PIPEDINES TO GRADUATE EDUCATION
Combined Bachelor’s + Master’s at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico

Mimi Pabón, Dean of the Graduate School
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 ≥ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>86%</td>
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Active Students by Program

- Mechanical Eng. 43%
- Civil Eng. 11%
- Electrical Eng. 11%
- Eng. Management 3%
- Manufacturing Eng. 32%
About the Challenges…

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

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