



Goal: Ascertain and adapt best practices used by premier graduate schools across the United States for the purpose of elevating Texas A&M University's graduate program. The overall goal is to increase the diversity and quality of applicants and cultivate a program environment that optimizes graduate student success.

Benchmarking

Advantages of graduate college:

- systematize student recruitment and program marketing,
- 2. standardize long-term student financial support,
- 3. will ensure uniformity and cohesiveness across university.

Benchmarking:

Universities to be surveyed for metrics and for comparing and contrasting current graduate program practices at Texas A&M.

- -selected by Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost of graduate studies
- 1. The University of Texas at Austin,
- 2. The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor,
- 3. The University of California at Los Angeles







The University of Texas at Austin

Graduate college Structure:

- Established in 1910
- ▶ Provides administrative oversight of <u>ALL</u> aspects of graduate education

Strategy

- ▶ Conducts 19 graduate recruitment fairs annually (13 in Texas, 6 out of the state),
- ~ \$20 million in graduate fellowships annually
- ▶ National Science Foundation (NSF) grants exceeds ~\$4.5 million.
- ~\$300,000 in travel awards each year.
- Conduct external reviews at regular intervals.

Translational impact:

- ▶ A complex structure that houses an extensive range of functions.
- Overall, it presents an emergent system that has grown by indiscriminately adding functional units over time to accommodate an evolving environment.
- Offers writing fellowships where recipients are awarded a stipend and residency on a 250-acre ranch which provides solitude

The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Graduate college Structure:

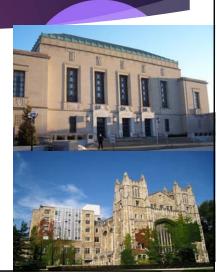
- ► ~8,300 students in graduate programs
- Fractional funding from the mentor, department, college, and graduate school
- ▶ The annual operating cost: \$10.5 million,
- ~\$58 million as financial support to doctoral students

Strategy:

- ▶ Student-centered, faculty-led, and graduate school-supported
- ▶ Stipend funding generally goes directly to graduate students
- ▶ Strategies to facilitate their career placement
- Outstanding initiatives on conflict resolution and promoting diversity.

Translational impact:

- ▶ Student-centered practices geared towards career placement.
- ► More well-defined layout than UT-Austin.
- Increasing student diversity and professional development opportunities



The University of California at Los Angeles

Graduate college Structure:

- ▶ A highly decentralized environment with considerable shared governance
- ▶ Roughly 8,000 graduate students are admitted out of 31,430 applicants
- Average time to graduate with a doctoral degree:
 - ▶ Humanities is 8-11 years, 6-7 years in the physical sciences, and 5.5-7 years in life sciences
- ▶ Faculty senate sets standards and graduate school implements policies

Strategy:

- Doctoral students are continually funded
- ▶ The operational cost of the graduate school is about \$5 million,
- ▶ \$60 million provided as block grants to the departments

Translational impact:

Projects itself as highly research-centric.

Student career success.

- ▶ Graduate education dovetailed towards the goal of excellence in research
- ▶ An exceptional data analyses team in the graduate school



