

The NRC Assessment of Doctoral Programs

More Nuts and Bolts

Why the Delay in the Release Date?

- The Committee has begun to look at summary data. Some of the calculated data looked odd.
- We want the data and analyses to be as accurate as possible
- We will get back to you if we encounter strange entries.

What are we looking at?

Key Variables

University Data

- Enrollment in 2006
- Numbers of faculty in 2006
- Female faculty
- URM faculty
- International students
- Number of PhDs in 2003-2006
- % of a cohort completing in 6 years and in 8 years
- Median time to degree
- Student financing
- Total enrollment

- Female enrollment
- URM enrollment
- GRE score (if required)
- Student “treatment” variables

NRC obtained data

- Grants
- Honors and awards
- Publications
- Citations (except for Humanities fields)
- Student placement

Importance of faculty counts

- All input measures will be on a *per capita* basis, so getting the faculty and student counts right is key.
- Faculty counts that you gave us will be adjusted by the allocation factor you have reviewed.

How are we calculating ratings and ranges of ratings?

Two approaches

- Explicit--What do faculty value?
 - From Section G on the Faculty Questionnaire
- Implicit—What correlates with perceived quality?
 - Results of the rating questionnaire for a sample of programs in each field administered to faculty stratified by respondent rank, size of program, and region of the country.

How are we calculating ratings and ranges of ratings?(2)

- Each of these approaches gives us coefficients (weights) we can apply to the data you provided us and data obtained by the NRC.
- Each weight has an inherent range of variation (uncertainty)
- We can combine weights from the two approaches
- Result is a rating and a range of uncertainty about that rating that reflects both explicit and implicit valuation of the variables

Supplemental Ratings

- Research Productivity
- Student Opportunities and Outcomes
- Program Diversity

Will use Explicit weights. Encourage users to think about factors beyond faculty scholarship.

Well before the ratings are released the NRC will provide you with a detailed explanation of the methodology, as well as the variables and the weights that were used.

Release of the report

- When? Late spring/early summer.
- What? Details are still being worked out
- Current plans:
 - A “slim” volume about doctoral education generally
 - A web-resident companion to the slim volume with ranges of ratings for programs in each field
 - The Database with simple software to permit students and other users to choose comparison programs, choose weights that are important to them and calculate ratings and ranges of ratings under those assumptions.
 - An online technical report

We cannot release the ratings and ranges of ratings far in advance. We will provide short, embargoed, advance notice to universities of the ratings and range of ratings of their programs.

Late 2008 Analytic Symposium

Commissioned and contributed papers about
uses of the data