The Graduate Enrollment and Degrees report is a joint project between the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Graduate Record Examinations Board (GRE). This survey collects data from about 25% of the approximately 2,800 colleges and universities that offer graduate programs—however these institutions represent 73% of the total U.S. graduate enrollment, confer 73% of the master’s degrees and more than 90% of the doctorate degrees nationwide.

In the most recent survey of fall 2007 trends, 917,010 applications for master’s programs were reported nationwide, up 10% from 2006. Education was the only field with fewer applications for master’s programs in 2007 compared to 2006. A total of 41% of all applications were for three of ten fields: business (17%), education (13%) and engineering (12%).

Five of the ten fields included in the survey had double digit application increases from 2006 to 2007, lead by health sciences with +13%, and including biological sciences, engineering, business and physical sciences.

Given these increases in applications, it is not surprising that the admit rates for almost all programs declined from 2006 to 2007—with the exception of public administration & services and social sciences. The programs with the largest application increases tended to have the largest drops in acceptance rates—health sciences and business with a 4% decline from 2006 to 2007.

Of these ten fields, in aggregate about three in four applicants were accepted to Education master’s programs and two in three to public administration programs. Fewer than half of all applicants were accepted into biological sciences and humanities and arts programs.

### National Master’s Application Volume and Acceptance Rates by Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percent of Accepted Master’s Applications by Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Admin &amp; Services</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fields **</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>+13%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fields **</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>+10%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Admin</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Arts</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>