



Communicating the Importance of the Master's Degree

PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Master's education is the fastest growing and largest component of the graduate enterprise in the United States. As such, the opportunity to pursue a master's degree should be accessible to all.
- ▶ Graduate education, including the master's degree, is a public benefit that produces a highly skilled and competent workforce that meets the needs of local communities, and state and national economies. From school counselors to computer and information analysts, their jobs affect our everyday lives. Master's degree holders help protect our data security, provide essential services in the healthcare professions, are valued public-sector workers, and support innovation in American companies.
- ▶ The nation's education and healthcare systems are particularly reliant upon professional workers with a master's degree or graduate certificate.

PRIORITIES

- ▶ Advance equitable policies that attract and support a broad array of students pursuing master's education to build a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled workforce.
- ▶ Support federally funded programs that increase educational and research opportunities for master's degree students.
- ▶ Robust and sustainable funding for master's level-education programs funded by the Department of Education and other federal agencies (DOE-Office of Science, NEH, NIH, NSF, etc.).

RATIONALE

- ▶ Master's education is the fastest growing and largest component of the graduate enterprise in the United States. According to the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees for Fall 2020, 84 percent of first-time graduate students were enrolled in programs leading to a master's degree or graduate certificate.