Initial Impacts of CGS’ Project on Completion and Attrition in STEM: Loyola University Chicago

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Summary of Presentation

- Overview of Graduate Programs
- Graduate Student Demographics
- Preliminary Results from Study
- Initial Institutional Impacts
- Examples of Enhanced Masters Programming
- Future Directions
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 students (1,576 graduate students (605 doctoral and 971 Master’s)).
- 28 doctoral programs, a Doctorate in Bioethics, and 47 master’s programs.
- More than 600 graduate faculty members located across three campuses.
Graduate Student Demographics

- 47% Female
- 6.3% African-American
- 5.5% Hispanic
- 8% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.7% American-Indian/Alaska Native
- 9% International
- 1.5% Multiracial
- 9.1% Ethnicity Unknown
Core STEM Programs meeting project criteria

- Medical Sciences
- Computer Sciences
- Math & Statistics
- Social Psychology
- Community Counseling

Other STEM & STEM-affiliated programs included in analysis

- Biomedical Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Sociology
- Political Science
- Criminal Justice
- Public Policy
- Women’s & Gender Studies

Humanities Programs

- English
- History & Public History
- Philosophy
- Theology
Preliminary Findings on Degree Completion

Fig 1: Percent Students Who Graduated in 3-Years

- 2000-2003: 69%, 61%, 49%
- 2003-2006: 77%, 59%, 55%
- 2006-2009: 79%, 64%, 71%

STEM, STEM-Related, Humanities
Preliminary Findings on Time-to-Degree

Fig. 2: Average Time to Degree Completion for Loyola Master's Students by Program

- **STEM**
  - 2000-2003: 25 months
  - 2003-2006: 17 months
  - 2006-2009: 17 months

- **STEM-Related**
  - 2000-2003: 29 months
  - 2003-2006: 27 months
  - 2006-2009: 26 months

- **Humanities**
  - 2000-2003: 33 months
  - 2003-2006: 29 months
  - 2006-2009: 25 months
Preliminary Findings on Attrition

Figure 3: Two-Year Attrition in STEM and Other Master's Programs at Loyola: 2000-2003 & 2006-2009 cohorts

- Biomedical Sciences: 18% (2000-2003), 8% (2006-2009)
Initial Institutional Impacts

- Significant buy-in from graduate program directors
- Good response rates on newly-enrolled and graduating student surveys
- Launched renewed emphasis on master’s education:
  - Enhanced master’s level programming
Examples of Enhanced Master’s Programming

- Partial Tuition Waivers
- Research
  - Research Experience for Master’s Students (REMS)
  - Research Incentive Award for Graduate Students (RIAGS)
- Mentoring
  - Master’s Students Paired with undergraduate students in the Achieving College Excellence (ACE) program
  - McNair Scholars
- Professional Development Workshops.
  - Skills development: project management & professional writing
  - Writing Tutoring Program.
- Fine-Tuning Data Tracking System: GSPS
  - Development of Key Performance Indicators
Future Directions

- Benchmark master’s programming with national data and best practices.
- Developing guidelines for online master’s programming.
- Considering scaling up annual review of student progress.
- Community mentoring program for master’s students: math tutoring, literacy program.