

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School



The Whole Student Experience: From Admissions to Student Success

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Why apply?

- Provide visibility for successful initiatives
- Establish credibility with faculty (funding and research)
- Expand campus partnerships through sharing best practices
- Highlight university investment in grad student success
- Bridge to new funding opportunities



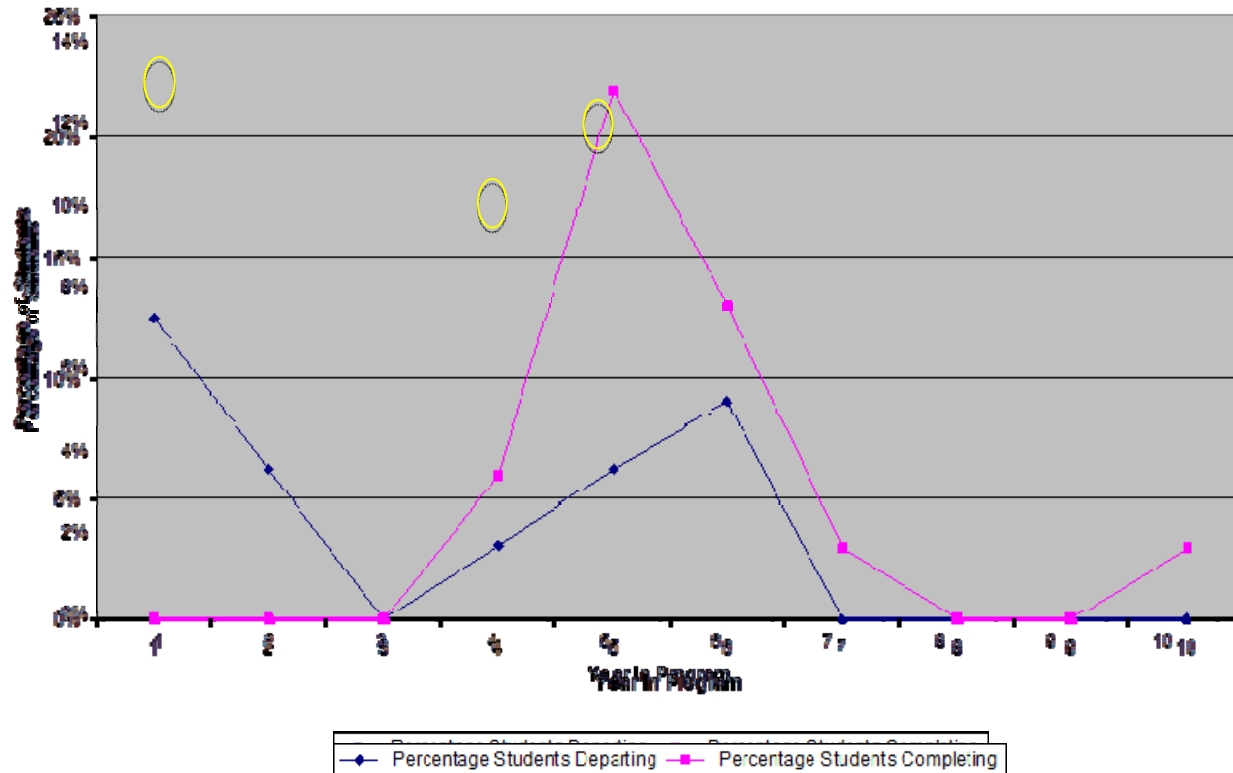
Focusing the proposal

- Choose significant milestones in the graduate process (use existing research and local data)
- Focus on data and outcomes (research based)
- Go with what works (short timeframe, bringing partners along)
- Target collaborations on campus (who gets things done)

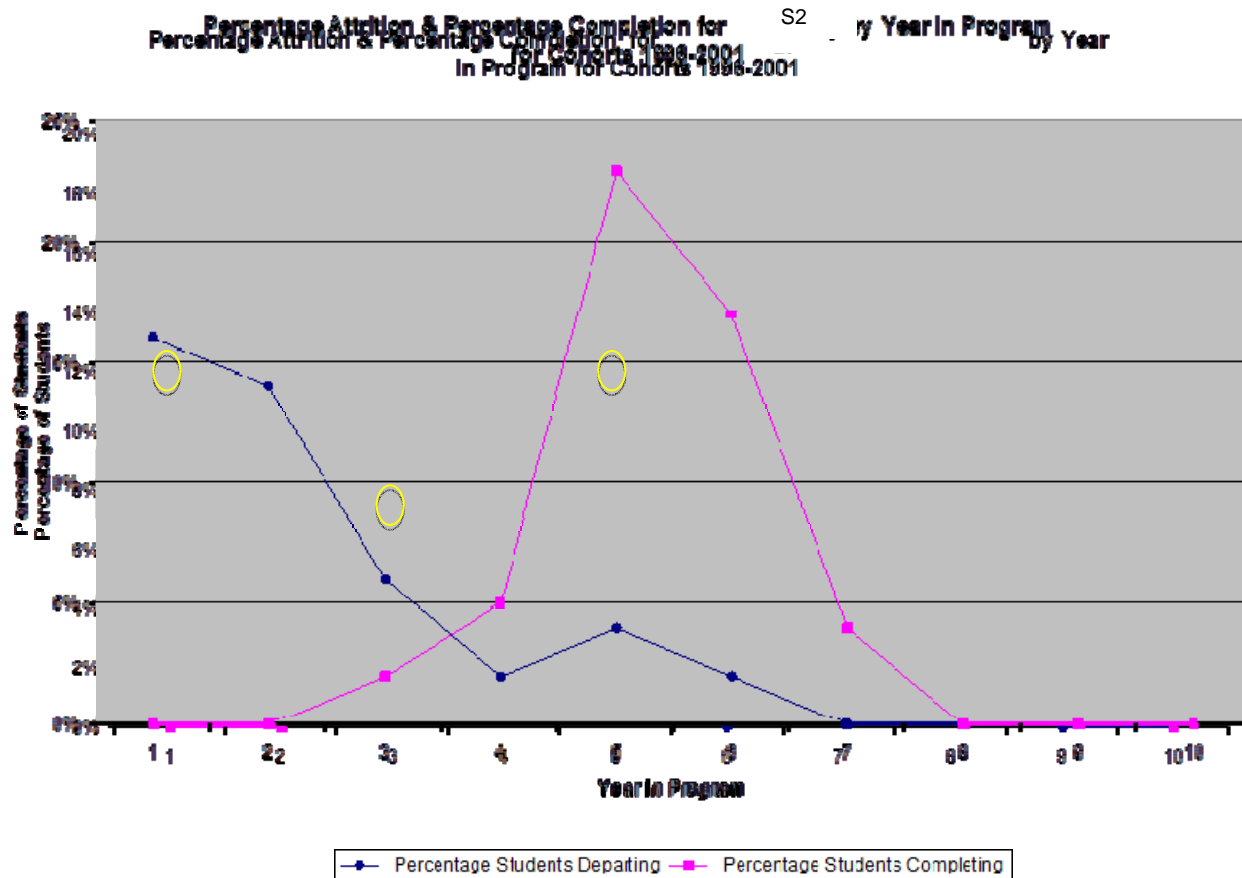


The Uneven Path to Success

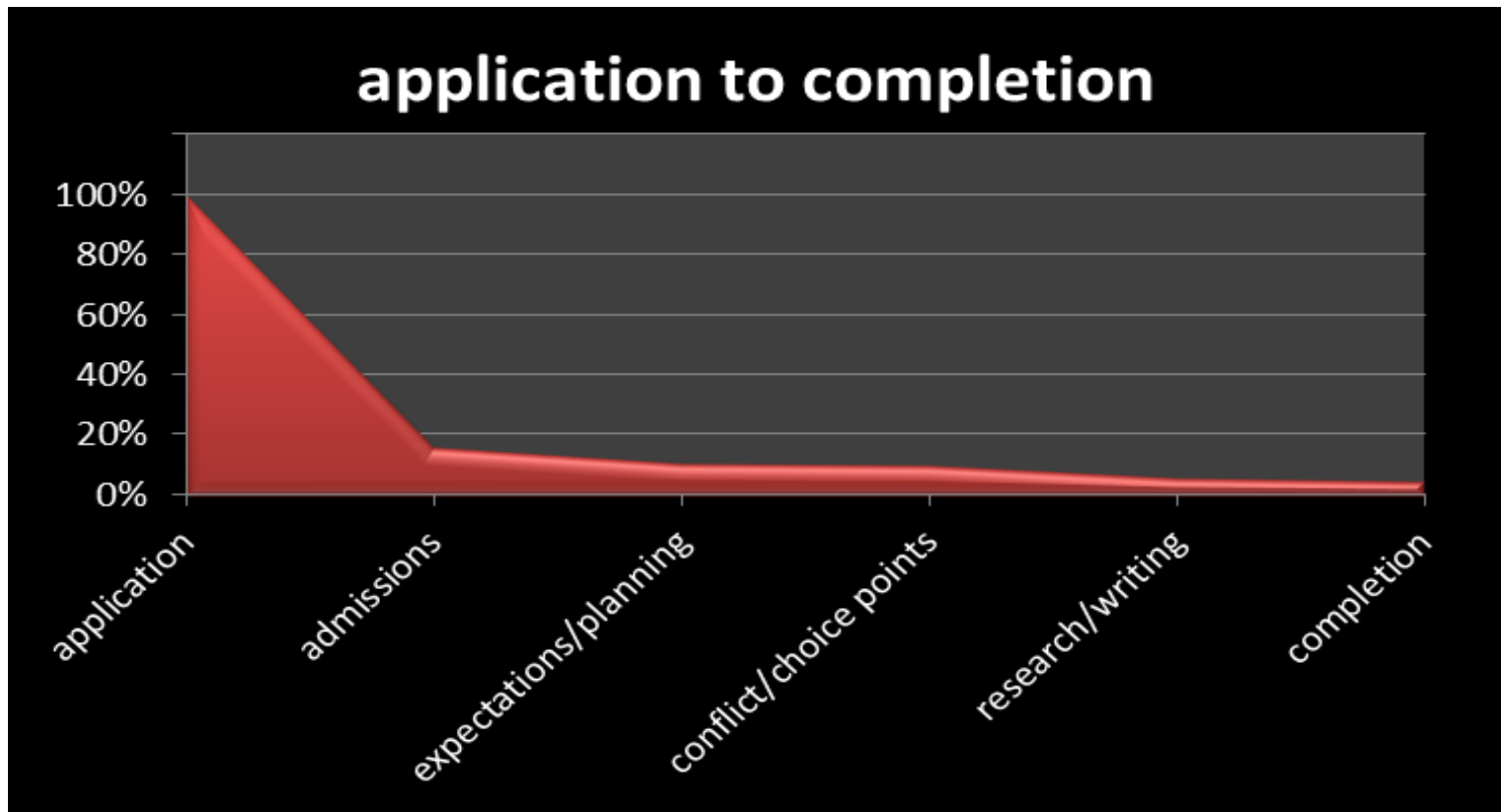
Percentage Attrition & Percentage Completion for H2
 Percentage Attrition & Percentage Completion 1998-2001
 by Year in Program for Cohorts
 Year in Program for Cohorts 1998-2001



The Uneven Path to Success



Completion from entry to exit (social science)



35% > 5%

Matching projects to problems

Admissions: *comparing “input” (student profile) to “output” (completion outcomes)*

Expectations/planning: *career and professional development planning*

Conflicts/choice points: *conflict resolution dissemination*

Research and writing: *writing facilitators*



How well do assumptions about student “quality” match completion outcomes? 1998-2005 cohorts

Admissions profiles

- Domestic/international
- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- GRE
- Undergrad institution type
- Undergrad degree
- Undergrad GPA
- Master’s info (like undergrad)
- Research experience
- Professional experience

Completion outcomes

- Attrition year
- Attrition status (left w/master’s/ candidacy)
- TTD
- Publications during program
- Placement

**indicators chosen by departments and admissions committees*

Career and professional development planning

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | The Graduate School

Career Success

A diverse group of young adults, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and giving thumbs up. They are dressed in casual, colorful clothing. The background is a solid blue color.

www.careersuccess.msu.edu

Career Success next phases: portfolio and virtual orientation

My Career Success - Log-out

My Home My Plan My Settings **My Portfolios**

My Portfolios [Create New Portfolio](#)

Name	Status	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 1 Edit Trash View	Published	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 2 Edit Trash View	Draft	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 3 Edit Trash View	Published	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 4 Edit Trash View	Published	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 5 Edit Trash View	Draft	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 6 Edit Trash View	Draft	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 7 Edit Trash View	Draft	Email	Download Print
Portfolio 8 Edit Trash View	Draft	Email	Download Print

Featured Video

Events
Event 1
Event 2
Event 3

Prompt Questions
Question 1
Question 2

My Career Success - Log-out

My Home My Plan My Settings **My Portfolios**

Create a Portfolio [Save as Draft](#) [Preview](#)

Title

Status: Draft [Edit](#)

Visibility: Password Protected [Create Password](#)

Template: Template 1 [Edit](#)

Add introductory text

Featured Video

Research Teaching Engagement

Acid text about research component

Events
Event 1
Event 2
Event 3

Supporting Documents [Add New Document](#)

Title	File Type	Notes	Post Message to LinkedIn
no records have been added			

Prompt Questions
Question 1
Question 2

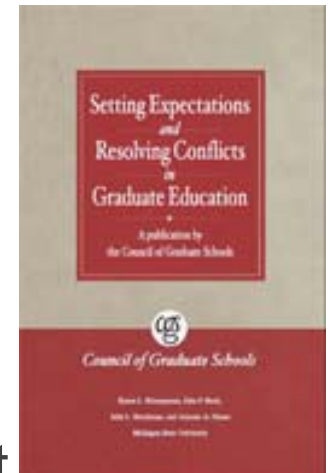
Conflict resolution dissemination

Customize for various audiences

Increase dissemination through interactive online versions

Focus on early prevention and use in department orientations and workshops

Work with AGEP alliance institutions to offer broader access



Writing facilitators

Train current ABDs to facilitate writing groups within their department focused on a significant transition milestone:

- 2nd-year paper
- comp exams
- dissertation proposal
- paper for publication

Coordinated with MSU Writing Center

Students paid as “writing fellows” by grant

Writing facilitators

Results:

- All Sociology participants passed 2nd-year paper, most with no revisions required.
- Genetics dissertation proposals passed with no revisions required.
- 4 Neuroscience students published peer-reviewed articles.
- Students and facilitators reported that participants' "writing and confidence level improved dramatically."
- Both participants and facilitators felt better connected to department.

Writing facilitators

Some participant comments:

"I feel the end result was a much easier to read and more directed proposal. My committee was very impressed with the proposal and passed me with no conditions. The writing group was very helpful with the structure and arrangement of the proposal."

"the group helped me to network and meet more people in the department. The group really helped me prepare for the scariest part for me-- faculty feedback--by doing run-throughs and asking good questions. .. it helped me grow as a "colleague" through the discussion and editing process."

"by the end I was able to synthesize a lot of information into a concise response, and felt more confident about my conclusions."

Faculty comments:

"It has helped the students with their writing and collaboration, benefiting the instructors' mentoring and teaching skills, and helping students value collaboration and appreciate the craft of writing. It has also reduced the work load of faculty who no longer have to do all of the heavy lifting in improving their advisees' writing skills."

"Our writing groups have definitely shown students the value of constructive criticism for effective communication of a topic to a potentially broad (but knowledgeable) scientific audience."

Partners

College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agricultural, Food & Resource
Economics

College of Arts & Letters

English
Rhetoric & Writing

College of Communication Arts & Sciences

Media & Information Systems
Telecommunications

College of Engineering

Computer Science & Engineering

College of Human Medicine

Pharmacology & Toxicology

College of Social Science

Anthropology
Economics
Psychology
Sociology

College of Natural Science

Chemistry
Genetics
Neuroscience

College of Veterinary Medicine

Comparative Medicine & Integrative
Biology



Partners

MSU Units

Office of Planning and Budgets

Vice President for Research and
Graduate Studies

MSU Global

Writing Center

Career Services

Teaching Assistant Program

Office for Faculty and Organizational
Development

Intersecting Current Grants

AGEP Alliance (NSF)

CAFFE (Center for Academic &
Future Faculty Excellence)--NSF I³

CIRTL Network (Center for the
Integration of Research Teaching &
Learning) (NSF)



Our approach at MSU

- Cultivate networks
- Use data (external and internal) not assumptions
- Be strategic (what works and who works)
- Plan at the outset for how projects will be sustained (partnerships, new funding)