



Council of Graduate Schools

PRESS RELEASE

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Council of Graduate Schools Awards Grants to Improve Doctoral Completion

Twenty-two universities to each receive awards of up to \$80,000

Washington, DC (May 17, 2007) — The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), with funding from Pfizer Inc and the Ford Foundation, has named the universities selected to participate in a national initiative to increase completion rates in doctoral programs.

As part of this second phase of the Ph.D. Completion Project, the three-year grants will provide first-time funding to eight universities and continuing support to fourteen institutions that have participated in the project previously. A broader community of universities, known as Project Partners, has been invited to submit data on doctoral degree completion and attrition and participate in the project.

This major initiative in graduate education is designed to address issues of doctoral attrition and completion in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics, and the humanities and social sciences. Institutions are creating interventions and evaluating the effect of these interventions on their attrition patterns and completion rates.

“This continuation project will permit the graduate education community to better address critical issues in doctoral completion precisely at the time when global competition for highly trained talent is growing,” said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President.

The 22 Research Partners are:

Brown University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Cincinnati
Cornell University
Duke University
Florida State University
University of Georgia
Howard University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Marquette University

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Missouri-Columbia
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The Ohio State University
The Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
University of Southern California
Yale University

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These universities will receive awards of up to \$80,000 each to collect and submit data on doctoral completion and attrition; implement interventions in areas such as selection, mentoring, and financial support; and develop rigorous assessment strategies to measure the impact of these interventions. Research Partners were selected by an external committee of leaders from academia, industry, and research programs on minority graduate education.

The Project Partners currently include:

Arizona State University	Northwestern University
University of Arkansas	McMaster University
University of California, Berkeley	Princeton University
Colorado State University	University of Rhode Island
University of Florida	Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
University of Kansas	Syracuse University
University of Louisville	Washington University in St. Louis
Loyola University Chicago	

The universities involved represent the demographic diversity of North American doctoral education; they include private and public universities from all regions of the U.S., as well as Canadian universities and minority-serving institutions.

The goal of the Ph.D. Completion Project is to reduce attrition and increase completion rates in doctoral programs, as proven intervention strategies are widely disseminated and adopted by these programs.

The project has already begun to produce the most comprehensive and useful information yet available on completion in doctoral programs; findings indicate that attrition rates are as high as 50% in some fields. The project is highlighting strategies for increasing completion rates of minorities and women, particularly in those fields where these groups have been traditionally underrepresented or experience disproportionately high attrition.

Please visit the [Ph.D. Completion Project](#) website for more information and additional participating universities.

[Pfizer Inc](#) discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets leading prescription medicines for humans and animals and many of the world's best-known consumer brands.

The [Ford Foundation](#) is a nonprofit corporation whose goals are to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 480 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award more than 90% of the doctoral degrees and over 75% of the master's degrees in the U.S. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.