Matching Program Mission to Student Goals in Master’s Education

Council of Graduate Schools
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Panelists

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Dr. John Pelton, Boise State University
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Council of Graduate School information

- 90% of post graduate degrees are master’s level degrees
- Students demanding that the “degrees be career oriented, affordable, and accessible”
- “Many employers are now choosing to hire graduates of master’s programs”
Graduate Degrees awarded (US) in 2007-08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Master’s 488,133</th>
<th>Doctorate 55,962</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RU/VH</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RU/H</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doc/Res</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: CGS Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1998 to 2008
Case study: California

- One of the largest economy in the world
- Demographics predict changing demographics in the US
- 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education
  - UC = primary academic research institution with Ug., Grad and Professional education.
  - CSU = Ug. & grad education through the Master’s degree.
  - [http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/welcome.html](http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/welcome.html)
Observation:

Since 1950, the California State University System has experienced steady growth in the number of Master’s degrees granted. The CSU in general has not solicited the increase in graduate education at the Master’s level.
% Total CSU degrees as Master’s
# CSU Master’s degrees by ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer. Indian</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Amer.</td>
<td>1859</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Amer.</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Latino/a</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6999</td>
<td>40.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2375</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident alien</td>
<td>2361</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bureau of Labor Statistics

2004-2005 Occupational Employment Projections by Daniel E. Hecker

- 18.9 M new jobs
- 6 M of the growth will occur in the Professional & related sector:
  - 1.756 M Health care practitioners
  - 1.740 M Educators, trainers, library
  - 0.967 M Computer & Math Sci
Ideas for consideration:

- Observed increase in Master’s degrees with little institutional cultivation.
- Student and employer demand appear to be driving the increase.
- Considerable job growth in the next 10 years will be in the “knowledge worker” sector.
Consider:

- What would be the result of actively cultivating Master’s degree programs?
- The CSU case is a focus on Master’s degrees as terminal degrees.
- Can Research I and Doctoral-granting institutions grant Master’s degrees as terminal degrees as well as bridges to the Ph.D.?
Overview of Panelists’ contributions

- Consider the Canadian model of master’s degrees first; sub-set continue to doctoral work. Completion rates data.
- What do students in master’s programs say about their degree “outcomes” by discipline.
- What are guides to effective practices in master’s granting institutions?
References

2. CGS 2005 Report
3. UC Office of the President: http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/welcome.html