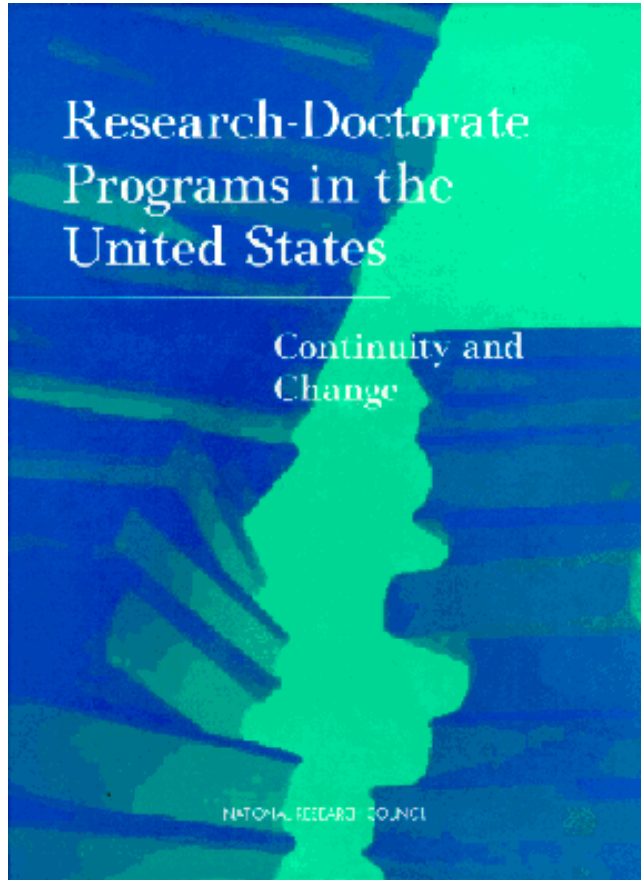


# NRC Assessment of Doctoral Programs

What to expect and  
how we are preparing



# Third assessment in a series to help universities improve the quality of their doctoral programs



## New assessment will:

- have expanded number of disciplines (>60)
- include data for more than 5,000 programs
- include data relating to student financing, teaching, other resources
- be quantitative rather than reputational
- include a database tool

# What are the goals of the NRC Assessment

- Contribute to a fuller understanding of doctoral education in America
- Provide ranges of ratings and rankings, by program and by components within programs, of doctoral programs



# What are the goals of the NRC assessment?

- ▣ Provide data for doctoral programs to:
  - compare themselves to other similar programs
  - use to improve their current practices
- ▣ Provide accessible data about program characteristics for prospective doctoral students



# How have we done so far?

- Program completion rates:
  - Illinois – 100 %
  - National – 89 %
  
- Faculty completion rates:
  - Illinois – 83 %
  - National – 73 %
  
- Student completion rates:
  - Illinois – 71 %
  - National – 53 %






# Methodology report released July '09

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- Ratings based on THREE components:
  1. Research Impact
  2. Student Support and Outcomes
  3. Diversity of Academic Environment
  
- Reporting of Ratings and Rankings
  - **Range of ratings and rankings** for each program
  - Programs arranged alphabetically
  - Ranges will overlap for many programs



# How will the ratings and ranges be calculated?

- Explicit - What do faculty value?
  - from Faculty Questionnaire
- Implicit - What correlates with perceived quality?
  - results of the rating questionnaire for a sample of programs/field administered to faculty (stratified by respondent rank, program size, and region of the country)
- Ranges developed from variance among  500 raters, within each category

# When should the results be released?

## *Anticipated dates:*

- ✓ Summer 2009: Methodology Guide
- ? Late 2009: Release of Report and Database
  - Participants will see ratings for their programs no more than 72 hours before public release
- ? Spring 2010 - Conference on Uses and Analyses of the Data



# Data categories

- **MEASURES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE STUDY IS RELEASED**
- **Dimensional Measures**
- **Additional Variables Used in the Overall Ranking**
- **Additional Variables of Interest**



# Data Categories

- **Dimensional Measures-1**
- **Research Activity**
- **Publications per Allocated Faculty, 2001- 2006 (Non-Humanities)**
- **Published Books and Articles per Allocated Faculty (Humanities) 1996-2006**
- **Average Citations per Publication (Non-Humanities), 1986-2006**
- **Percent of Faculty with Grants, 2006**
- **Awards per Allocated Faculty, 1976-2006**



# Data Categories

- **Dimensional Measures-2**
- **Student Support and Outcomes**
- **Percent Students Receiving Full Support in the First Year (Fall 2005)**
- **Average Percent Completing (8-Year Completion Percentage for Humanities Fields, 6 Years for Other Fields)**
- **Median Time to Degree (for Full- and Part-Time Graduates)**
- **Percent Ph.D.'s with Definite Plans for an Academic Position or PostDoc, 2001-2005**
- **Program Collects Outcomes Data**



# Data Categories

- **Dimensional Measures-3**
- **Diversity of the Academic Environment**
- **Percent Non-Asian Minority Faculty of Core and New Faculty, 2005**
- **Percent Female Faculty of Core and New Faculty, 2005**
- **Percent Non-Asian Minority Students, 2005**
- **Percent Female Students, 2005**
- **Percent International Students, 2005**



# Data Categories

- **Additional Variables Used in the Overall Ranking**
- **Average Annual Ph.D.'s Graduated 2002-2006**
- **Percent of Faculty Interdisciplinary, 2005**
- **Average GRE, 2004-2006 (Verbal Measure for the Humanities, Quantitative Measure for All Other Fields)**
- **Percent First-Year Students with External Funding, (Fall 2005)**
- **Student Work Space**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Student Activities**
- ***Note: the measures that were eventually significant in determining the rankings varied from discipline to discipline, but the initial model included all of the above.***



# Data Categories

- **Additional Variables of Interest**
- **Number of Total Faculty, 2005**
- **Percent Assistant Professors, 2005**
- **Percent of Total Faculty with Tenure, 2005**
- **Percent of Faculty Core or New, 2005**
- **Total Enrollment, 2005**
- **First-Year Enrollment, 2005**
- **Percent of Students with RA's, 2005**
- **Percent of Students with TA's, 2005**



# What to look for in the final report?

- Comparison of programs
  - ▣ look at range of rankings for all measures in your programs field
- Understand the Range of Rankings
  - ▣ What are the most important variables in each field?
  - ▣ Where a program stand on those variables compared to others in the field?
- Data Beyond the 20 variables
  - ▣ On-line database will contain additional data on student financing, teaching and research training and student resources





# What programs can expect to receive

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1. Complete set of analyses on their doctoral program
  - last US News & World Report Ranking
  - third quartile ranking of program among variables within each field
  - data specific to doctoral programs within their own College?
2. Opportunities for individual follow-up





For example, in fictitious Illinois program ranked 5-7, out of 136 programs

Ranking, by 3rd quartile, of most heavily weighted categories

	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Average publications per faculty	0.162	11
Average PhDs per year (2002-2006)	0.149	3
% faculty with grants	0.127	18
Awards per faculty	0.116	7
Average citations per publication	0.102	50

And so on, down to lesser weighted categories...

# More info available at:

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[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/  
pga/Resdoc/index.htm](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/Resdoc/index.htm)

