



College of Engineering

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

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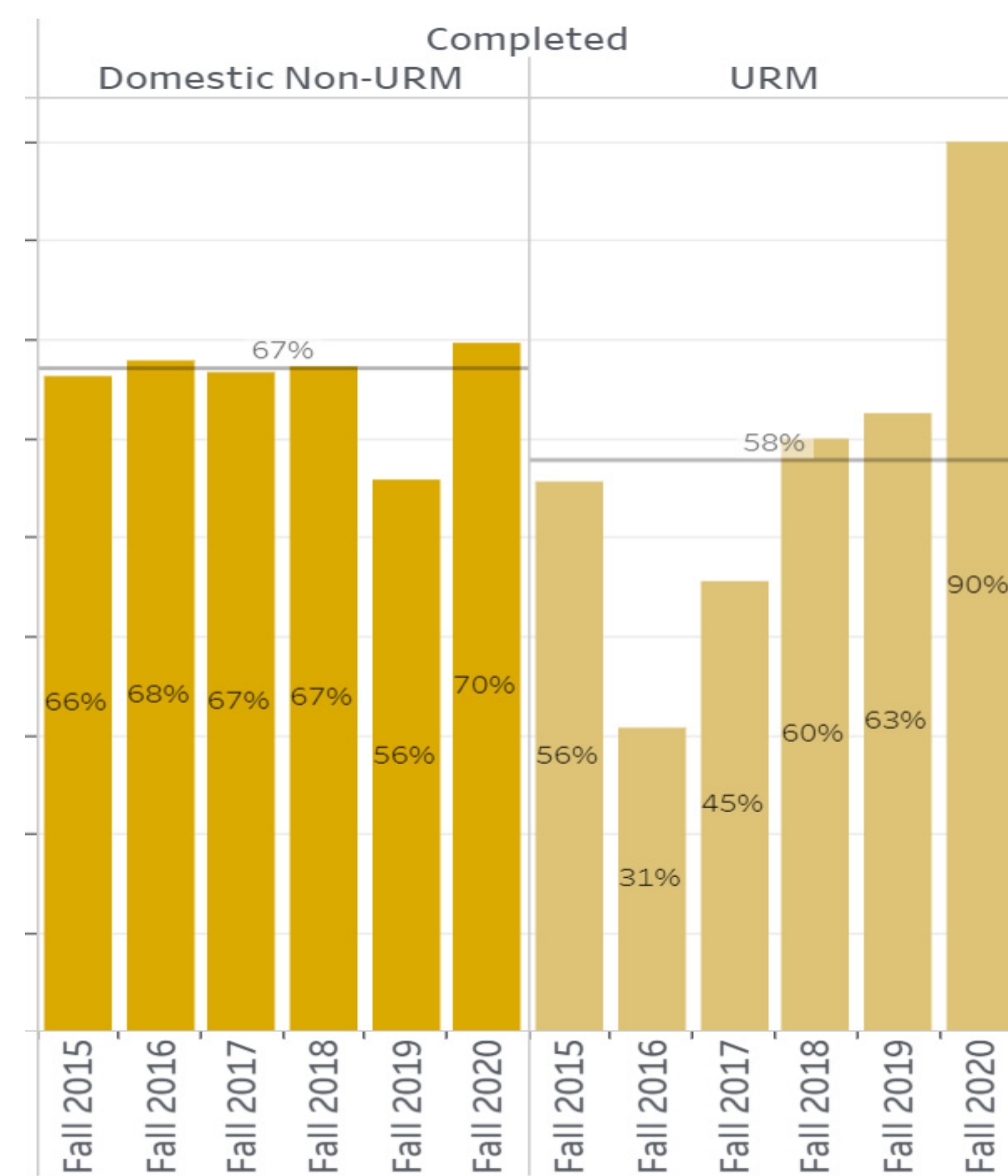
## OVERVIEW

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 Thiving.

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

## BACKGROUND

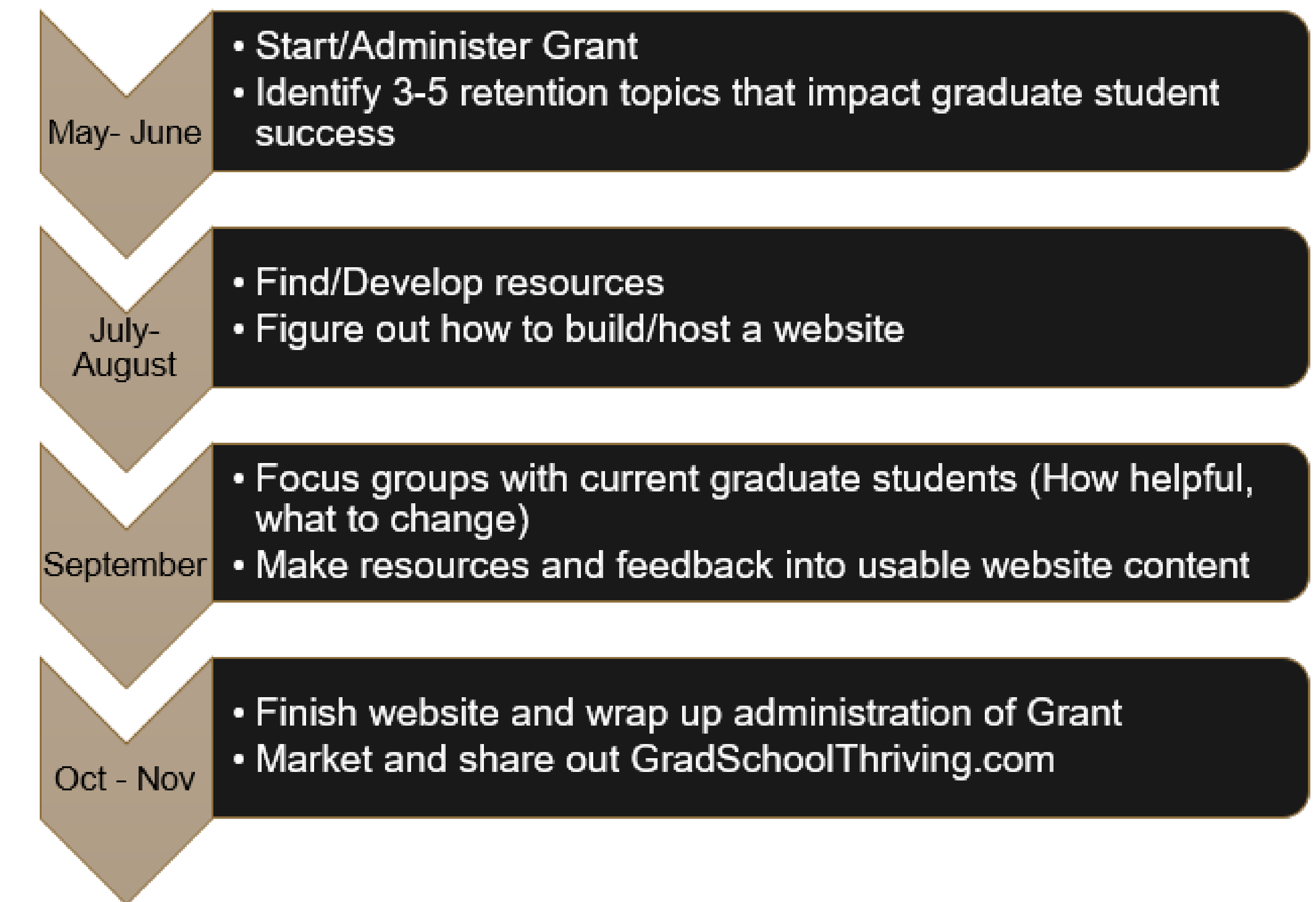


7 year PhD completion rates for domestic students (non-URM and URM). Line indicates average over 6 years (Fall 2015-Fall 2020)

## METHODS OF DEVELOPING GRADSCHOOLTHRIVING.COM

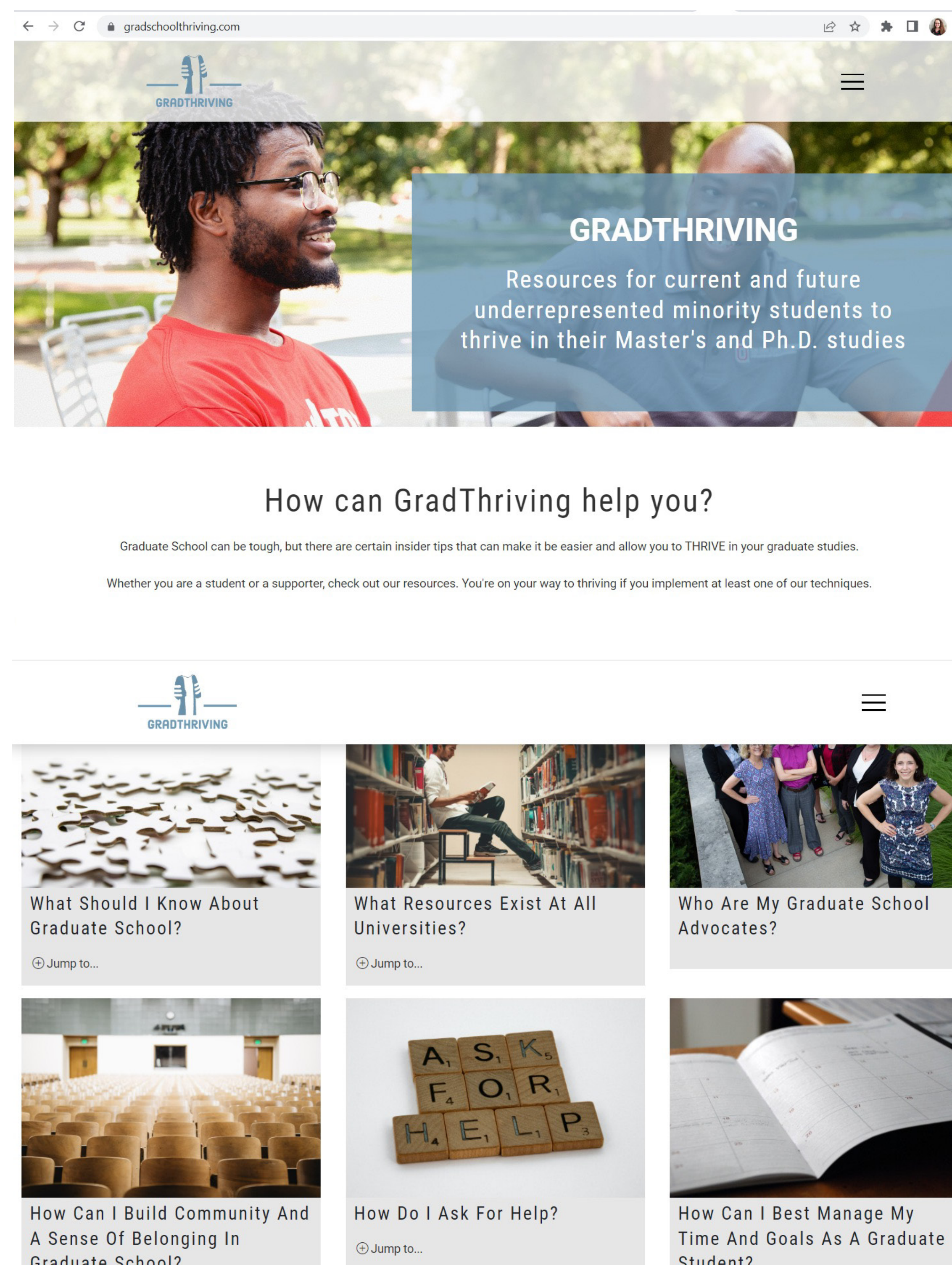


A mini-grant was received from the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) through the *Connecting Efforts to Support Minorities in Engineering Education Workshop* in partnership with the Virginia Tech Graduate School, the Ohio State University College of Engineering and the University of Oklahoma.



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



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

The 7 website themes include:

1. 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?
7. Preparing for my career: What's next?

### WEBSITE QR CODE



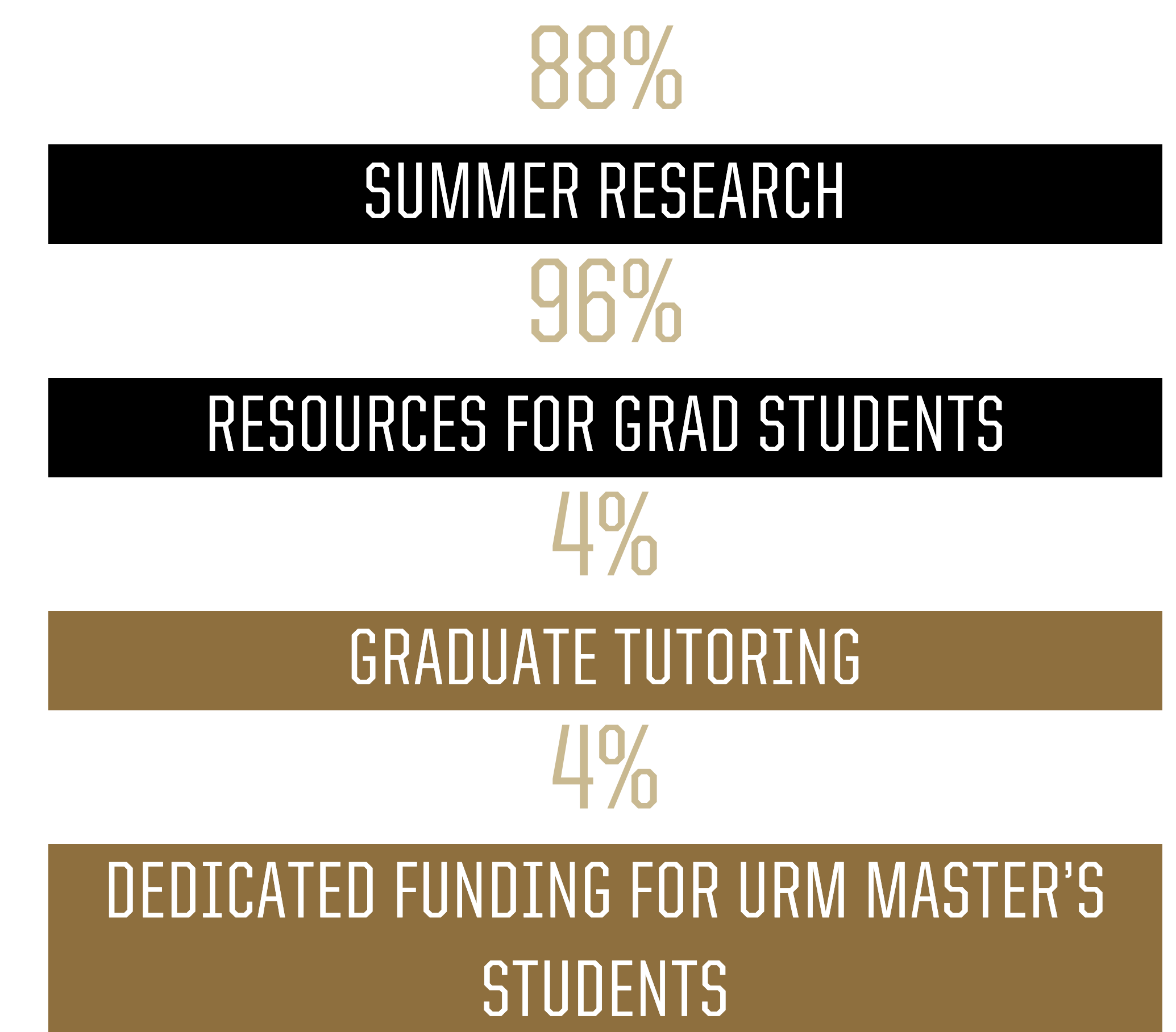
### PROJECT IMPACT

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.

## COMPARISON TO 24 PEERS



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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