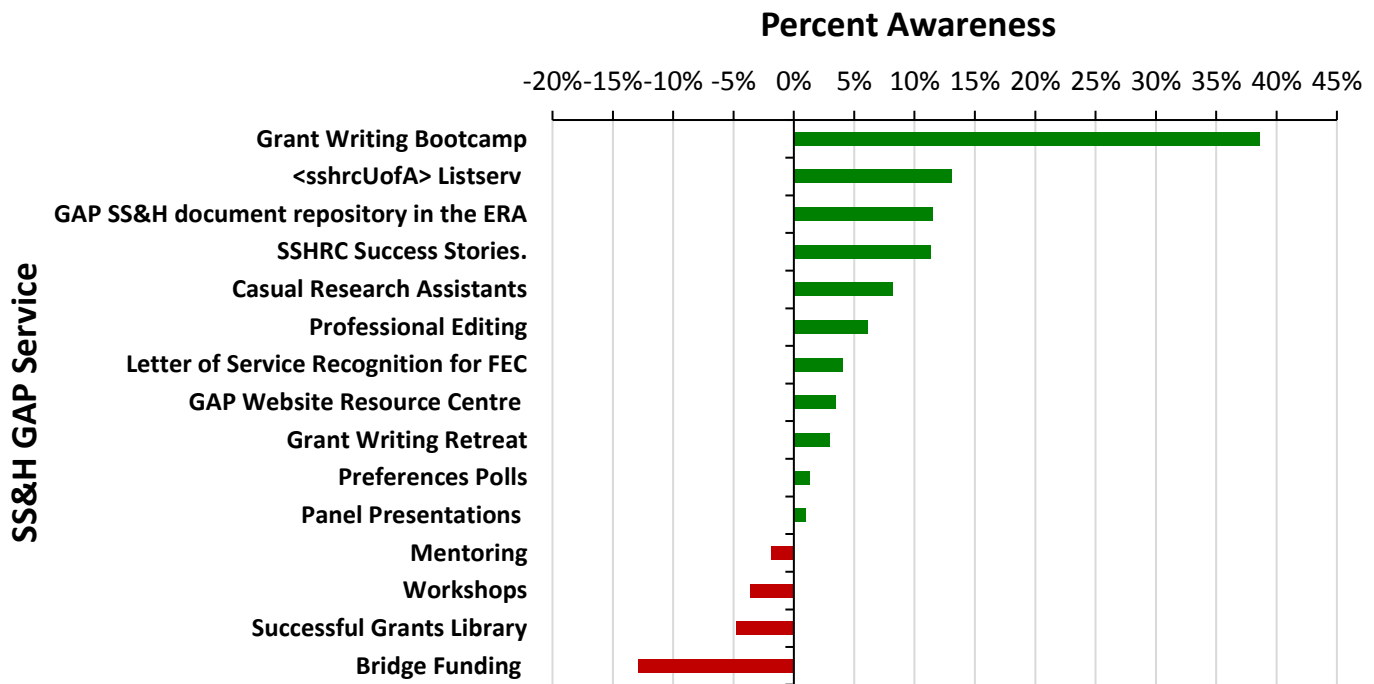
Section 1: Awareness of the Range of GAP Services

Figure 1a: Awareness of SS&H GAP Offerings for 2016



\* E-newsletter new for 2016

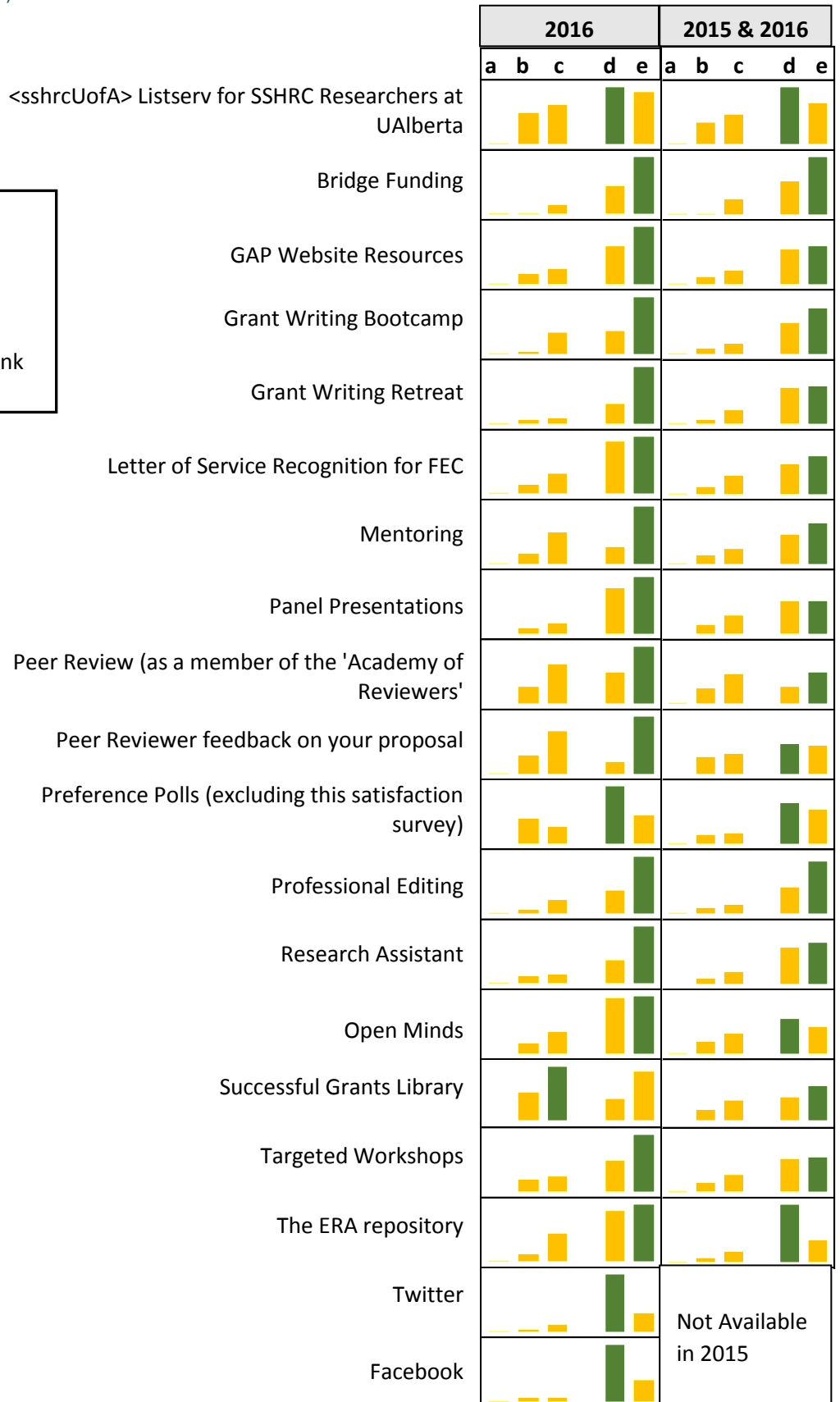
Figure 1b: Change in awareness of SS&H GAP Offerings from 2015 Survey to 2016 Survey



## Section 2: Satisfaction with GAP Services

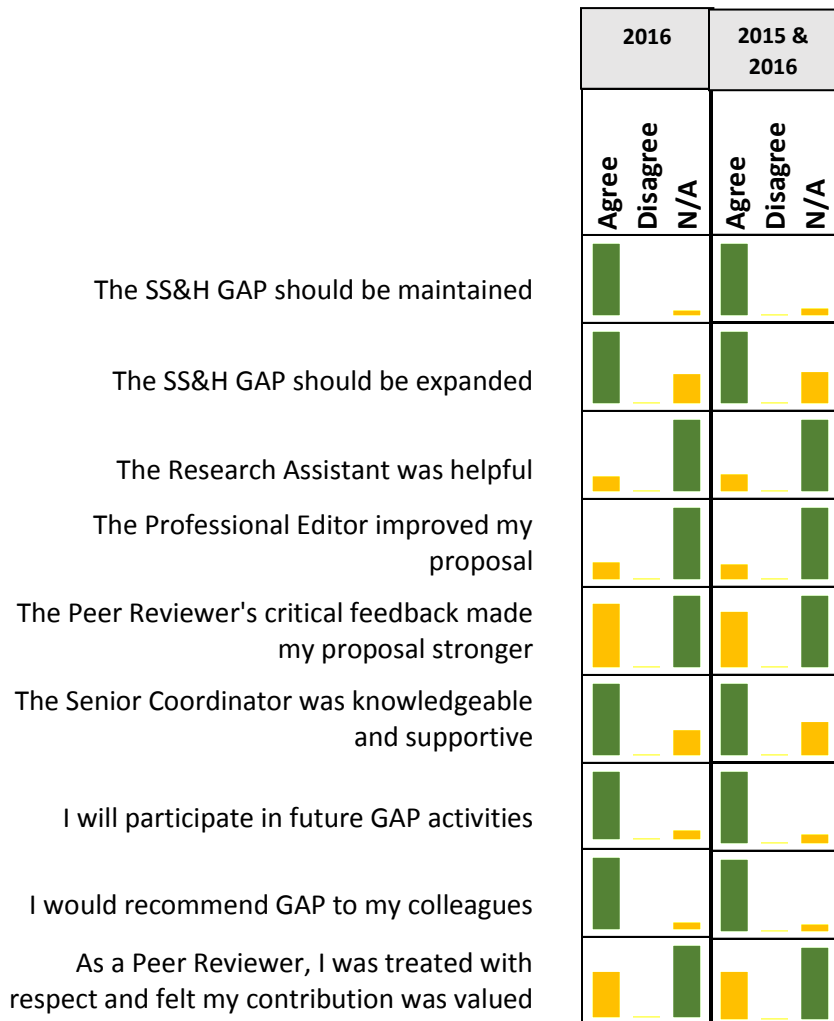
Figure 2: Most Recent Year (2016) and Cumulative Satisfaction with GAP SS&H Services

**Legend:**  
**a** = Dissatisfied  
**b** = Satisfied  
**c** = Highly Satisfied  
**d** = N/A (did not access this)  
**e** = Did not access this, but think it's worthwhile



### Section 3: Opinions Regarding the GAP SS&H Key Services

Figure 3: Opinions of GAP SS&H Key Services



### Section 4: Narrative Feedback

Respondents were asked to comment on any aspect of the Social Sciences and Humanities' Grant Assist Program (SS&H GAP). Analysis was performed on 50 comments received from 115 total survey respondents. Bullet points (●) highlight and paraphrase specific comments. The percentage of mention is shown followed by the number of mentions in square brackets. Comments are listed from highest to lowest mention.

#### The SS&H GAP Initiative – 54% [27]

- Great program and I think it enhances the ability of researchers to achieve success with SSHRC.
- I recommend the GAP program regularly to Faculty colleagues.
- I cannot say enough about how appreciative I am for the supports offered by GAP. I feel really supported by the GAP program and can honestly say that the positive feedback and support I get from the program keeps me hopeful and motivated to keep applying for grants.

### **SS&H GAP Peer Review Process – 26% [13]**

- Reviewer's Perspective:
  - I strongly recommend that there is some acknowledgement of reviewers such as course release for serving on committees.
  - Biggest issue is that many applicants work only to the deadline and do not submit the best possible applications for review.
  - I felt my expertise was not well matched to the proposal.
- Applicant's Perspective:
  - The peer review was very helpful, timely and encouraging. I think it made a very important difference in the success of my application.
  - More attention for reviewer selection and guidance as to what is important for review.
  - More people could benefit by taking advantage of peer review.

### **The SS&H GAP Director – 22% [9]**

- I can't speak highly enough of the work that Heather is doing for SSHRC applicants.
- Heather Young-Leslie's support, since stepping into this role, has been crucial to my success.
- Speaking with Heather made me feel 100% less intimidated about applying to SSHRC.

### **Expanding Support of the SS&H GAP – 16% [8]**

- The University should continue and expand this program.
- Services should be offered in French.

### **SS&H GAP Events – 12% [6]**

- The SSHRC IG Bootcamp was a terrific program. A must for new (and experienced) SSHRC grant writers.
- I would like to see more funding for SSHRC Bootcamps.
- Open Minds 2016 is a great idea.

### **UofA Support of SSHRC Research – 10% [5]**

- Concern with UofA expectations for humanities researchers to seek and fund significant salary of Research Assistants.
- UofA Faculties are inconsistent in understanding the needs of diverse arts and humanities scholars, which contributes to sending confused messages to professor-applicants as well as SSHRC.
- Social sciences and humanities researchers need to be allowed more time to expend to research in order to be successful.
- The UofA needs to see the value of short-term sessional instructors and address the imbalance with tenure/tenure-track academics who can apply for funding, teaching relief and research/teaching assistants.

### **SS&H Research Assistants (RAs) – 6% [3]**

- Help from the RA was invaluable.
- Access to RAs should be expanded.

### **SS&H GAP Editing Service – 6% [3]**

- Need for grant editors with more expertise in the field.
- More resources for access to editors is needed.

### Miscellaneous Comments – mentioned $\leq 2$ times

- The Grant Library was wonderfully helpful.
- I'd like more information on Facebook.

### Section 5: Demographics of Survey Respondents

Respondents were asked to volunteer information as to their main faculty affiliation and duration of employment at the University of Alberta. 94% of the respondents provided their demographic information.

Figure 4a: Response by Faculty

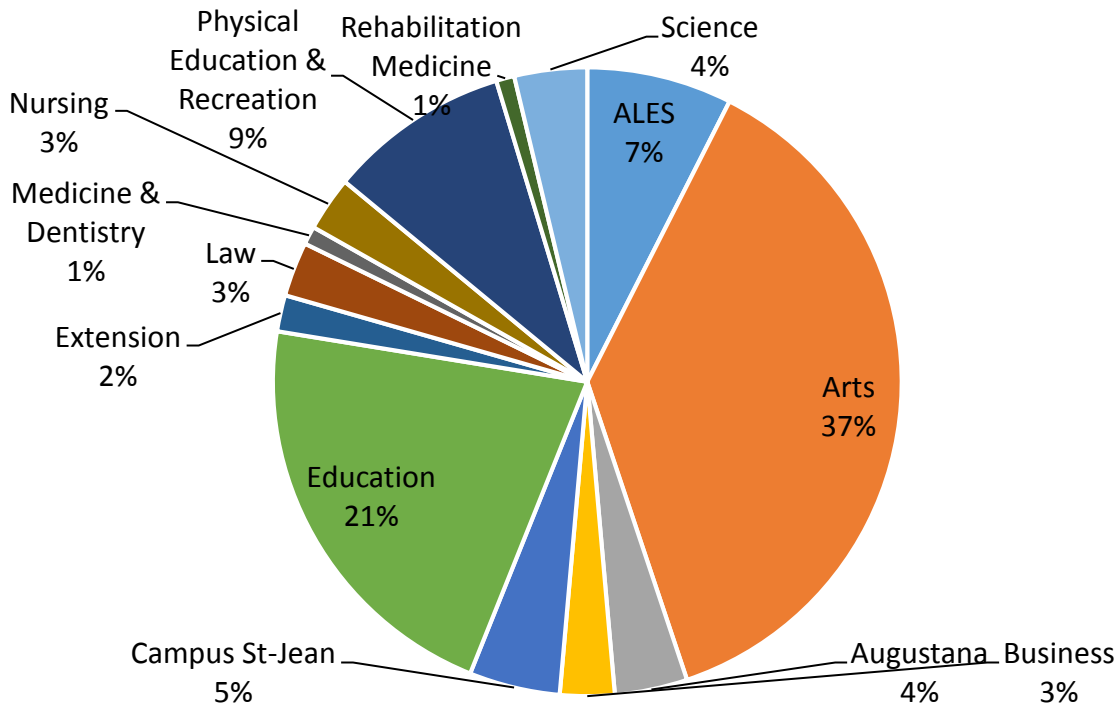
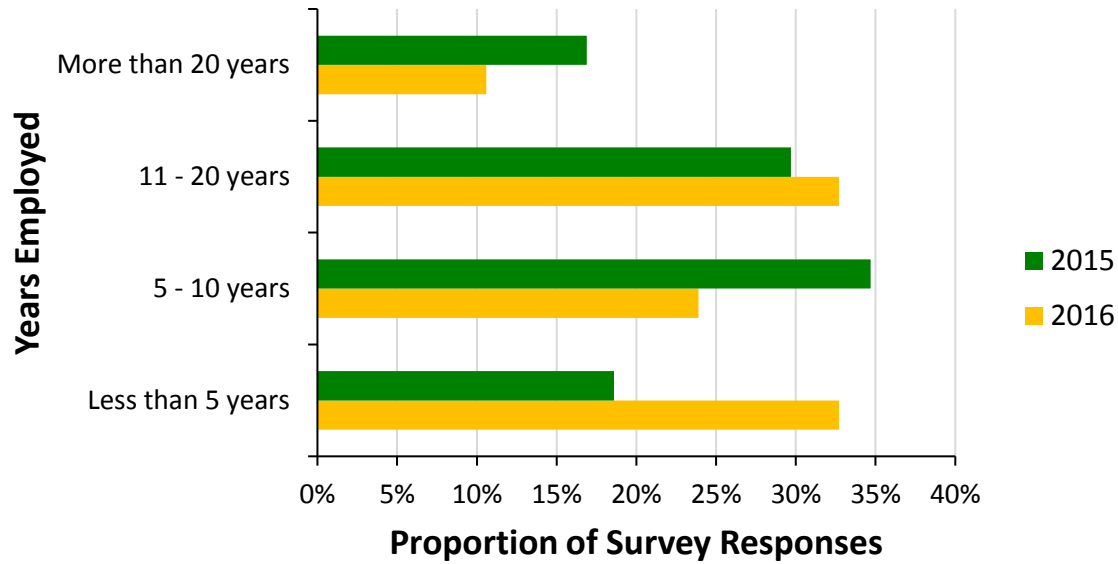


Figure 4b: Employment (years)



Section 6: Appendix

Service	Detailed Examples or Description
Mentoring	One on one strategy meeting with the GAP's Director; post-results detailed review of a failed application; detailed written/email correspondence about your proposal.
Workshops	CCV-Bees
Bridge Funding	Partnership LOI preparation grant; GAP bridge funding
Panel Presentations	SSHRC Adjudicators Debrief
Open Minds 2016	Celebration of SSHRC research
<sshrcUofA> Listserv	Email distribution list for SSHRC Researchers at UAlberta
GAP Website Resource Centre	Tips on grant success, budget-crafting, etc
Preferences Polls	Re: workshops, retreats, application support needs, etc
GAP SS&H document repository in ERA	Document repository in the ERA documents housed in the Libraries' Education and Research Archive