



Council of Graduate Schools

Advocacy, Research, and Innovation

Competition, Cooperation and Excellence: The Future of Graduate Education Globally

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What is the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)?

- Founded in 1960
- Association of 520 universities in US and Canada; 16 international universities
- Four regional associations
- Activities: Convene; advocate; develop and disseminate best practices; research
- Elected Board of Directors (deans)
- Washington based staff (19)



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The Charge to 21st Century Graduate Schools

- To compete
- To cooperate
- To sustain and advance excellence



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Competition: The Advantages

- Competition part of American culture
- Carnegie classification “organizes” the competition
- Global rankings favor US model



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Rankings of US Universities

- 8 of top 10, US
(Top 500 World Universities, Shanghai Jiao Tong)
- 13 of top 20, US
(Top 200 Universities in the World, THES)
- 20 of top 30, US
(Top 100 Global Universities, Newsweek)



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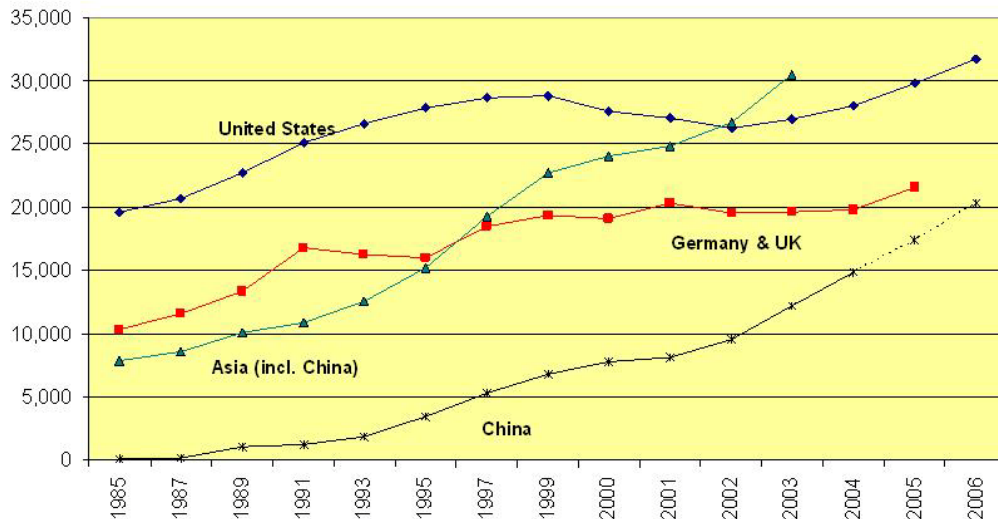
Competition: The Challenge

- Ph.D. production growing globally



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Doctoral Degrees Awarded in STEM Fields (selected years)



Asia includes China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan

2005 and 2006 data for China estimated based on recent trends of 17% average annual growth

Source: National Science Board, *Science and Engineering Indicators 2008*, Appendix Tables 2-42 and 2-43



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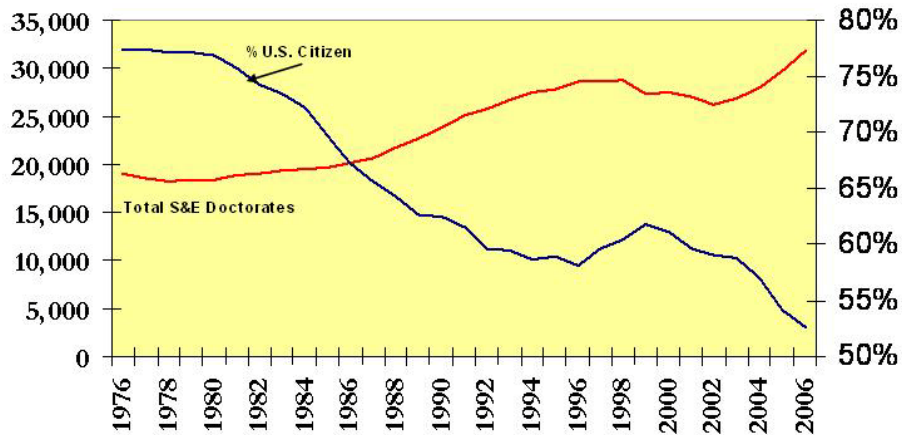
Competition: The Challenge

- Ph.D. production growing globally
- Domestic participation shrinking



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S&E Doctorates Awarded to US Citizens



Source: National Science Foundation, WebCASPAR Database, retrieved September 2008



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Competition: The Challenge

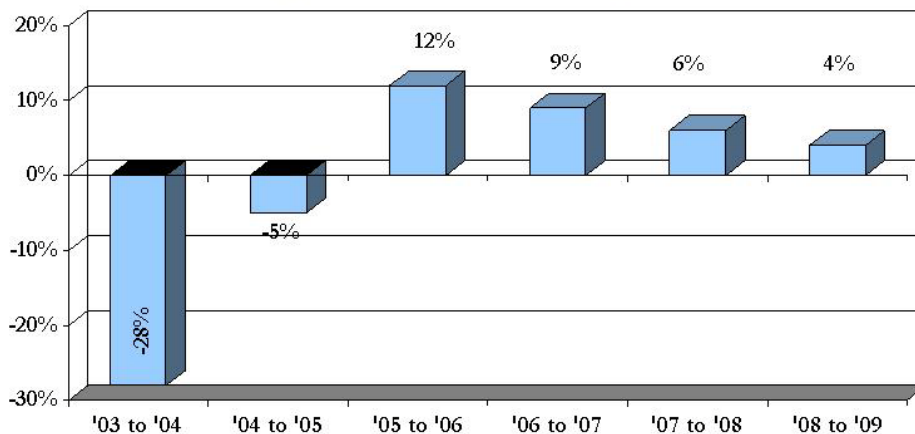
- Ph.D. production growing globally
- Domestic participation shrinking
- Strong international students staying home or going elsewhere



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Post 9/11 Effects Linger

Trends in International Graduate Applications to US Colleges and Universities, 2004 to 2009



Source: Council of Graduate Schools. International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Applications, Various Years



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Excellence: Advantages

- First mover advantage
- Fit between “meritocracy” and strong graduate schools
- Strong graduate schools committed to quality



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Excellence: The Challenges

- Student recruitment
- Inadequate attention to student success
- Shrinking budgets in response to financial crisis
- Federal visa policy may hobble competitiveness



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US Graduate Schools Must

- Compete
- Sustain Excellence
and --
- **Cooperate**



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US Needs Global Partnerships

- Transnational research partnerships abound

But ...

- Graduate education partnerships are sporadic and fragile



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Cooperation: Challenges

- Student flow remains largely one-way
- Obstacles to joint/dual degrees substantial



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Institutional Challenges to Collaborative Degrees with International Partners

- Ensuring sustainability
- Securing adequate funding
- Deciding fee structure
- Recruiting students (Dual degrees)
- Getting program accredited (Joint degrees)
- Mentoring and advising (Joint degrees)
- Additional joint degree challenges (Securing faculty buy-in; negotiating an MOU; determining duration of degree in each country)



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Cooperation: Positive Signs

- 75% of US graduate schools enhanced global collaboration since 9/11
- Nearly 60% of top 50 have collaborative programs
- Plans to establish dual/double degree programs up 30%--2007-08
- Federal funders embrace global collaboration



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“No nation can wall itself off
from the world” and the
challenges of the 21st century
require “creative collaboration.”

U.S. President Barack Obama



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