Using Data to Change Perceptions of PhD Careers

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Vice President, Best Practices and Strategic Initiatives
Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)
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**CGS by the Numbers**

**481**

**U.S. and Canadian Member Universities**

**CGS Members by Carnegie Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2 + R3</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2 + M3 + OTHERS</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Private** 32%
**Public** 68%

**1,849,606 Aggregate Enrollment** (master's & doctoral students)

**CGS Members in the U.S. Award**

**476,616** master's degrees annually

**60,823** doctoral degrees annually
64+ universities collecting and using data on PhD careers

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“The PhD Careers Pathway project is, for the first time, providing us with actionable data that graduate programs can use to support flexible career outcomes. For example, an overwhelming majority of the UNC-Chapel Hill alumni from the three, eight, and 15 year cohorts indicate that networking opportunities with former students who pursued careers outside academia would be valuable. In addition, a significant majority indicate that internship opportunities would be a useful resource.”

Steven Matson
Dean of the Graduate School
UNC Chapel Hill
Biological & Health Sciences PhDs:
“How well did your PhD prepare you for your current job?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Employed by Colleges &amp; Universities</th>
<th>Employed by Entities Other Than Colleges &amp; Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-years out</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-years out</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-years out</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** denotes statistically significant difference. p<0.01 and *** denotes statistically significant difference p<0.001

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement Project, Fall 2017 Alumni Survey

@CGSGradEd  #PhDCareerPathways
Biological & Health Sciences PhDs: “Given the perspective you have gained since completing the PhD, how likely is it that you would you pursue a PhD [in general] again?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3-years out</th>
<th>8-years out</th>
<th>15-years out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed by Colleges &amp; Universities</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed by Entities Other Than Colleges &amp; Universities</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** denotes statistically significant difference. p<0.01 and *** denotes statistically significant difference p<0.001

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement Project, Fall 2017 Alumni Survey
Biological & Health Sciences PhDs: “Given the perspective you have gained since completing the PhD, how likely is it that you would you pursue a PhD in the same field again?”

- 3-years out: 77% Employed by Colleges & Universities, 65% Employed by Entities Other Than Colleges & Universities
- 8-years out: 77% Employed by Colleges & Universities, 72% Employed by Entities Other Than Colleges & Universities
- 15-years out: 82% Employed by Colleges & Universities, 84% Employed by Entities Other Than Colleges & Universities

@CGSGradEd  #PhDCareerPathways

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement Project, Fall 2017 Alumni Survey

** denotes statistically significant difference. p<0.01 and *** denotes statistically significant difference p<0.001
Upcoming Briefs:

• **Teaching & research responsibilities** of PhD alumni in academic careers.

• **Nature of academic and non-academic careers** across all broad fields surveyed.

• **PhD student career aspirations and professional development experiences.**