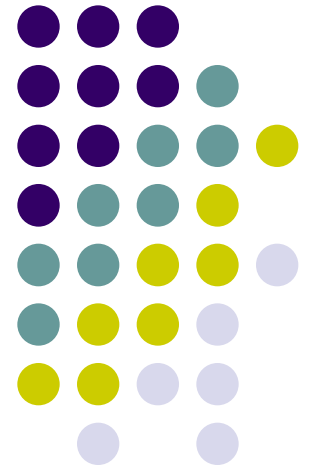




# PIPELINES TO GRADUATE EDUCATION

## Combined Bachelor's + Master's at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico

Mimi Pabón, Dean of the Graduate School



2011 CGS  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

# Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico Facts



- Located in the heart of the financial area of **San Juan** is a private, non-profit institution of higher education
- **Nation's largest private, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) specialized in Engineering and associated fields**
- Academic Offering: **Engineering, Architecture and Business Administration**
- **5,000 active students:** 4,300 undergraduate and 700 graduate (Master)



# Combined Bachelor's + Master's

- Objective:

Provide talented undergraduate students the opportunity to complete a maximum of 12 credit-hours in graduate courses while pursuing the bachelor's degree

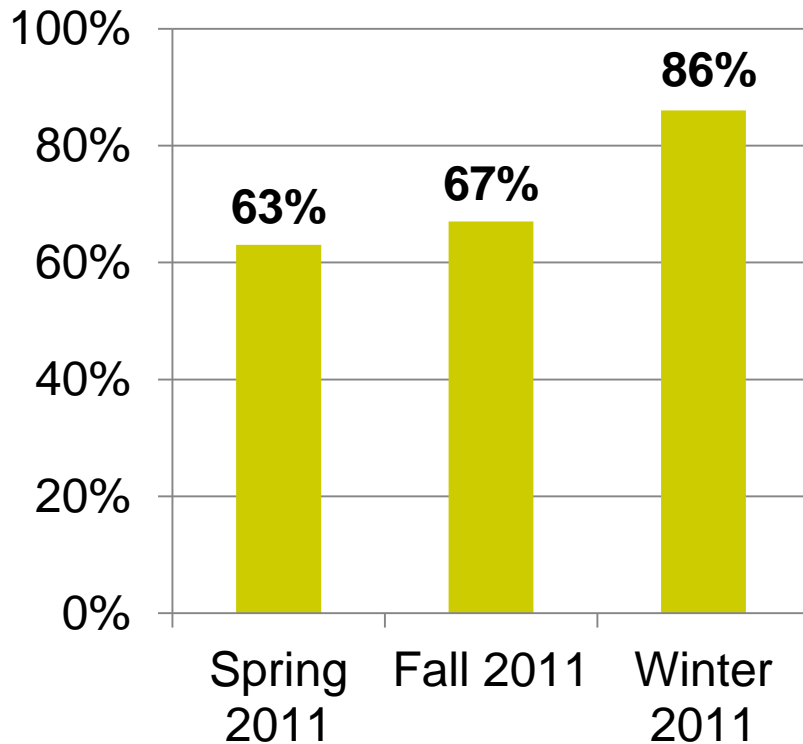


# Combined Bachelor's + Master's

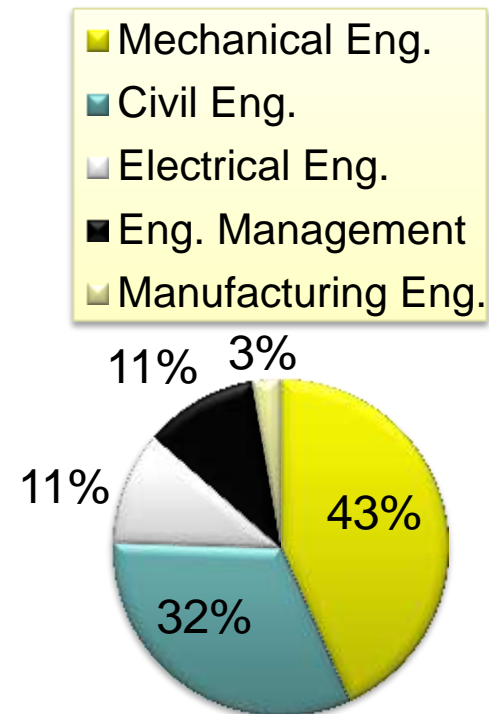
- Requirements:
  - Honor students (GPA  $\geq$  **3.25**)
  - Approve a **minimum number of undergraduate credit-hours**
  - Permission from the Undergraduate Program Director and Graduate Program Coordinator
  - Approval of the Graduate School Dean
- Graduate courses count towards the bachelor's degree (**not a dual program**)
- Financial Aid covers the tuition of graduate courses

# Demographics - Last three terms

### Admissions by Term



### Active Students by Program



# About the Challenges...

## Recruiting

- Graduate Program Coordinators and Undergraduate Department Heads are **key persons**
- **Flyers, banners, presentations**
- **In-house advertising** (benefits, mentoring)

New

## Retention

- **Early** academic mentoring
- **Graduate faculty awareness**
- Financial aspect
- Obtaining good grades



# Future Plans

- Decrease the **number of approved undergraduate credit-hours**
- More active *in-house* advertising
- Dual master's degree (**Business + Engineering**)



# The Path to the Ph.D.

- Identify **excellent** students **HIGH**
- **Connect them** with faculty **MEDIUM**
- **“Tell the truth”** **HIGH**
- Visit to the campus **LOW**
- Challenges:
  - The **“GRE challenge”**
  - Personal and professional commitments
  - Understanding **cultural aspects**
  - The **“At least two per year challenge”**

