



MINUTES

January 31, 2011

Discussion Items

1. Doctoral Degree Completion Rates
Chuck Wight, Dean

With the help from OBIA, the six year completion rates look at students from years 2000-2001 and 2003-2004. The students from 2000-2001 had a graduation rate of 53%; the students from 2003-2004 had a graduation rate of 63%. When compared to the rest of the PAC-12, the U came is in a great shape. These figures are not meant for you to push through students or lessen the quality of the programs; these figures are to encourage departments to reevaluate how their programs are set up and how you can help your students. Departments should get students engaged in their studies.

Continuing registration is available for graduate students and should only be used for four semesters when students are unable to continue their studies and do not want to be dropped from their program. Departments should give the authorization code for continuous registration appropriately.

2. Graduate Student Contact Information from ETS
Sweeney Windchief, Assistant Dean

The Graduate School has agreed to help departments with their recruitment efforts for minority and underrepresented students. These searches cost \$0.13 per student and the graduate school will cover the cost. If a department would like to request a search, they should contact Sweeney Windchief. Departments should be specific in their search criteria because student names cannot be returned to ETS. If a department would like to search other types of students, they will have to pay for the search results themselves.

Diversity is important to the University of Utah and these searches are not a form of affirmative action. The students are the same standard quality students .

3. Regulations for Third Party Student Recruiting
Chuck Wight, Dean

The Department of Education and Congress have some concerns about for profit colleges and universities. Many for profit universities have been in the practice of

sending student recruiters and paying them on a per person basis for any students they get to sign up for a government grants to go to school. The problem has been that most of these students do not finish their degrees and do not pay back the loans. This practice is now considered illegal. The University of Utah encourages departments to send their students back to their undergraduate schools to recruit, but the students should either be paid a lump sum, have their travel paid for, or go on their freewill.

4. Recruiting, Retaining and Helping Underrepresented Students
Chuck Wight, Dean

Dr. William Smith was unable to attend the meeting, but will be attend an upcoming DoGS meeting soon.

5. Dissertation Boot Camp

Dissertation Boot Camp will be held over spring break 2011. Please keep this in mind for your dissertating doctoral students. For more information, contact Laura.Demarse@gradschool.utah.edu The fall's boot camp was a great success. Many dissertations were submitted to the Thesis office after the boot camp was completed. This coming spring break, we will be accepting up to 80 students.

6. USU Symposium

This symposium is open to all graduate students in the state. Students who would like to present their research work are able to for a small fee. Students and faculty are free to attend.

7. UTA/Fellowships Application Selection Committee

A request for volunteers to help read through and rank the submitted applications, anyone interested should contact kristina.bailey@gradschool.utah.edu .

8. Office of Admissions

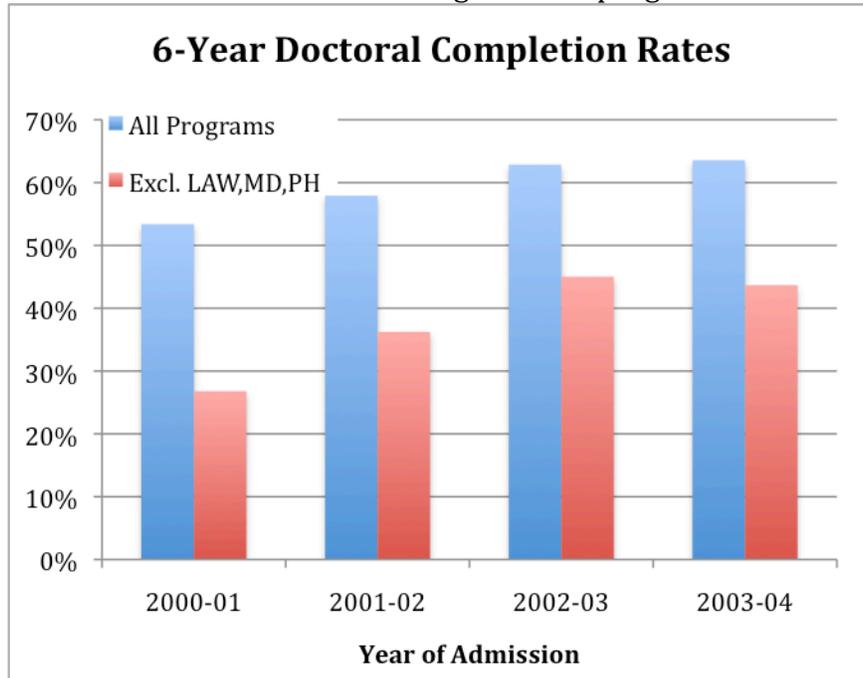
The Admissions office is currently behind on inputting application information. They have decided to close their offices from 8am – 12pm every day until they are caught up. Departments who do not prescreen their applications will be affected by this, but they will be sent an applicant report. Chuck will work with Barbara Fortin in trying to make the applicant report useful for departments. During this setback from the office of admissions, departments can still recommend students for admission, but are strongly encouraged to use the letter that is available on the student affairs website.

With the new Hobson's Apply Yourself application, both departments and the office and admissions will be able to see the same information as soon as it is made available.

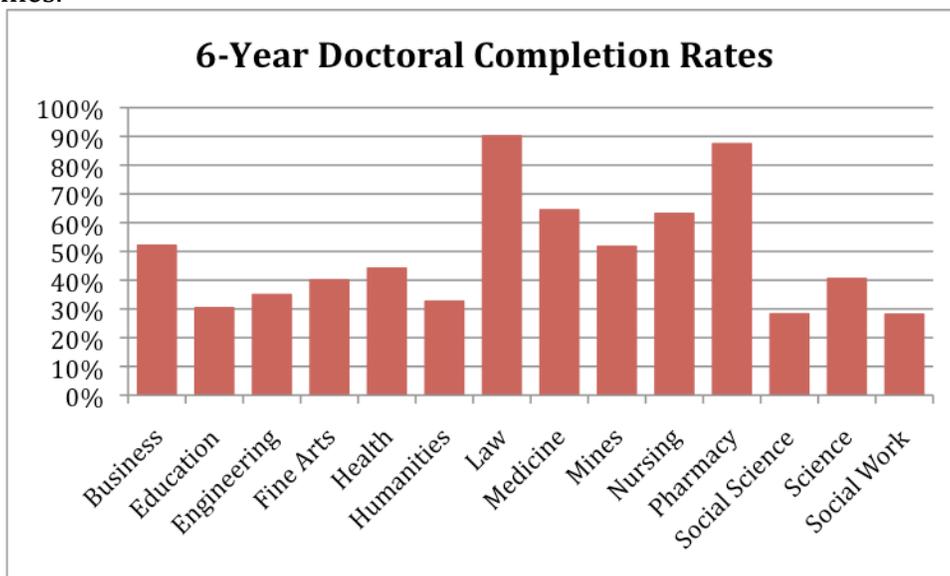
The next meeting will be held February 24 in the Winder Board Room from 7:30 am – 9:00 am and again from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.

Doctoral Completion Rates at the University of Utah

In the past decade, we have seen dramatic improvements in 6-year graduation rates for doctoral degrees. When averaged over all programs, the current rate exceeds 60%. Rates in the JD, MD and Pharm.D. programs are extremely high, but the improvement persists even when these students are excluded from the overall numbers, and the current rate for remaining doctoral programs is about 45%.

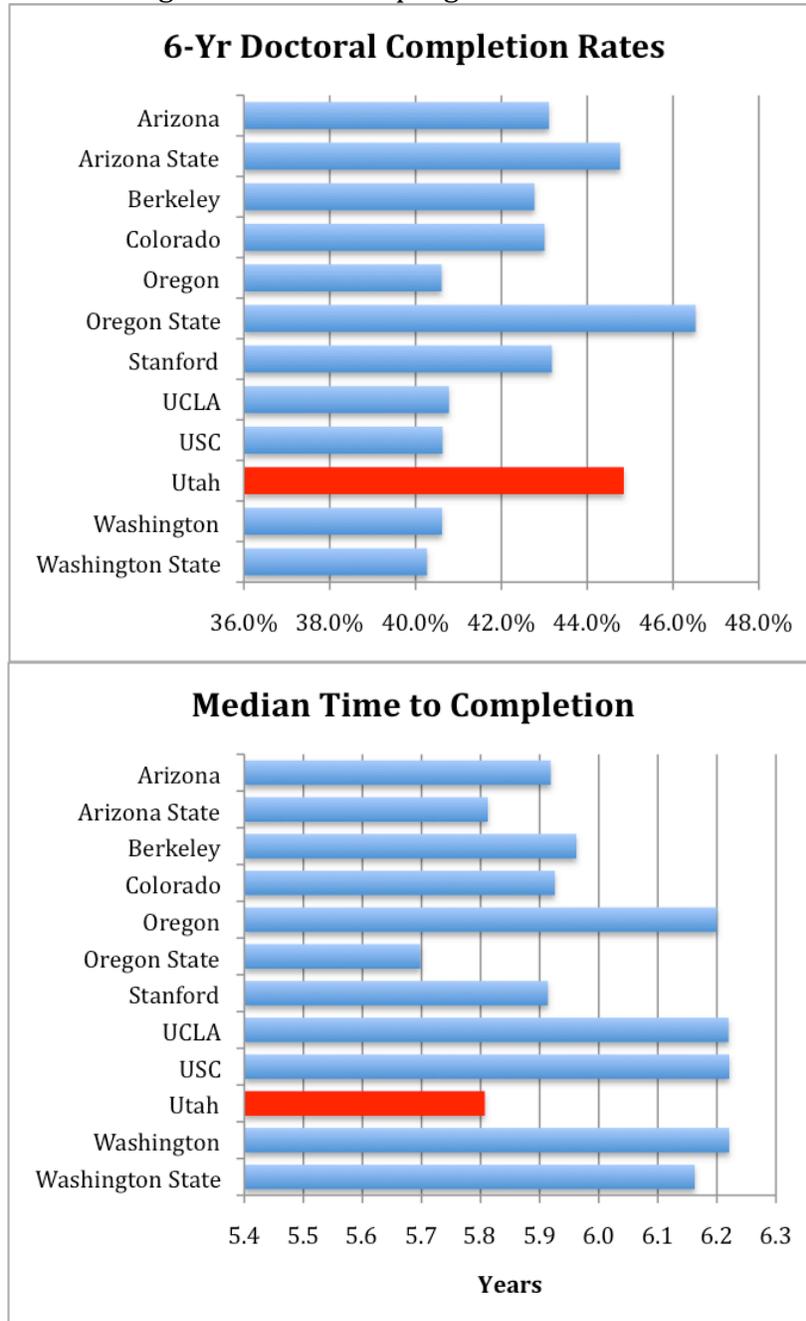


Completion rates vary by department and college, according to differences in teaching methodologies, mentoring strategies, and research practices in the disciplines.



Comparison With PAC-12 Institutions

Using the recently released results from the National Research Council's Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs in the U.S., the following two graphs show that the University of Utah scores second-best in completion rates and time-to-completion among PAC-12 Conference. Data for all institutions were collected in 2006-07. The values shown are averages over all Ph.D. programs at each institution.



source: <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/Resdoc/index.htm>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Payne
FROM: Kim Child
DATE: January 21, 2010
RE: Permissible Third Party Recruiting

SUMMARY

You have asked me to research what is and is not permissible for third party student recruiting. After the elimination of twelve safe harbors from the Higher Education Act prohibition on incentive compensation, it appears that that a payment to third parties for student contact information only is permissible. However, payments to third parties based on the number of students applying for admission, enrolling in a program, applying for financial aid, or completing a program are not permissible.

DISCUSSION

Section 487(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act bans colleges from paying commissions, bonuses or other forms of incentive compensation based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid. The regulations previously provided twelve safe harbors for activities that were deemed not to violate these restrictions. However, effective July 1, 2011, those safe harbors will be eliminated. The new regulatory language is quite broad, reading that an institution participating in any Title IV or HEA program agrees that

[i]t will not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based in any part, directly or indirectly, upon success in securing enrollments or the award of financial aid, to any person or entity who is engaged in any student recruiting or admission activity, or in making decisions regarding the award of title IV, HEA program funds.

(A) Commission, bonus, or other incentive payment means a sum of money or something of value, other than a fixed salary or wages, paid to or given to a person or an entity for services required.

(B) Securing enrollments or the award of financial aid means activities that a person or entity engages in at any point in time through completion of an educational program for

the purpose of the admission or matriculation of students for any period of time or the award of financial aid to students.

34 C.F.R. 668.14(b)(22)(i)(effective July 1, 2011).¹ However, the “securing enrollments”

definition includes an express exemption for

[M]aking a payment to a third party for the provision of student contact information for prospective students provided that such payment is not based on –

(i) Any additional conduct or action by the third party or the prospective students, such as participation in preadmission or advising activities [or] scheduling an appointment to visit the enrollment office . . . or

(ii) The number of students who apply for enrollment, are awarded financial aid, or are enrolled for any period of time

Id. at (b)(22)(iii)(B)(2)(i) – (ii). Therefore, it appears that a payment to third parties for student contact information only is permissible. Payments to third parties based in any part on the number of students applying for admission, enrolling in a program, applying for financial aid, or completing a program are not permissible.

¹ The Federal Register uses similar language to provide a 2-part test institutions can use to assess whether a payment or compensation is permissible. It states that

institutions can readily determine if a payment or compensation is permissible . . . by analyzing –

(1) Whether it is a commission, bonus, or other incentive payment, defined as an award of a sum of money or something of value paid to or give to a person or entity for services rendered; and

(2) Whether the commission, bonus, or other incentive payment is provided to any person based in any part, directly or indirectly, upon success in securing enrollment or the award of financial aid, which are defined as activities engaged in for the purpose of the admission or matriculation of students for any period of time or the award of financial aid.

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, the commission, bonus, or incentive payment would not be permitted under the statute.

75 Fed. Reg. 66873.

Intermountain Graduate Research Symposium

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE!
March 31-April 1, 2011

- Location:** Utah State University
Logan, UT
- Cost:** \$25 for preregistration
(Feb 1 – Feb 18)
\$35 for regular registration
(Feb 19 – Mar 1)
- Participation:** Any graduate student may
present finished or unfinished
research

Visit www.usu.edu/asusu/gss to register
and submit an abstract.

This is a great opportunity to get experience presenting your research and to network with students and faculty from USU and other universities in the region. There will be random prizes as well as monetary prizes for the top presenters in each session. Last year the IGRS (Intermountain Graduate Research Symposium) hosted 290 presenters from seven different universities and gave away over \$11,000 in prizes.

