

Current Trends in Graduate Education:

A Cross-Country Perspective with Postcards from Texas

Julia Kent, Vice President, Best Practices and Strategic Initiatives
Council of Graduate Schools
Association of Texas Graduate Schools Annual Meeting
September 28, 2023

Our Tour through National Trends

- Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: A Sneak Peek
 - National Name Exchange
- A Changing Legal Landscape for Graduate Education
- Increasing Need for Effective Advocacy
 - State Snapshots
 - *Master's Degrees at Work*
- Expanding Career Preparation for Graduate Students
 - Microcredentials
 - Innovations in Graduate Education in STEM
 - Humanities Coalition



Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: A Sneak Peek



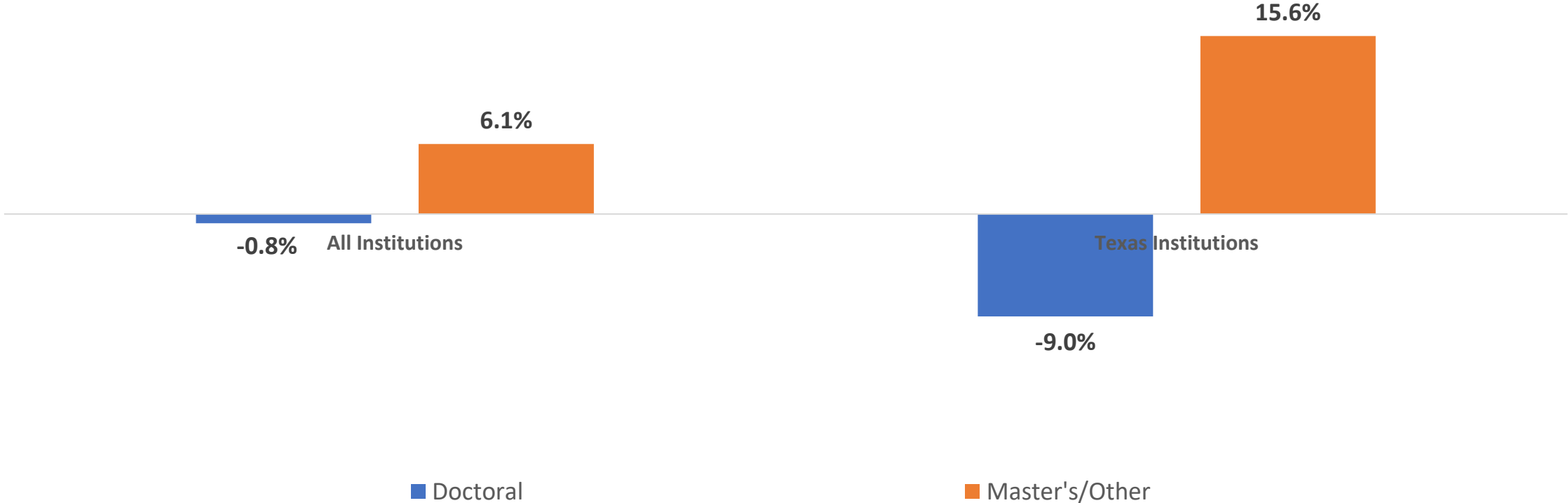
Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools/Graduate Record Examination, Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees (GE&D Survey), Fall 2022.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS: NOT FOR CITATION OR ATTRIBUTION.

- First-time graduate enrollment fell by about 5% between Fall 2021 and Fall 2022.
- Domestic first-time graduate enrollment declined by 4.7%.
- Domestic underrepresented minority groups experienced declining first-time enrollments in the range of 2-8%.
- International first-time enrollment increased 10.2%.

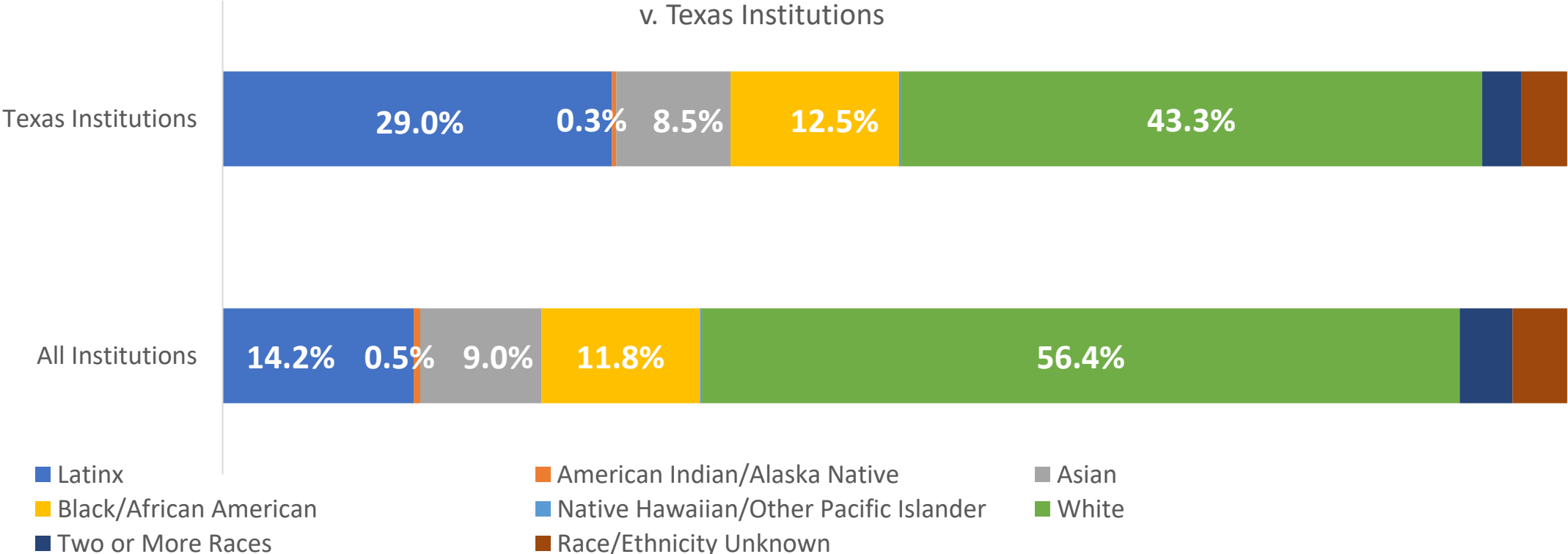
Master's Applications received by Texas graduate schools increased more than the National Average between Fall 2021 and Fall 2022

Comparisons of Average Annual Percent Changes in Application by Degree Level, Fall 2021 to Fall 2022, All Institutions v. Texas Institutions



Almost one third of domestic, first-time Graduate students attending Texas graduate schools are Latinx

Comparison of U.S. Domestic, First-time Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2022, All Institutions v. Texas Institutions



National Name Exchange

- NNE seeks to increase participation in graduate education
- Participation helps broaden your applicant pool
- Texas universities that participated in the 2023 cycle:



- To learn more or sign up, contact Matt Linton at mlinton@cgs.nche.edu

A Changing Legal Landscape for Graduate Education



- The June 2023 SCOTUS decisions on race and admissions change the design parameters for supporting diversity in graduate education.
- State contexts matter: state-by-state legislation varies and will need to be taken into account.
- CGS does not provide legal guidance, but offers research and resources to understand and support diversity and inclusion in a variety of contexts.

Project Goal:

To develop a shared understanding of the law's implications for graduate education and to empower universities to pursue DEI in graduate education to the full extent possible.

Objective 1:

Understand how the SCOTUS decision is impacting graduate admissions and broader DEI efforts.

Objective 2:

Build consensus around a range of legally sound practices across key communities.

Objective 3:

Develop and share strategies for pursuing DEI in the post-decision environment.

2023: Focus on Research and Building Areas of Consensus

May 2023:
Project launched

September 2023:
Begin working with
Advisory Committee

Oct.-Nov. 2023:
Four focus groups with
graduate deans and faculty

July 2023:
Workshop for deans on first
interpretations of the decision
and how to plan

October 9, 2023:
Legal Workshop for
University General
Counsel

Dec. 2023:
Complete analysis of focus
group themes and synthesis of
perspectives from legal
workshop.

2024: Focus on Developing & Sharing Information & Resources

CGS and EdCounsel are collaborating with:

- Graduate deans and faculty
- University counsel
- Higher education researchers with expertise in admissions and diversity

Information Briefs

Webinars on
information and
resources

Communications
toolkit(s) for
graduate deans &
General Counsel

Articles in the higher
education &
scientific press

Increasing Need for Effective Advocacy & Communication



Download the CGS Federal Policy agenda by scanning the QR code.



- Join CGS is supporting federal policy priorities.
- Locally, focus on specific fields where degree holders are working and in demand.
- Combine data with stories of students and alumni having an impact.

Texas State Snapshot

- A snapshot of graduate education, research, and the workforce
- Includes CGS membership among Texas universities

Workforce Demands in TX

Among the fastest growing occupations in Texas requiring an advanced degree:

- Nurse Practitioners
- Statisticians
- Physician Assistants
- Computer and Information Research Scientists
- Speech-Language Pathologists

Enrollment & Degrees in TX

Total Enrollment, Fall 2021	202,248	
Total Degrees Conferred, 2020-2021	65,162	
Degrees Conferred, 2020-2021		
Master's	Doctoral	Certificates
55,397	5,410	4,355

Download full snapshot:



Master's Degrees at Work

A campaign to communicate the value of a master's education to state and national workforce needs.

The **Master's Degrees at Work** campaign will highlight how a master's educated workforce is vital to addressing needs like school counselor shortages and national security issues like cybersecurity. It also aims to dispel myths that master's degree holders are urban elites, when many do essential jobs in communities across America. The campaign focuses on five main areas of high growth and need:

Public K-12 Education



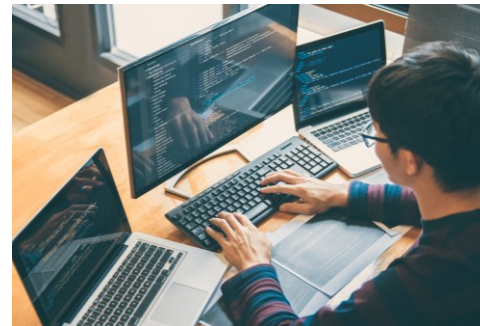
Advanced Manufacturing



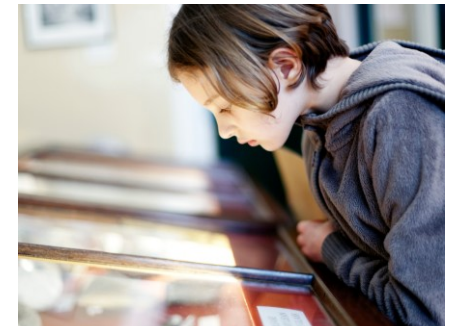
Healthcare



Cybersecurity



Museums and Culture



To learn more about the campaign, access resources, or submit a student/alumni or employer partnership story that could be featured in the campaign, scan the QR code.



GradImpact: How Grad Ed Improves Lives

Digging into the Past: A Historian's Path to Public Service

Tristan Krause, PhD candidate in history at the University of Texas A&M, is pursuing his degree with the goal of eventually working for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), an organization that recovers the remains of American military members.

"I learned I could serve my nation as a historian by bringing closure to others by helping bring these people home that gave the ultimate sacrifice," Krause said. "This is a tactile, tangible form of how I can apply history and do good in the world. To do that work with the DPAA, I need to have a PhD."



To read the full article, scan the QR code.

Expanding Career Preparation for Graduate Students



- Microcredentials are hot, but be wary of the idea that they are replacing degrees.
- STEM graduate education offers a wide range of new models for student career development.
- The Humanities PhD is (slowly, quietly) embracing professional pathways beyond academe.

Microcredentials and the Master's Degree: Project Overview

- 18-month project sponsored by ETS to examine the relationship between emerging post-baccalaureate microcredentials and the master's degree
- Conducted 6 focus groups in October 2022 including graduate deans, higher education administrators, continuing education/extension, national employer groups, and workforce experts
- Fielded a Graduate Dean Survey, Program-level Survey, and Employer Roundtable Survey
- Incorporated new questions into the NACE *Recruiting Benchmarks Survey*
- Conducted 17 Zoom interviews to inform case studies
- Held a project convening in June 2023 with over thirty attendees from diverse stakeholder groups with a report forthcoming in Fall 2023

Project Overview: Research Questions

- What role do graduate badges and certificates play in initial hiring decisions of employers?
- What role do graduate certificates play in reskilling and upskilling the current workforce?
- If master's degrees remain an employer preference for job entry or promotion, what skill set does the degree signal that shorter-term credentials don't provide?
- What vehicles exist or can be developed that ensure quality and relevance of post-baccalaureate certificates and degrees to future workforce needs?

2023 CGS Graduate Certificate Surveys

Methodology

- Graduate Dean Survey
 - Polling conducted between January and February 2023.
 - 211 graduate deans responded.
- Program-level Survey
 - Sent to graduate deans to forward to certificate directors in March.
 - 298 program directors responded.

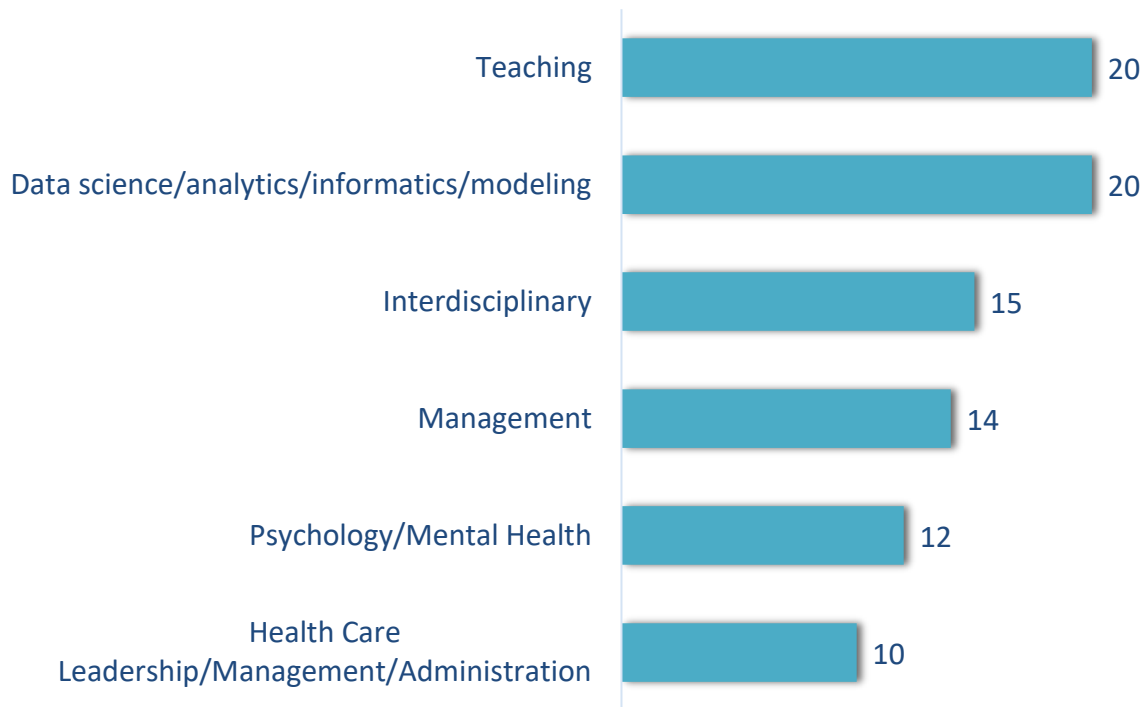
Highlights

- Certificate programs operate largely in a master's ecosystem
- Certificate programs are common in certain fields and have a mixed relationship with master's education

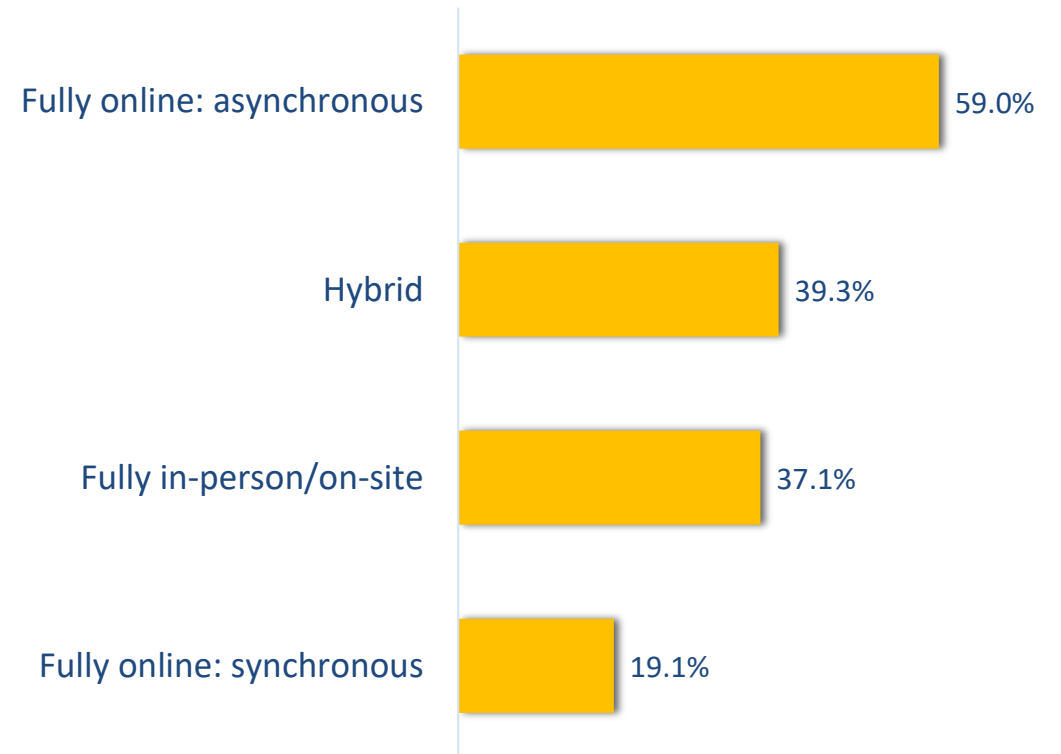


Most common fields and delivery modes of certificates

Top five certificate type categories

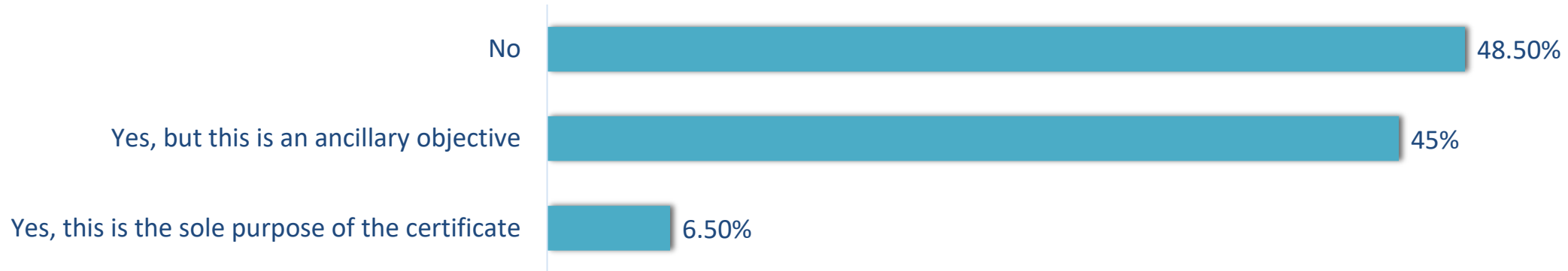


Certificate Program Delivery Modes



How do certificates relate to degrees in the new graduate ecosystem?

Is it “stackable”?

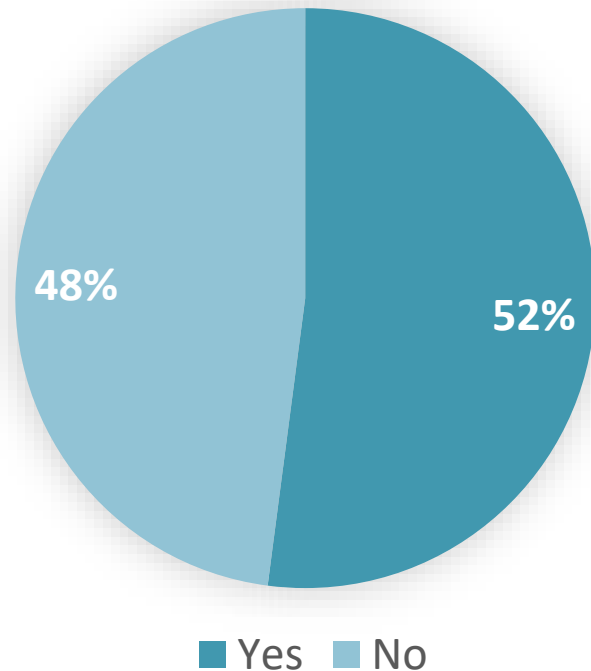


How does the acquisition of this certificate relate to the admission to a related graduate degree program?

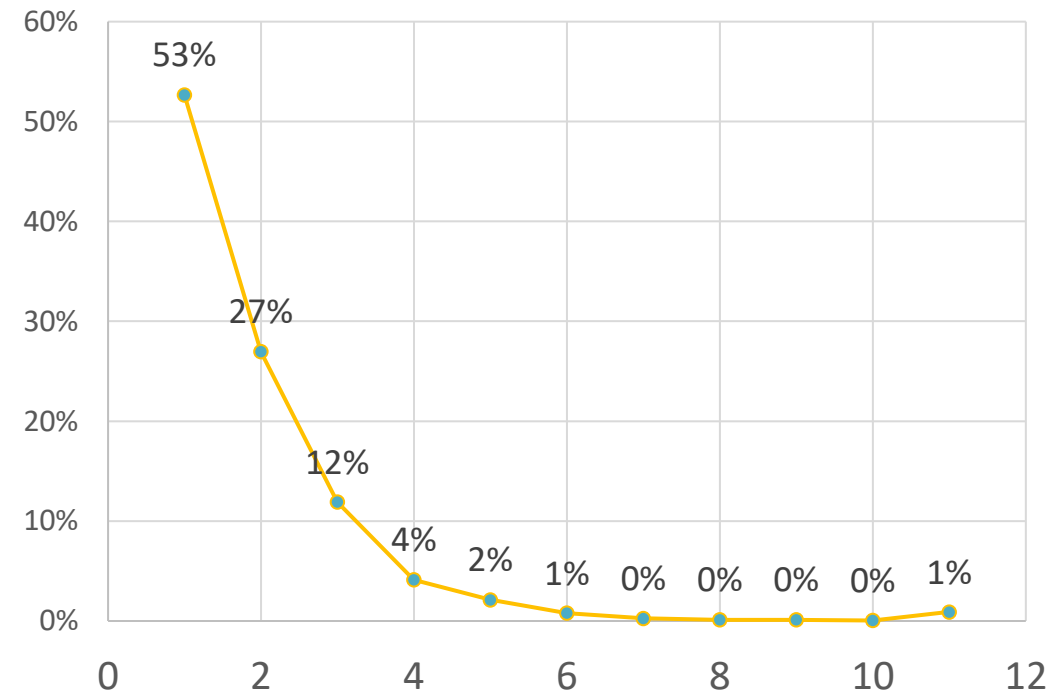
- It has no effect (51.5%)
- It has a simplified admissions process (41.2%)
- It guarantees admissions to another program (7.3%)

Do credits earn through this certificate program count towards current master's degree requirements?

Percent of Master's Students Receiving Credit for their Certificate

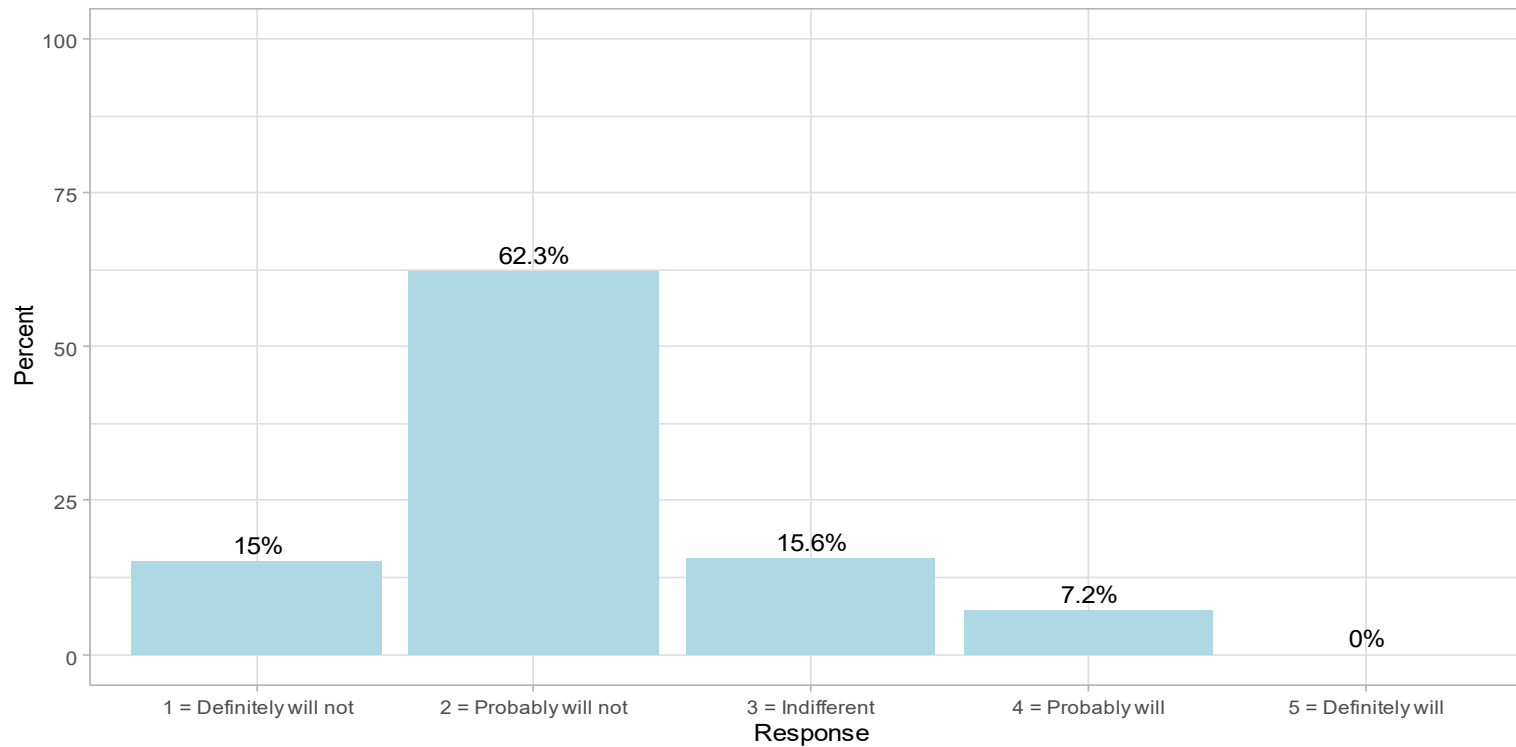


Total Certificates Earned Upon completing Master's Program



What does the future hold?

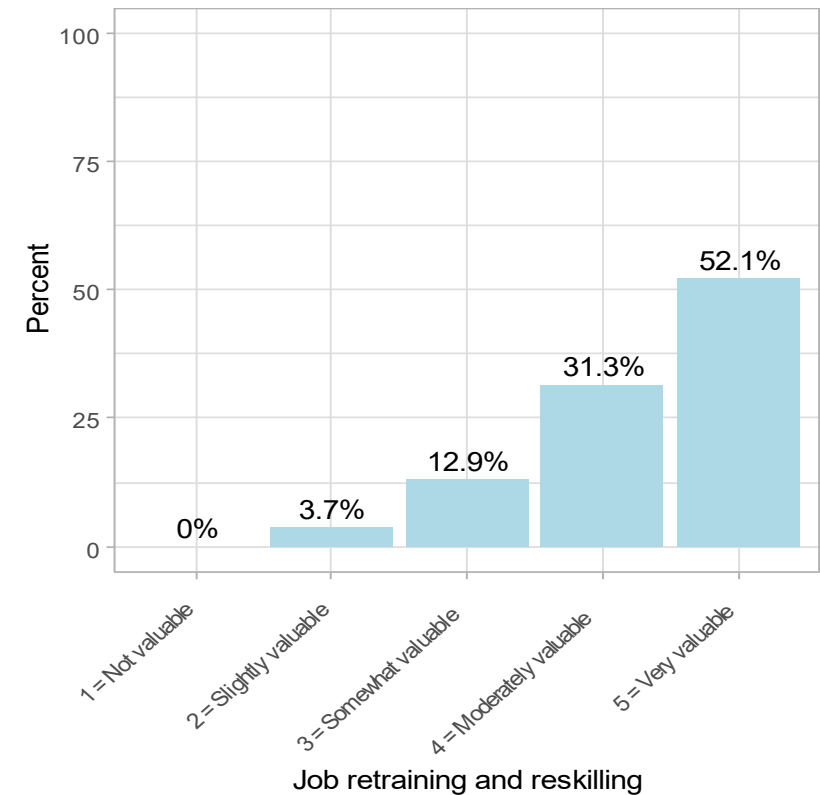
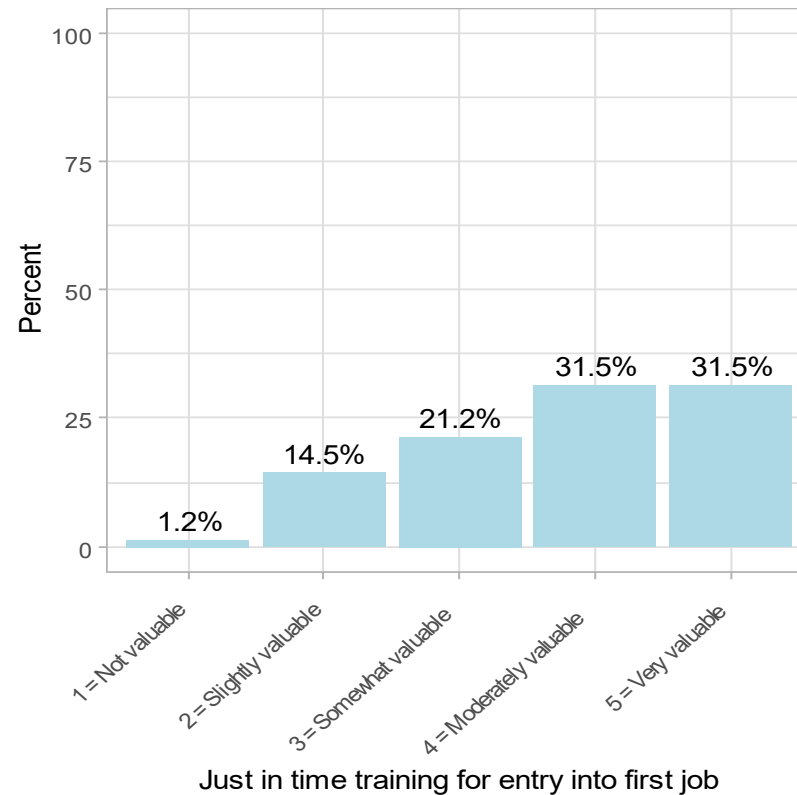
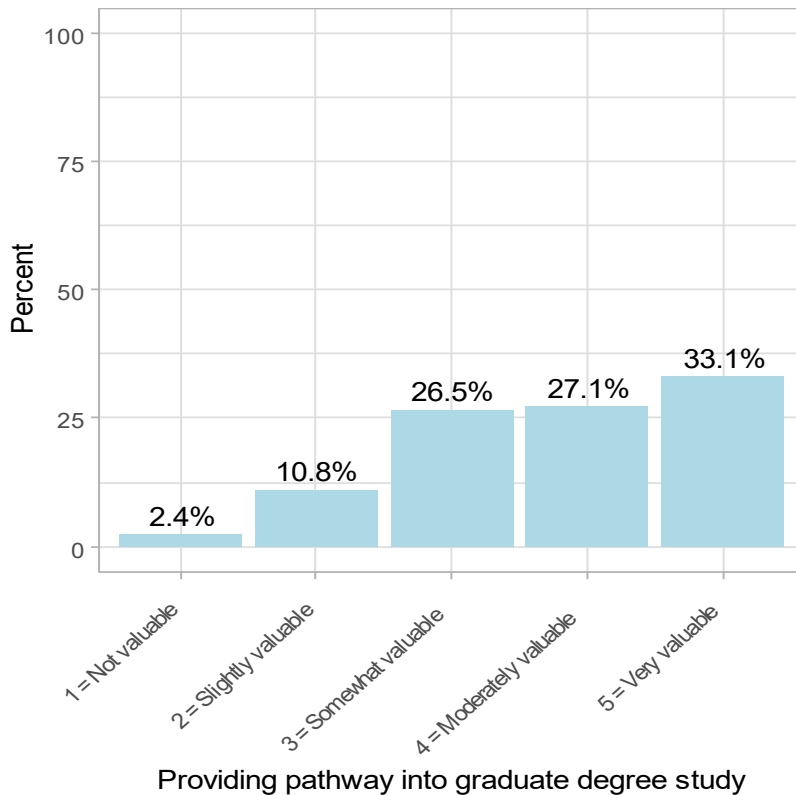
How likely do you believe it is that certificates will replace the graduate degree as the certificate of choice for employers?



“A graduate certificate to me signals the student has gained a new skill or understanding of a specific subject/topic at a deeper level than undergrad. A master's degree implies increased knowledge of a topic/subject but also includes further development of skills like critical thinking, problem-solving etc.”
– Graduate Dean Respondent

Graduate Certificate is Seen as Valuable for Job Retention and Reskilling

How valuable do you believe graduate certificates will be over the next decade in...?



Case Study:

Data Analytics at the U. of North Texas

- Worked with large national employers to create data analytics certificates to upskill current workers
- Collaborated with offices across campus to remove administrative barriers to employer collaboration
- UNT-led, but willing to work with and receive feedback from corporate partners
- Used insights gained from corporate partnerships to improve course offerings at the undergraduate and graduate level to make curriculum more responsive to workforce needs





The Innovation in Graduate Education (IGE) Hub fosters learning and collaboration among researchers on STEM graduate education.

Join our Community at www.igehub.org

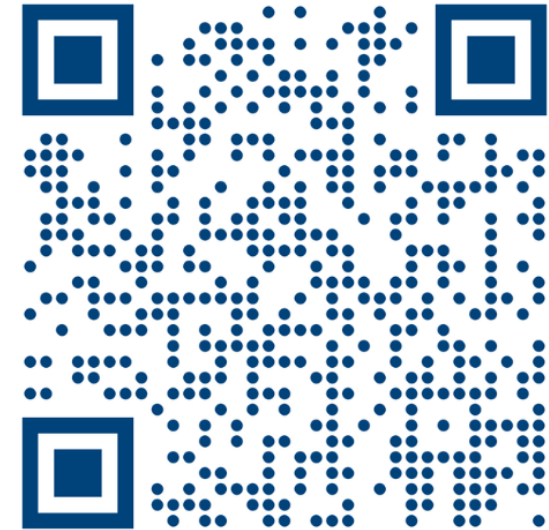
Supporting with funding by NSF (#2105723)



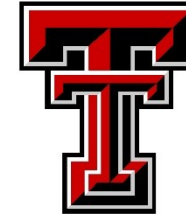
IGE Hub

Find Research and Resources:

- Professional Development for Graduate Students
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Interdisciplinarity
- Mentoring and Wellness
- Data Science
- Emerging Areas of Research



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University of Texas at San Antonio

Advancing and
Strengthening Science
Identity through
Systematic Training
(ASSIST)

University of Texas El Paso

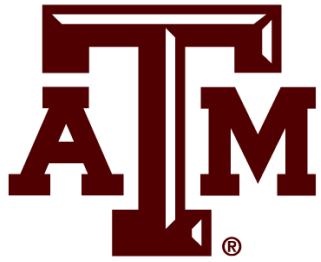
Employing Model-
Based Reasoning in
Environmental Science
(EMBeRS)

Texas Tech University

Developing Reflective
Engineers through
Artful Methods
(DREAM)

Humanities Coalition

Visit cgsnet.org to learn more



Texas A&M University

- **The Humanities Cluster** encourages creative thinking and programming to promote career diversity for PhDs in the humanities.

The Cluster engages in a series of professional-in-residence events, grants to support unpaid or poorly compensated public service internships, regular lunch-and-learn workshops, an internship fair, survey and assessment measures, and a symposium at the end of the award period.



University of Texas El Paso

- UTEP's project is designed to provide doctoral students in **Borderlands History and Rhetoric and Composition** with the skills and knowledge to secure resources effectively in their future careers.

By the end of each project cycle, student participants will have completed at least one funding application that can be submitted during or after their time as Fellows.

Engage with CGS

- **Dean's Discussion Board**, a CGS member forum for deans and other senior administrators
- **IGE Hub Discussion Board**, a private forum for IGE awardees and project administrators
- ***GradEdge* newsletter**, for the latest on national issues and trends in graduate education, and ***Government Relations Weekly Update***.
- ***CGS Webinars and Meetings***. Most webinars are members-only.
- ***Community Voices* blog**, covering issues of importance to graduate education, for and by our members
- ***GradImpact* and *Master's Degrees at Work*** student and alumni stories

Join Us for the CGS Annual Meeting

December 6-9, 2023

Washington, DC

Register at www.cgsnet.org



Plenary Topics:

- Indigenous Humanities: Empowering Native Voices
- Graduate Education in a Changing World
- Supporting the Whole International Student
- Technology and Society: Artificial Intelligence
- Socially Directed Science and Engineering
- Three-Minute Thesis Showcase and Roundtable

Thanks to my CGS Colleagues

Sarah Breyfogle

- News Network, Deans' Discussion Board, Community Voices
- Sbreyfogle@cgs.nche.edu

Kelley Karnes

- Master's Campaign, GradImpact, GradEdge Newsletter
- Kkarnes@cgs.nche.edu

Matthew Linton

- National Name Exchange, Microcredentials Project
- Mlinton@cgs.nche.edu

Brian McKenzie

- CGS Research, Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey
- Bmckenzie@cgs.nche.edu

Allison Robert

- Sloan SCOTUS Initiative
- Arobert@cgs.nche.edu

Amy Scott

- Government Relations and Public Policy issues
- Ascott@cgs.nche.edu

Christine Thompson

- IGE Insider Newsletter, Humanities Coalition
- Cthompson@cgs.nche.edu

Enyu Zhou

- Microcredentials Research
- Ezhou@cgs.nche.edu