

# Maximizing Returns: Affordability and ROI in Graduate Education

Friday, December 8 from 4:00 p.m.– 5:00 pm. ET.

New criticism about the cost and the return on investment for some programs has rekindled debates about the value of graduate education. How can learners assess value in this everchanging marketplace? This panel will explore strategies to make graduate education more affordable and return on investment more transparent for degree seekers with a particular attention to master's students.

- **Scott Adler**, Dean and Vice Provost, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder
- **Victor Prybutok**, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas
- **Brandy Randall**, Dean, Graduate School, Oakland University



## Maximizing Returns: Affordability & ROI in Graduate Education at UNT

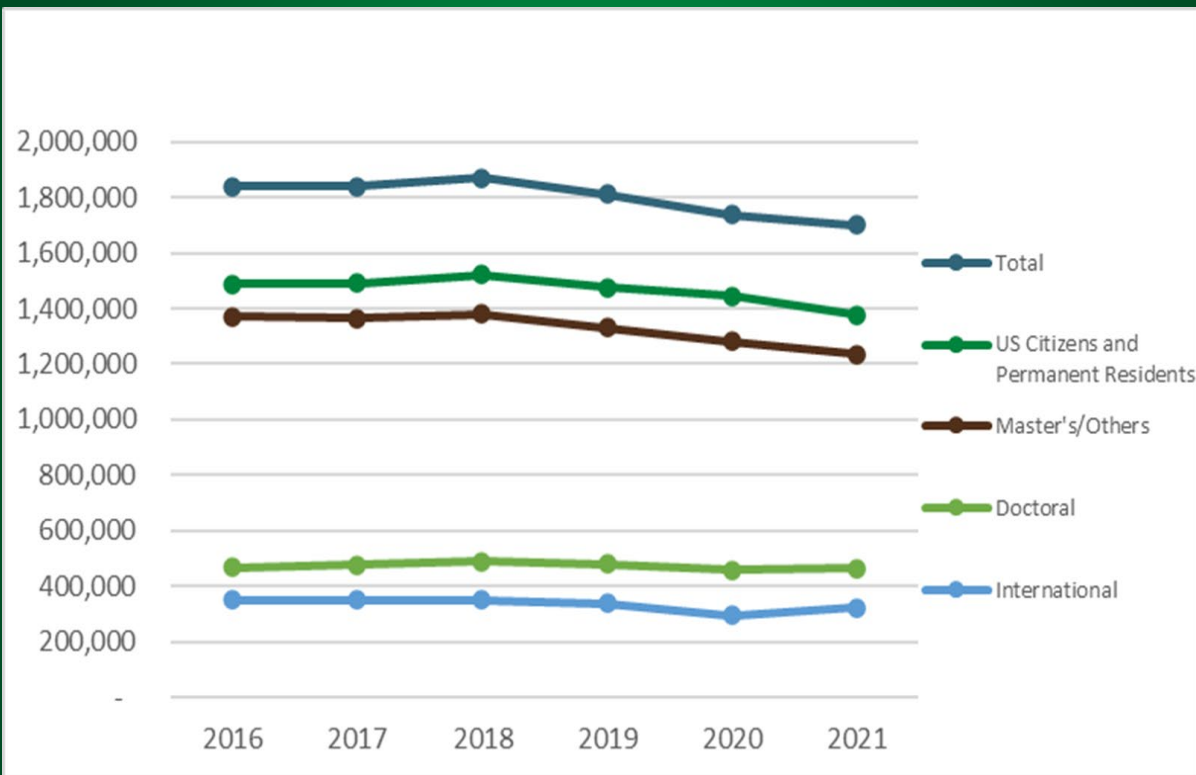
*Toulouse Graduate School supports UNT  
in changing the lives and shaping  
careers of our graduate students.*

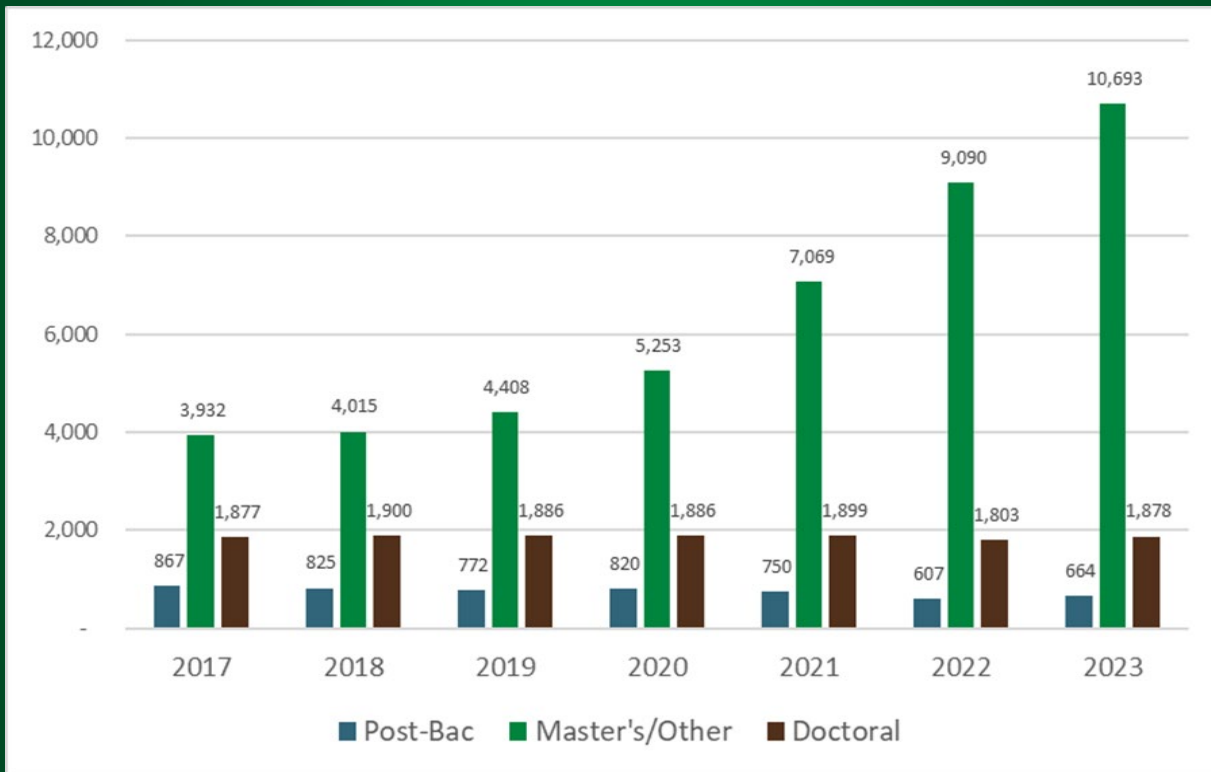
Victor R. Prybutok, Ph.D., CQE, CQA, CMQ/OE, PSTAT®  
Vice Provost for Graduate and  
Dean of the Toulouse Graduate School  
Regents Professor of Decision Sciences

## National Grad Enrollment : 2016-2021

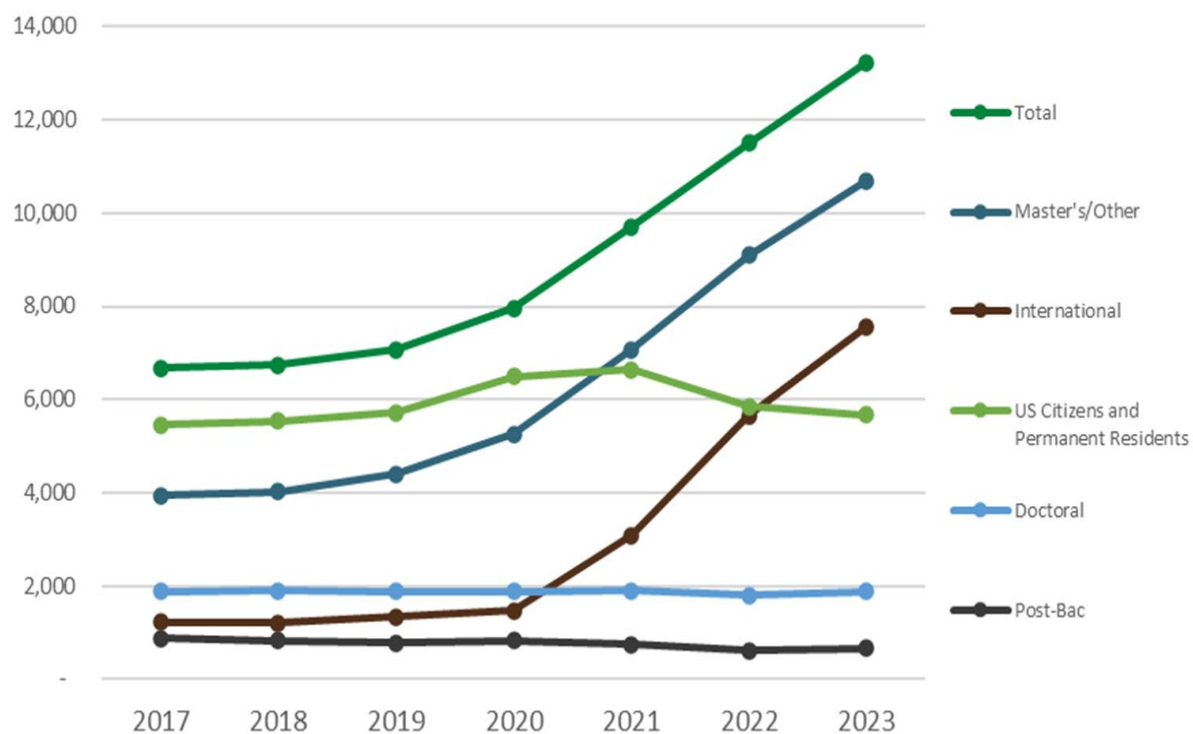


# National Grad Enrollment Trends:2016-2021





# UNT Grad Enrollment Trend: 2017-2023



## How did UNT achieve its goals?

- ❑ Determine priorities for graduate education
  - Create opportunities for students
  - Generate enrollment increases in high ROI programs so more resources become available for faculty, graduate students and the University
  - Cost of attendance
  - Regional needs for them
- ❑ Determine which programs align with priorities and establish as strategic goals



## Fall 23 Master's Enrollment in CSE, ADTA, DS, BA, and starting HDA

- Computer Science: 2,120 (1<sup>st</sup> )
- Advanced Data Analytics: 874 (2<sup>nd</sup> )
- Data Science: 640 (4<sup>th</sup> )
- Business Analytics: 619 (5<sup>th</sup> )
- Health Data Analytics: 77 (28<sup>th</sup> )





## Debunking Perceptions About Value of Humanities Degrees

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/academics/2023/11/01/humanities-majors-make-more-workers-without-degrees>

- “.. state-level data in the AAA&S report, humanities majors in West Virginia have a median income that is 44 percent higher (\$56,841 per year) than those with just a high school degree (\$39,351)”
- Comparing humanities majors to engineering majors gives a false negative impression of the value of the humanities degrees.

# What is UNT doing to address gainful employment regulator changes?

- TGS - Consider who pursues some options such as GACs. Mostly working professionals so making nonfinancial aid eligible has little impact and reduces reporting.
- Student Financial Aid and Scholarships staff are preparing and will implement the reporting required by the July 2024 deadline and the acknowledgement/notices by the July 2026 deadline

# Transitional reporting period

## from Dept of Ed Gainful Employment Session

For the first six years the Department calculates debt to earning (D/E) rates and Earning Premium (EP) measures, institutions may choose to report the required data elements either:

For most programs, the required data elements for the second through seventh prior award years

For qualifying graduate programs, the required data elements for the second through eighth prior award years

or

For only the two most recently completed award years - Transitional metrics

- If an institution chooses the transitional reporting option, the Department will calculate the D/E rates and EP measure using the median debt for the period reported and the earnings for six years
- The Department of Education representative presenting noted this option is to allow schools the ability to take corrective action that would have immediate results (e.g. “reduce costs” of the program was the example given).



Questions?