



Council of Graduate Schools

Professional Science Master's (PSM) Initiative

CGS SUPPORTS THE PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S (PSM) INITIATIVE BY:

- ✦ connecting to the graduate education community through weekly and monthly newsletters, semi-annual national meetings, four regional meetings, a listserv, and service to key organizations;
- ✦ advising and supporting graduate deans who facilitate the development of new degree programs;
- ✦ promoting and supporting statewide, systemwide, and other large scale PSM initiatives;
- ✦ providing official recognition of new programs as PSMs and helping program directors achieve such affiliation;
- ✦ encouraging wide recognition of the PSM "brand" by promoting the PSM designation and use of the PSM logo;
- ✦ serving as a clearinghouse of best practices through its publication *Professional Master's Education: A CGS Guide to Establishing Programs*, formal and informal consultation, and the www.sciencemasters.com website that provides resources and information;
- ✦ advocating for PSM support to government leaders and policy makers;
- ✦ building partnerships and collaborations with leading education, industry, and professional associations.



Since 2001, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has been at the forefront of promoting the Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree. CGS is the only national organization dedicated solely to the advancement of graduate education and research, working to enhance the scope and quality of graduate education, and is therefore well situated to facilitate the creation of innovative degree programs directed toward meeting the needs of an interdisciplinary and collaborative workforce.

The PSM initiative is a current part of CGS's more than four decades of effort to promote innovation in graduate education. By combining rigorous study of science or mathematics with workplace skills highly valued by business and government employers, PSM programs prepare graduates to succeed in our 21st century global economy. PSM programs produce a cadre of well-rounded science professionals who have deep knowledge of their subject but also have the ability to communicate effectively and manage projects.



A 2008 National Academies report, *Science Professionals: Master's Education for a Competitive World*, strongly endorsed the PSM recommending "concerted action to accelerate the development nationally of professional science master's education." A National Science Foundation program to develop PSMs was authorized by the America COMPETES Act of 2007 and was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program's goal was described as providing "a well-trained U.S. STEM workforce for the changing needs of society and employers." CGS supports these goals and provides the information and guidance needed to facilitate the development of new PSM programs and to enhance existing programs.

CGS articulates the need for, and the value of, graduate education including the PSM, through regular communication to policymakers, congressional staff, university government relations officers, and its 500+ member institutions. CGS seeks advice for the initiative from a national advisory board consisting of academic administrators, employers, and PSM program directors. CGS is well on the way to achieving the initiative's goal of making the PSM degree a regular feature of U.S. graduate education.

The CGS PSM initiative has been made possible with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. For more information, including guidelines for program development, the latest PSM news, and a complete list of programs, please visit: www.sciencemasters.com or contact profmasters@cgs.nche.edu.

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