Completion and Attrition in STEM Master’s Programs

CGS Annual Meeting

December 8, 2011

Nathan Bell
Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Council of Graduate Schools
Project Overview

- Sloan Foundation-funded
- Launched November 2010
- Builds on CGS’ work on Ph.D. completion

Goals:

- Collect and analyze completion and attrition data
- Understand reasons for enrolling, factors contributing to completion, promising practices
- Assess need for larger project
Awardees

- Loyola University Chicago
- Purdue University
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Texas A&M University
- Wright State University
Research Partner Activities

- Obtain IRB approval
- Submit program characteristics templates
- Survey Graduate Program Directors
- Host site visits
  - Focus groups & meetings with university personnel
- Survey master’s students:
  - entering, graduating, stop-out/drop-out
- Submit completion and attrition data