

College of Engineering

Assessment of Retention Resources for Underrepresented Minority (URM) Graduate Students in Engineering

Jacqueline E. McDermott, Ph.D.

Purdue University, College of Engineering Dean's Office of Graduate Education

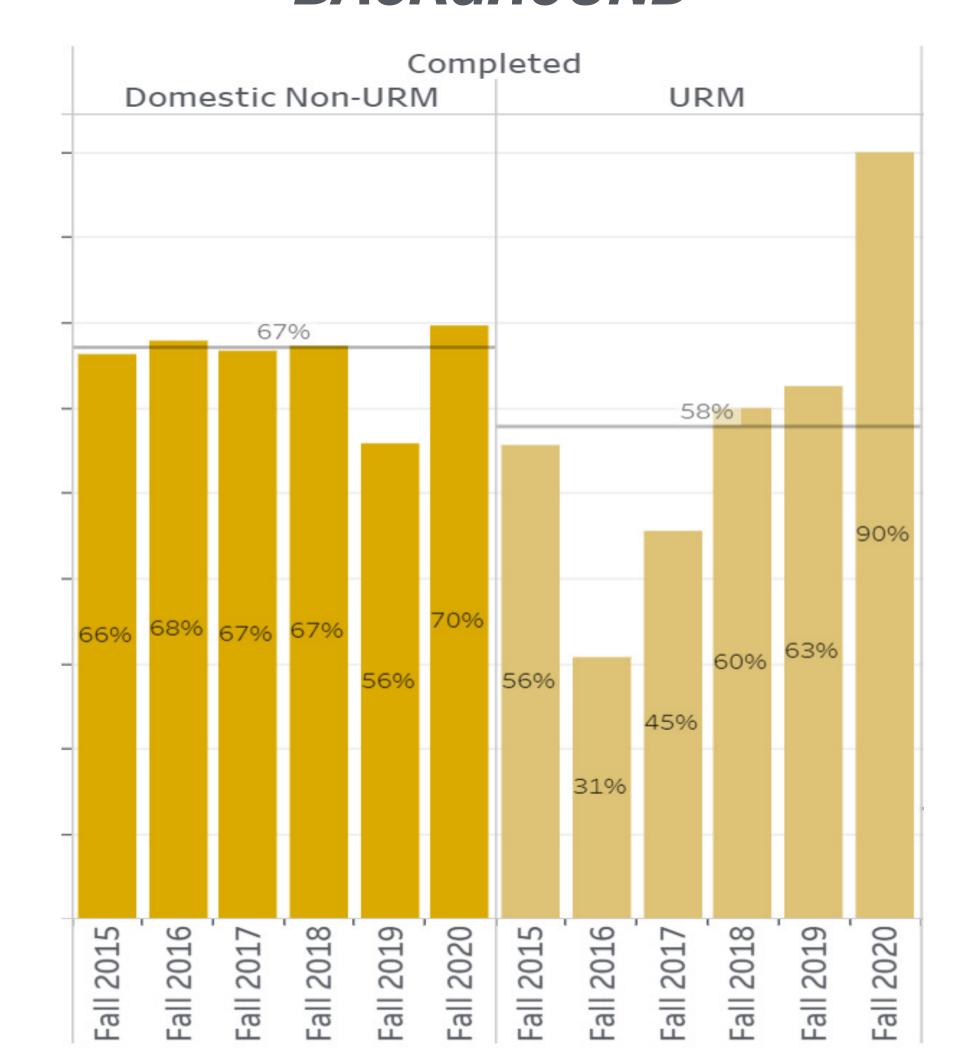
OVERVIEW

While graduate enrollment has increased at Purdue Engineering, the percentage of domestic Underrepresented Minority Students (URM) graduate students remains low (~5-7%). We have developed a number of recruitment structures, but retention and student success structures are also needed to support current URM students in their graduate studies.

This project assessed challenges faced by URM graduate students and developed a new website to promote and empower Graduate Student Thriving.

Future work will look to develop additional resources for staff members and faculty who support URM graduate students, further promoting GradSchoolThriving.com

BACKGROUND



7 year PhD completion rates for domestic students (non-URM and URM). Line indicates average over 6 years (Fall 2015-Fall 2020)

METHODS OF DEVELOPING GRADSCHOOLTHRIVING.COM



A mini-grant was received from the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) through the Connecting Efforts to Support Minorities in Engineering Education Workshop in partnership with the Virginia Tech Graduate School, the Ohio State University College of Engineering and the University of Oklahoma.

Start/Administer Grant

Identify 3-5 retention topics that impact graduate student

May- June

- Find/Develop resources
- Figure out how to build/host a website

- Focus groups with current graduate students (How helpful, what to change)
- September Make resources and feedback into usable website content

- Finish website and wrap up administration of Grant
- Market and share out GradSchoolThriving.com

In addition to determining what retention resources exist within Purdue Engineering for Graduate Students, there was an evaluation of existing resources at peer institutions as well.

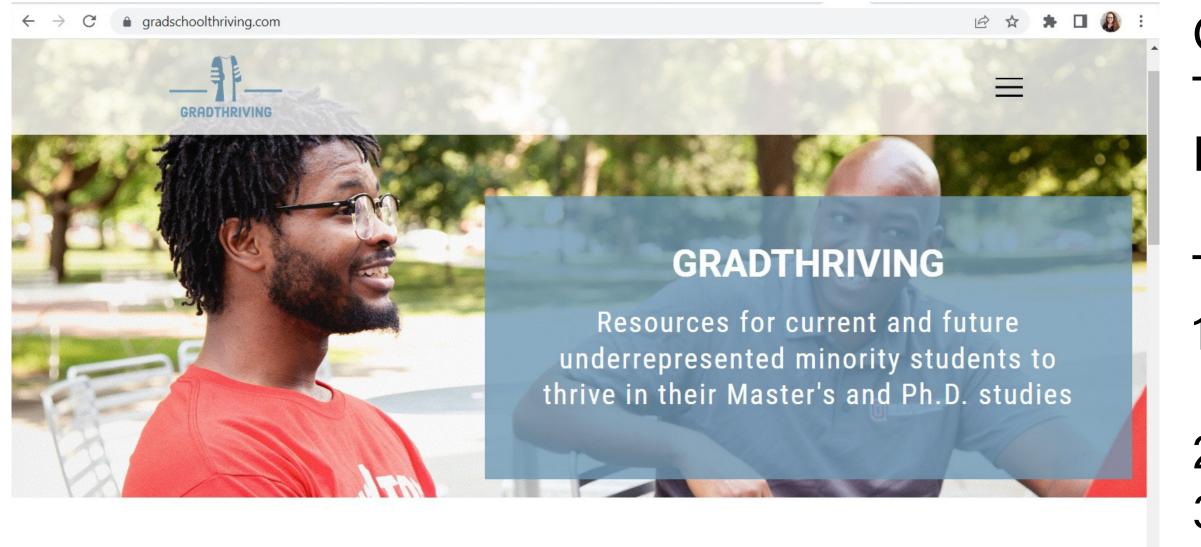
WEBSITE LAUNCH

Who Are My Graduate School

How Can I Best Manage My

Time And Goals As A Graduate

Advocates?



How can GradThriving help you?

raduate School can be tough, but there are certain insider tips that can make it be easier and allow you to THRIVE in your graduate studies.

Jniversities?

How Do I Ask For Help?

A Sense Of Belonging In

Our process includes the following parts: Technology, Communication, Organization, Feedback, and Marketing.

The 7 website themes include:

- . What should I know about Graduate School?
- 2. What resources exist at all universities?
- 3. Who are my graduate school advocates?
- 4. How can I build community and a sense of belonging in graduate school?
- 5. How do I ask for help?
- 6. How can I best manage my time and goals?
- Preparing for my career: What's next?

WEBSITE QR CODE



Website analytics and feedback will demonstrate website effectiveness.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Update resources for graduate students and develop staff/faculty resources. Present at NAGAP and CoNECD conferences.

DEDICATED FUNDING FOR URM MASTER'S

Web searches were completed to assess existing retention resources for engineering graduate students at our Big Ten+ peers and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Overall, more resources are needed to support current URM graduate students in engineering at Purdue and at other institutions

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SUMMER RESEARCH

RESOURCES FOR GRAD STUDENTS

GRADUATE TUTORING

STUDENTS