GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS FACTORS:
A LONGITUDINAL STUDY

A Thesis
Presented to the Faculty
of Philadelphia University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science in (name of program)

by

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the factors associated with successful graduate students. The study took place over a period of twenty years and includes students both from private and public institutions, and from large and small college and universities. The study was confined to the United States given the differences among educational systems across the globe. Nevertheless, the findings are consistent with those found by other researchers in Europe and in Asia.
Professor Robert Newhouse provided the guidance for this research. Generous funding was provided by the United States Department of Education and the University Faculty Society of America.
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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

History of American Graduate Education

Formal post-secondary higher education in the United States can be dated to the mid-to late-1600s with the establishment of Harvard, College of William and Mary, and Saint John’s College. Earlman (1951) synthesized studies of success among students in post-secondary programs, but it was not until the late 1990s that researchers began studying success at the graduate level (e.g., Davis 1993; Marks 1997).

TABLE 1
Master’s Degrees Conferred, 1999-05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business and Marketing</td>
<td>59,109</td>
<td>34,700</td>
<td>3,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Information Science</td>
<td>7,627</td>
<td>2,699</td>
<td>10,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>23,806</td>
<td>77,436</td>
<td>101,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>23,935</td>
<td>4,618</td>
<td>28,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>6,754</td>
<td>24,489</td>
<td>31,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>4,374</td>
<td>5,903</td>
<td>10,277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Education (as cited in Degrees Completion Rate, 2007).
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

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Table X
REFERENCES


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