



A Differential Tuition Model for PSM Programs

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PSMs at Georgia Tech

- Started as Focused MS programs (before PSM designation created)
- **Interdisciplinary** programs to meet **employer demand** in **rapidly growing** fields
 - Human-Computer Interactions
 - Quantitative and Computational Finance
 - Prosthetics and Orthotics
 - Bioinformatics

Why PSMs at GT?

- Emerging fields cross traditional academic departmental boundaries
- A professional degree to attract students not interested in academic careers
- MS degrees take less time, academic training than PhDs
- A new channel for collaborative education with employers

Challenges to PSM Sustainability at Research Universities

- Institutional and Administrative support
 - *How do PSM programs fit with the mission of the university?*
- Faculty interest
 - *Why should faculty care about PSM students?*
- Resources
 - *How can the program provide professional add-on services?*
- Student support
 - *Can deserving students afford the PSM degree?*

Differential Tuition for Professional Education

- MBA programs
 - Tuition 1/3 higher than regular graduate tuition at GT
- Masters in Building Construction
- MD, DVM, DDS, etc.
- **Professional education incurs higher costs**
- **Justified by the value returned**

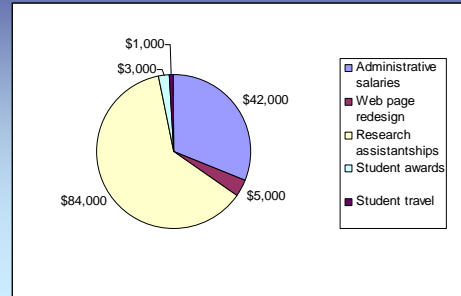
Differential Tuition for PSMs at Georgia Tech

- Started Fall 2003
- Match the differential tuition of GT's MBA program – 30% higher than regular graduate tuition
- The differential returns to the program
- ***Differential is not subject to waiver***

Actual tuition: 2009-2010

	In-state per semester	Out-of-state per semester
Regular graduate tuition	\$3,442 + \$718 fees	\$12,478 + \$718 fees
MBA, PSMs (except P&O)	\$4,469 + \$718 fees	\$16,053 + \$718 fees
MS Prosthetics & Orthotics	\$4,469 + \$2,718 fees	\$16,053 + \$2,718 fees

MS Bioinformatics Budget 2008-2009



Why GRA appointments?

- Leveraged benefit to student:
 - Student receives stipend + waiver of regular graduate tuition
 - Net benefit of >4 x cost
- Powerful motivator for students to join faculty laboratory for research project
- Strong incentive for faculty to accept PSM student in research lab

Limits and competition

- Only full-time PSM students beyond first semester are eligible for GRAs
- Must be in good academic standing
- Competitive awards based on written resume, concise research proposal and letter of recommendation from faculty mentor



Results for the MS Binf program

- No decline in numbers of applicants or acceptances as result of higher tuition
- Firm financial footing for program
- Financial support for good students
- Professional experience for students through research
- Increased faculty involvement

But not all needs are met

- Tuition funds are restricted as state funds
 - no food, no alcoholic beverages, no awards
- Still cannot recruit minority students, who need and expect greater financial assistance