Special Feature

This annual special newsletter feature highlights important findings and trends from the fall 2020 Graduate Center data dashboards update. Check our website for more detail on the dashboards, and for information specific to individual programs. Contact us at institutionalresearch@gc.cuny.edu to find out how we can help with your data needs and for program specific information.

Key Stats for 2020

- **Doctoral Enrollment**: 2870
- **Master’s Enrollment**: 653
- **Doctoral Admission Rate**: 18.6% admitted
- **Master’s Admission Rate**: 60.6% admitted
- **Doctoral Time to Degree**: 7 years
- **Master’s Time to Degree**: 2.3 years
- **Doctoral Degrees Awarded**: 376
- **Master’s Degrees Awarded**: 159

*Note: Arrows indicate the change from 2019*

**Admissions and Yield**

- In fall 2020, there was a slight increase in doctoral applicants (up 5%) and a decrease in admission rate (down 1.3%).
- Enrollment of admitted doctoral students (yield) fell by 6% to its lowest rate in 5 years in fall 2020, with just over half of the admitted students enrolling.
- For the master’s programs, there was a large increase in applicants for fall 2020 (up 30%). Master’s admission rate decreased (down 4.4%).
- The most selective master’s program in 2020 was Cognitive Neuroscience (26% admitted).

**Enrollment**

- In fall 2020, master’s enrollment continued its upward trend of 8 years.
- The fastest growing master’s programs are Quantitative Methods, Data Analysis and Visualization, and Data Science.
- In fall 2020, doctoral enrollment continued its downward trend of 8 years, with enrollment down 28% since 2013.
- Doctoral students’ attendance status continues to be almost entirely full time (99%). In the master’s programs, 70% of the students attend part time, while 30% attend full time.
**Time to Degree**

- **The overall median time to degree (TTD) for all doctoral** clusters has fluctuated over the past 10 years between 6.3 and 7 years.
- Over the past 10 years, the Sciences doctoral programs have consistently the **shortest median TTD**, between 5 and 6 years.
- Humanities has the **longest TTD** (between 7.7 and 8.7 years). The Social Sciences median TTD has been stable at 6.7 to 7.3 years.
- In 2019/20, the **median TTD for master’s** graduates dropped to 2.3 years from 2.7. For the GC’s largest master’s program, Liberal Studies, the median TTD is more than a half year longer, at 3 years.

**Graduation Rate**

- In 2019/20, the **7-year doctoral graduation rate increased slightly** from 39% to 41%. The **10-year rate dipped slightly** from 60% to 56%. Last year, in one of the programs with the strongest 7-year graduation rate, 79% of the 2013 year cohort in Business graduated in 7 years or less.
- The Business, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Nursing programs are the **programs with consistently the best 7- and 10-year graduation rates**, in the past 7 years.

**Degrees Awarded**

- **376 doctoral degrees were awarded** in 2019/2020, down slightly from the prior year by 14, consistent with declining doctoral enrollment numbers.
- The doctoral programs with the **largest numbers of graduates** in 2019/20 were Psychology, English, Music and Biology.

**Master’s Programs with Largest Numbers of Graduates**

- **202 master’s degrees were awarded** in 2019/2020, including 43 en-route degrees. The majority of those were in the Liberal Studies program (44%). Two other master’s programs with the largest numbers of graduates were Linguistics and Political Science.
Focus on Diversity

**Race and Ethnicity**

- In the Humanities and Social Sciences clusters, in fall 2020, Hispanic and Black admitted students had the **highest rates of enrollment** (yield) among all groups, while Hispanic and Black admitted students had the lowest yield in the Sciences, among all other groups.
- Several small to mid-sized doctoral programs stand out for the **diversity of their student populations**: Urban Education (54% underrepresented minority students), Social Welfare (47% URM), and Nursing (41% URM).
- The **graduation rate is roughly the same** for Black, Hispanic, and Asian students, with about 50% of students graduating in 10 years or less. On average, the 10-year graduation rate for white students is 56%.
- In 2019/2020, **underrepresented minority graduates in the Humanities and Sciences achieved their degree in less time than non-URM graduates**. In the Social Sciences, URM time to degree was on par with all graduates (includes URM, non-URM, and international), but still took less time than non-URM graduates.

**Gender**

- The **gender enrollment breakdowns by cluster** have been stable in the 8 years tracked in the data dashboards. Social Sciences has the greatest overall gender imbalance (62% female; 38% male).
- Two doctoral programs with **large gender imbalances** are Urban Education and Mathematics.
- There is a 7-month difference between male and female students in the median time to degree for graduates in the doctoral Humanities programs (male=7.3; female=8).
- While the median time to a doctoral degree has remained roughly stable at 6.7 years for males in the past 20 years, for female graduates the TTD has decreased from 8 years 20 years ago, to 7 years to degree in 2019/20.

**International Students**

- This academic year, international students make up 27% of the doctoral enrollment. Several doctoral programs have **higher percentages of international students**, including Business (75%), Economics (70%), Computer Science (61%), and Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures (66%).
- In the master’s programs, international students make up only 11% of student enrollment. The master’s program with the **highest percentage of international students** is Data Science (45%).
- Averaged over 7 years, international doctoral students have **higher graduation rates than all other student groups**, with a 7-year graduation rate of 49%, and a 10-year graduation rate of 66%.
- The **top countries** from which international students came to GC doctoral programs in fall 2020 include China (25%), India (13%), South Korea, Italy, and Canada (each 4%). Over 40% of the international students were already located in the US at the time of application.
- In 2019/2020, the **median time to degree for international graduates** in the Humanities (7 years) was shorter than the median TTD for all graduates in Humanities, and TTD for international graduates was also shorter in Social Sciences (6 years). TTD was a half year longer for international graduates in the Sciences programs (6.5 years).