

# **Graduate Admissions**

## ***A Dean's Perspective***

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**North Carolina State University**

**Council Of Graduate Schools**

**New Deans Institute**

**July 8, 2006**

# Graduate Admissions

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- **Outline of Presentation**
  - **NC State – Overview**
  - **Evolution of the NC State Admissions Process**
  - **Essential Features of a Graduate Admissions System**
  - **Other Considerations**

# NC State University

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- Total graduate enrollment: 6,200
- Degrees offered:
  - Master's degrees in ~ 100 fields
  - Doctoral degrees in ~ 60 fields
- Distribution of students:
  - 57% master's
  - 43% doctoral

# NC State University

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- Applications - Fall 2006: 8,300
  - Up from 4700 in 1996
- Admissions - Fall 2006: ~ 3000
- International Applications - Fall 2006: 4700

# NC State Admissions History

- Pre 1998 – Paper-based Only
- 1998 – In-house electronic alternative
- 1999 – 1<sup>st</sup> Vendor + In-house + Paper
- 2000 – 1st Vendor + In-House + Paper
- 2001 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vendor + In-house + Paper
- 2002 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vendor + Paper
- 2005 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vendor (Electronic Only)

# Essential Features of a Graduate Admission System

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- Timely Response to Applicants
- Periodic Status Reports Throughout the Admission Season
- Quality Data
- Community Buy-In

# Timely Response

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- Faculty Demand
- Applicants Expect
- Essential for Competitiveness

# Status Reports

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- At Least Weekly Updates
  - Compare with Last Year
  - Compare with Peers
  - Respond to Enrollment Needs (Enrollment Planning)

# Quality Data

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- For Enrollment Planning and Management
  - Trends in enroll/admit/apply
  - Shifts in Applicant's Interests
- Resource Planning and Management

# Community Buy-in

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- Involve Faculty, Administrators, and Support Units in Decisions
- Establish Good Working Relationships with Support Units
- Provide Necessary Training
- Be Responsive to Problems

# Other Important Considerations

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- Centrally Managed vs. Distributed
- Graduate School vs. University Level Admissions Office
- Disposition of Application Fee

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