Graduate Students at UNC-Chapel Hill

Steve Matson
Dean
The Graduate School
Graduate/Professional Student Population

Fall 2011 Headcount Enrollment

- Undergraduate: 18,430 (63%)
- Graduate: 8,190 (28%)
- Professional: 2,517 (9%)

Total Enrollment: 29,137

Source: Office of Institutional Research & Assessment.
As of Census, September 6, 2011
Graduate Student Distribution

Source: Office of the Registrar
As of Census, September 6, 2011
Graduate Students: More Heterogeneous Than Undergraduates

• Average age is 31
  – Range from 18-70
• Significant fraction of graduate students are married or get married while a student
  – Many have families with children
• Some have children while students
  – Parental leave policy
Career Goals

• Career goals for graduate students are generally well-defined
• Master’s students often arrive with specific career aspirations
  – MPH in public health to advance career
  – MPA in School of Government
  – MFA in Department of Dramatic Art
• Some master’s students are working toward a PhD
  – Not all PhD candidates earn a master’s degree
• PhD candidates will become stewards of their discipline
Professional Development

• Providing professional development opportunities is essential
  – The Graduate Student Center

• More than 160 workshops/seminars/events in 2010-11

• Serving more than 3100 students in 60 departments
  – Critical for success as professionals
Career Guidance

• Career guidance for graduate students is more important than ever before
  – Graduate students seek careers in an ever-expanding market
  – Skills acquired in graduate training are highly transferable

• Re-energized partnership with Career Services will expand opportunities
  – 1st Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars held on Nov 5
Exit Survey Results

• 78% of our graduate students rated their overall experience at Carolina as very good or excellent
• 63% rated satisfaction with student life experience as very good or excellent
• 78% rated satisfaction with academic experience as very good or excellent
• We are doing well but there is room for improvement
Life Cycle: Academics and Student Affairs

Admission

Matriculation

Teaching – Research – Service

Dissertation/thesis

Professional development activities in conjunction with departments/CFE/Writing Center/Career Counseling/Student Affairs

Job Placement

Graduation
Collaborators

- Division of Student Affairs
- Center for Faculty Excellence
- Writing Center
- Career Services
- APPLES
- Academic programs
- Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
- Training in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Grant Source Library
- Counseling and Wellness