

**Graduate Program Evaluation Metrics**  
**Endorsed by Graduate Council May 20, 2009**

**General Comments:**

- The research quality and training of the students should be the central focus of graduate program evaluation. Admittedly, this measure is challenging to access directly and accurately. For example, metrics on the research quality of the faculty (indicating the potential of the faculty to provide a productive research environment), and metrics on the student admission (indicating the potential of the admitted students), provide indirect information of the ability of a program to educate graduate students effectively.
- Graduate Program Evaluation Criteria should be coordinated with a revision of the Program Review Committee (PRC) review process. In particular, this is an opportunity to streamline the statistical gathering of data. Towards this end, the proposed criteria are divided into two categories: a) Ongoing quality measures (quantitative statistical data collected by OGS on an ongoing basis), and b) PRC quality measures (qualitative data best collected and evaluated during the PRC review).
- If statistical information will be regularly collected, an important objective must be to not impose additional administrative burden onto programs. This information should be collected and available in OGS databases that can be accessed easily by staff. If such information is used for resource allocations, the programs should be given an opportunity to comment on the accuracy of the data, and if so needed, result in correction of the data and more importantly correction in any systematic errors in future data collection.
- It is important to benchmark performance against national criteria (such as AAU<sup>1</sup>) *by discipline*. When an AAU benchmark is not available, an explicit objective of the next PRC review of the program must be to establish a national benchmark comparison group.

Following are the suggested criteria:

<b>Program Characteristics</b>	
Time-to-degree (master's and doctoral)	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Completion rate (master's and doctoral) (2 year for master's; 6 and 8 year for doctoral)	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Advancement to candidacy rate (doctoral) (3 or 4 year)	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Number of degrees awarded per year (master's and doctoral)	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent doctoral students receiving full support	Collected annually by OGS Problematic to define "full support"
Competitiveness of stipends with respect to AAU institutions	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Student placement in context of program goals (master's 2 years after completion; doctoral 5 years after completion)	Problematic to collect annually at present. Data are difficult to accurately track for programs and OGS only has initial information from the Exit Form (asks for placement directly after graduation). More appropriate for PRC reviews.

<sup>1</sup> Association of American Universities: <http://www.aau.edu/>

Visibility and reputation as evident in external rankings (NRC, USN&WR, etc)	PRC quality measure
UC Davis market share of doctoral degrees w/r to AAU institutions	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Quality of program strategic plan	PRC quality measure
Evidence that program is serving the needs of the state	PRC quality measure
Students per faculty	Collected by OGS annually
Allow programs to add intangibles (criteria not listed here) that could indicate quality.	PRC quality measure
<b>Student Characteristics</b>	
Average GRE-V, GRE-Q and GRE-AW	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent underrepresented minority students	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent international students	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Student gender	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Admission take rate (admits/apps) and yield rate (enrolls/admits)	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent receiving competitive internal or external fellowships	PRC quality measure
Research productivity of graduate students (e.g. co-author/single author publications, awards, conferences) (add post-graduation)	PRC quality measure To be provided by the program/group (specific guidelines will need to be developed)
<b>Faculty Characteristics</b>	
Number of faculty in program	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Faculty gender	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent membership serving as thesis/dissertation committee chairs	Collected by OGS annually Should be in comparison to AAU data
Percent membership teaching program courses	PRC quality measure Will require the identification of program courses and membership. To be provided by the program/group (specific guidelines will need to be developed).
Faculty awards and publications	PRC quality measure.
Research funding per capita	PRC quality measure. This is a very indirect measure of the quality of education, if not directly tied to graduate students supported by a specific research fund. For programs, obtaining this data will be very time consuming.