

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 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
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- 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.

