Completion and Attrition in STEM Master’s Programs
Loyola University Chicago

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Project Team Members

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Summary of Presentation

➢ Brief Overview of Loyola and Graduate Programs
➢ Reasons why Graduate Students Choose Loyola
➢ Most Influential Information Sources
➢ Highly Rated Institutional Characteristics
➢ Degree Completion and Time-to-degree data.
➢ Initial Project Impact and Successes.
➢ Initial Project Challenges
Brief Overview of Graduate Programs

- Mission focus: social justice, ethics, and expanding knowledge in the service of others.
- Total Enrollment: 16,040
- 6184 Graduate & Professional programs, 1,494 graduate students (726 doctoral and 768 Master’s).
- 27 Ph.D. programs, a Doctorate in Bioethics, and 47 master’s programs.
- More than 600 graduate faculty members located across three campuses.
Demographics

- 68.5% Female
- 4.8% International
- 5.8% Hispanic
- 8.6% African-American
- 5.6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 11.9% Race Unknown
Core STEM Programs meeting Project Criteria

- Medical Sciences
- Computer Sciences
- Math & Statistics
- Social Psychology
- Community Counseling
- Master of Business Administration

- STEM-related programs: Political Science, Criminal Justice, Sociology
- Other STEM: Biomedical Sciences, biology, chemistry.
Top 4 Reasons for Applying to Loyola

- Personal enrichment
- Prepare for new job in current field
- Interact with Classmates & Networking
- Required License/Credential/Certification

Source: Graduate Admissions Student Survey, Fall 2010. Loyola University Chicago, GPEM.
Most Influential Information Sources

• Loyola Website
• Meeting with a Faculty Member
• Campus Visit

Source: Graduate Admissions Student Survey, Fall 2010. Loyola University Chicago, GPEM.
Highly Rated Institutional Characteristics among newly-enrolled students

- Convenience of Campus Location
- Overall Academic Reputation
- Career & Job Placement
- Flexibility of Program

Source: Graduate Admissions Student Survey, Fall 2010. Loyola University Chicago, GPEM.
Percent Degree Completion

- 78% of Loyola’s master’s student complete their degree within 3 years.

- CORE STEM PROGRAMS:
  - Medical Sciences: 93%
  - Computer Sciences: 69%
  - Math & Statistics: 74%
  - Social Psychology: 100%
  - Community Counseling: 83%
  - Master of Business Administration: 76%

Source: LUC Graduate School Data Base
Average Time to Degree (months)

- All Master’s Programs: 24 months
- CORE STEM PROGRAMS
  - Medical Sciences: 9 months
  - Computer Sciences: 22 months
  - Math & Statistics: 19 months
  - Social Psychology: 25 months
  - Community Counseling: 21 months
  - Master of Business Administration: 30 months

Source: LUC Graduate School Data Base
Initial Project Impact and Successes

- Significant buy-in from graduate program directors.
- Fairly good survey response rates.
  - Newly-enrolled students: 60%
  - Graduating MBAs (Fall): 55%
  - Incentives
  - Repeated reminders
  - Information on flat screens campus-wide
Initial Project Challenges

- Coordinating project activities (focus groups, surveys, GPD meetings) across three campus.
  - MBA quarter system.