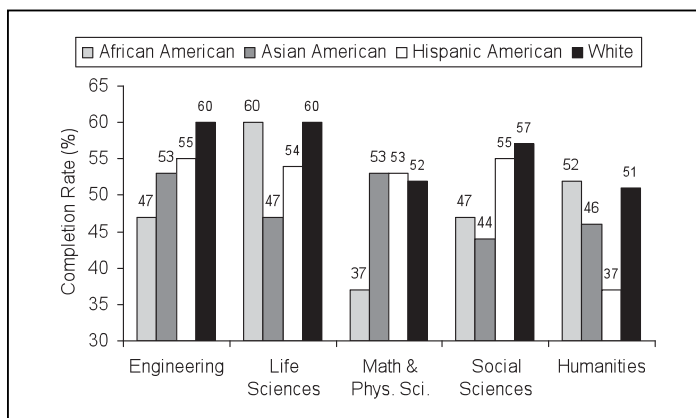


students (51%). White students complete at the highest rate (57%) in Social Sciences, two percentage points ahead of Hispanic Americans.

Figure 3. Cumulative Ten-Year PhD Completion Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Broad Field



Cumulative seven-year completion rates were determined for the A- and B-Cohorts for each of the four racial/ethnic groups. The B-Cohorts completed at higher rates than the A-Cohorts for all groups, with differences ranging from less than one percentage point to slightly more than three percentage points.

Future Plans

CGS plans to publish one additional report based on the quantitative data from Phase I of the PhD Completion Project. This publication will focus on exit surveys collected both from students who complete their programs and from those who do not complete. Further publications will report on self-assessments and interventions being implemented by the participating institutions.

Phase II of the PhD Completion Project, with continued funding from Pfizer Inc and the Ford Foundation, is now underway. The purpose of the second phase is to evaluate the specific impact on PhD completion and attrition of the policies and activities now being put into effect as a part of this project. During this phase, four additional years of completion and attrition data will be provided by the participating institutions. In 2010, CGS will issue a final project publication, which will include a comprehensive analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data submitted by the partnering universities in both phases, as well as a comprehensive description of those policies and practices that appear to have had a demonstrated effect on completion rates and attrition patterns over time.

More detailed information about the project, including a full list of research and project partners for both phases, is available on the PhD Completion Project website at www.phdcompletion.org.

Contacts: Robert Sowell, Ting Zhang, Nathan Bell and Kenneth Redd

Data Sources: Preliminary Results of the 2007 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey

Over the past 22 years, the Graduate Record Examinations Board (GRE) and the Council of Graduate Schools have jointly sponsored the Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees. The resulting annual *CGS/GRE Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey* report is designed to provide important information on graduate student enrollment, application, and degrees conferred. Both organizations believe that graduate education is a vital part of US higher education, and that providing an annual examination of differences in enrollment and degrees awarded by gender, race/ethnicity, and citizenship status is vital for understanding the graduate education enterprise. This article provides a summary of the enrollment and degrees conferred data from the 2007 Enrollment and Degrees survey. Please note that the results shown here are preliminary and are based on an initial analysis of the data collected as of May 2008. These numbers may change when the final survey report is released and sent to graduate deans in September.

The CGS/GRE Enrollment and Degrees Survey is sent electronically to the US-based institutions that as of November of each year are members of the Council of Graduate Schools or one of the four regional American graduate school associations—the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS), the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), and the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS). This year's survey was sent to 769 colleges and universities. Of these, usable responses were received from 682 (89%) of the survey population, with the response rate among CGS members being even higher (94%). While the total number of responding institutions represent just 25% of the approximately 2,800 colleges and universities in the US that offer graduate programs, they enroll 73% of the national total of 2.2 million graduate students (National Center for Education Statistics, 2007a). These survey respondents also award 73% of the master's degrees and more than 90% of the doctoral degrees granted by US graduate institutions (National Center for Education Statistics, 2007b).

In fall 2007, CGS member and affiliated graduate institutions enrolled more than 1.62 million students in master's, doctoral, and post-baccalaureate certificate programs. As Table 1, shows, about 59% of these students were women, and 52% were enrolled full-time. The plurality of graduate students (47%) were enrolled at Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions (also known as Research I universities), followed by Master's & Specialized institutions (35%) and Doctoral/Research Extensive (Research II) universities (18%).

This year, for the first time, CGS is reporting the number of students by their degree level (master's versus doctoral). In fall 2007, approximately 74% of all students were seeking master's degrees (the master's number

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Data Sources: Preliminary Results of the 2007 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey

includes post-baccalaureate certificates and other non-doctoral awards) and 26% were enrolled in doctoral programs. The number of doctoral students includes institutions' best estimates of students enrolled in programs where a master's degree is earned en route to a doctorate.

Table 1. Number of Students Enrolled at U.S. Graduate Schools, by Various Characteristics, Fall 2007

	Number of Students	Pct. of Total
Total	1,621,327	100%
Gender*		
Men	611,518	41%
Women	871,038	59%
Attendance Status*		
Full-time	825,041	52%
Part-time	759,564	48%
Institutional Control		
Public	1,028,575	63%
Private*	592,752	37%
Carnegie Classification**		
Research/Doctoral Extensive	755,725	47%
Research/Doctoral Intensive	291,620	18%
Master's & Specialized	573,982	35%
Degree Level*		
Master's	1,090,208	74%
Doctoral	390,283	26%
Citizenship Status*		
Domestic	1,205,868	84%
International	236,207	16%
Race/Ethnicity (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)*		
Native American/Alaska Native	11,022	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	77,216	6%
African American	159,143	13%
Hispanic/Latino	95,817	8%
White, non-Hispanic	862,670	72%

Due to rounding, details may not total to 100%.

*Includes private, non-profit and private, for-profit colleges and universities.

**Based on the 2000 Carnegie Classification System. Research/Doctoral Extensive institutions are those that award 50 doctoral degrees across at least 15 disciplines. Research/Doctoral Intensive institutions are those that award at least 10 doctoral degrees across three or more disciplines. Master's & Specialized institutions are those that primarily award master's degrees but may award a limited number of doctorates.

*Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to totals.

Source: CGS/GRE Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey, Fall 2007 Preliminary Data file.

Perhaps the most important information collected by the Enrollment and Degrees Survey are the numbers of graduate students by citizenship status and racial/ethnic categories. In the fall of 2007, non-US citizens accounted for 16% of the total graduate enrollment at CGS member and affiliated institutions. Among the US citizen and permanent resident graduate students, 28% were members of racial/ethnic minority groups. African Americans accounted for 13% of total US citizen enrollment, followed by Hispanics/Latinos (8%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (6%).

In academic year 2006-2007, responding institutions conferred nearly 515,000 graduate degrees and certificates.

More than 85% of these awards were master's degrees, 11% were doctorates, and 4% were post-baccalaureate certificates and other non-master's or doctoral awards. As Table 2 illustrates, two fields—education and business—represented 49% of master's degrees. Biological sciences, physical sciences, and engineering programs, on the other hand, accounted for 16% of master's awards. In contrast, business and education represented just 23% of total doctorates, versus 39% for science and engineering programs.

Table 2. Graduate Degrees Awarded by Field, 2006-2007

	Number of Master's Degrees	Pct. of Total	Number of Doctoral Degrees	Pct. of Total	Number of Certificates	Pct. of Total
Total	439,233	100%	56,714	100%	18,994	100%
Biological Sciences	10,099	3%	6,533	12%	365	2%
Business	70,322	19%	2,327	4%	2,310	11%
Education	108,503	30%	10,208	19%	9,357	46%
Engineering	26,645	7%	7,828	14%	1,091	5%
Health Sciences	29,192	8%	5,924	11%	2,519	12%
Humanities & Arts	22,319	6%	4,998	9%	1,026	5%
Physical Sciences	21,906	6%	7,328	13%	727	4%
Public Administration & Services	20,732	6%	1,180	2%	996	5%
Social Sciences	27,212	8%	6,782	12%	1,018	5%
Other Fields	25,145	7%	1,767	3%	793	4%

Due to rounding, details may not total to 100%.

Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to totals.

Source: CGS/GRE Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey, Fall 2007 Preliminary Data File.

About 46% of certificates were awarded in education-related disciplines. Health sciences (12%) and business (11%) also accounted for large shares of certificate awards. Science and engineering fields collectively represented just 11% of certificates.

The CGS/GRE Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey results provide very important clues to the future direction of graduate education in the United States. These preliminary results suggest that women, international students, and racial/ethnic minorities appear to be growing segments of the US graduate school population, and that education and business continue to be important fields in terms of degrees and certificates awarded. The forthcoming full report on the survey results will examine both the current and past trends in enrollment of students with these important demographic characteristics.

By Kenneth E. Redd, Director, Research and Policy Analysis

References

National Center for Education Statistics. 2007a. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Fall 2007 Enrollment Survey. Dataset.

National Center for Education Statistics. 2007b. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System 2006-2007 Completions Survey. Dataset.