

# CGS Summer Workshop 2013 New Deans Institute

## Program Quality Assessment

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# Topics to be covered

- Indicators of quality in graduate education
- Ranking schemes
- The politics of assessment
- Internal program review
  - Florida State University
  - Purdue
- Planning and budget decisions

# What is quality in graduate education?



# Quality indicators

- Faculty productivity
  - Publications
  - Citations
  - Awards
- Student success
  - Retention and completion rates and time
  - Placements



# How is quality assessed?



Mercedes-Benz



# Two Words

- Assessment vs. Accountability

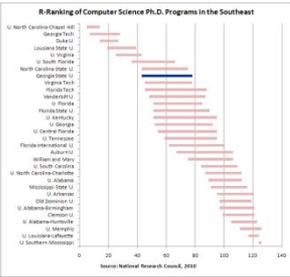


# Value of external ranking systems

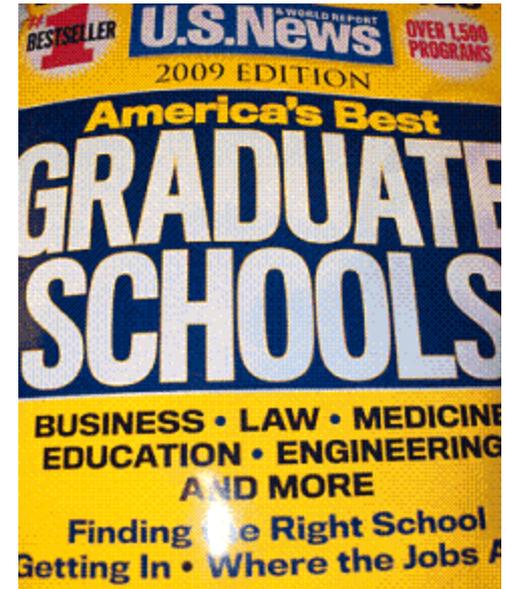
- Situates institution and programs nationally and internationally
  - May impact recruitment of faculty and students
  - Impacts perception
    - Public
    - Legislators
    - Alumni
  - May impact philanthropy
- Useful for setting benchmarks and goals



# External ranking systems

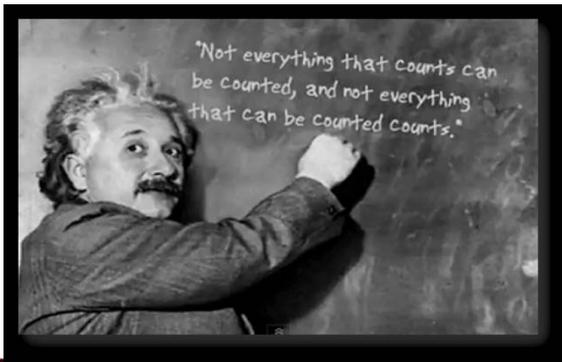


- National Research Council
- US News and World Report
- QS World University
- Shanghai
- National Science Foundation



# Limitations of external rankings

- Lack of agreement on what constitutes quality
- Skepticism about metrics and data supplied by institutions
- Reputational vs data driven metrics
- Geared to different audiences



# Comparative data

- Integrated postsecondary education data system (IPEDS; <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>)
  - Largely undergraduate
  - Primary source for data on universities
    - Admissions & enrollment
    - Cost of attendance
    - Financial aid
    - Retention and transfer
    - Degree completion rates and time
    - Degrees awarded
    - Faculty and staff

# Data providers

- Academic Analytics
  - Provides data to universities and university systems
    - Articles, books
    - Citations
    - Research funding
    - Honorific awards

# Internal program assessment @ FSU

- Quality Enhancement Review (QER)
  - Mandated stated BOG 7 year review
  - Graduate Policy Committee review of graduate programs
  - Provost's internal reviews of programs relative to unit productivity and outcomes
- Scheduled to coincide with external accreditation reviews
- Oversight by VP for Planning and Programs

# QER

- Purpose
  - Examine institutional effectiveness of a program
  - National position with respect to comparable programs
  - What it needs to do to sustain and improve
  - Serve as a basis for administrative decisions on the investment of new and existing resources

# QER

- Foundation
  - Self-examination of program
    - Goals
    - Objectives
    - Intended student learning outcomes
- Indicators
  - Instructional activities
  - Research and creative effort
  - Faculty citizenship and service



# QER



- Evaluation based on:
  - Program mission and relative to university mission
  - Student learning outcomes specified by the program





# QER Self-Study

- Undergraduates
- Graduates
- Faculty
- Curriculum
- Resources
- Assessment
- Supporting materials

# QER

- External reviewer visits and prepares report
- Exit interview with administration
- Follow up meetings with administration and program

# Graduate Policy Committee

- Purpose
  - Ensure programs are academically sound
  - Assist faculty and administration in improving quality
  - Provide independent forum for students and faculty to voice concerns to the administration
- Subcommittee
  - Faculty and students

# Graduate Policy Committee

- Focuses on graduate programs
  - History and context of the program
  - Enrollment, retention, and graduation
  - Placement and other indicators of quality
  - Curriculum
  - Professional preparation of students
  - Faculty and instructional personnel
  - Resources and administration
  - Summary and recommendations

# Follow up

- Graduate Policy Sub-committee evaluates materials, conducts interviews, and submits report to GPC
- Reports considered by GPC, deans, VP, Provost
- Report submitted to Board of Governors
- Report leads to action plans and follow up after two years

# My 2 Cents

- Everyone wants to be #1
- Define one's mission, constituency, and do the best possible job
- Let individual professional organizations identify top programs by appropriate metrics
- Provide advice to students on how to select the best program that is right for them. Help them through the decision process.