

**2004-2005**

**Quality Enhancement Program Summary**  
***From Admission to Graduation and Beyond: Assessing***  
***Doctoral Gerontology Education (ADGE)***  
**Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness**



**Department:** Gerontology **Award Amount:** \$9,775 **Award Recipient:** Dr. Graham D. Rowles

**Project Focus:**

The ADGE project focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating the first interactive assessment and feedback system for a doctoral program in Gerontology. The Graduate Center for Gerontology underwent an external review in March 2004 that suggested the potential for developing the nation's first comprehensive and dynamic program assessment system for a doctoral program in gerontology. The project, consistent with specific recommendations of the review committee, also provides a framework for undertaking educational assessment research on diverse aspects of the doctoral program and the progress of its students.

**Assessment Method:**

The web-based system was developed by an Assessment Advisory Committee, consisting of students, faculty and staff, with the technical assistance of Dr. Gerald Swan in the TASC Office. The ADGE system consists of self-rating survey instruments that allow students to dynamically monitor their progress toward accomplishing specific professional and personal goals, a protocol for faculty assessment of students and a system of interactive feedback among students and faculty. This assessment tool will be administered with all graduate students. The incoming class of 2006 will serve as the pilot population for this initiative. Assessment will be undertaken, at a minimum, on seven occasions during each student's tenure in the program – (1) upon entry to the program, (2) at the end of the first semester, (3) at the end of the first year, (4) following completion of Integrative Seminar (GRN 785), (5) after completion of qualifying exams, (6) following

the doctoral dissertation defense, and (7) two years post graduation.

**Status as of February 2006:**

Basic web programming for the system has been completed. Pilot testing has been undertaken with four current graduate students, who are excited about the potential for file sharing and collaborative work on projects, as well as the potential for vita building. Some issues of open accessibility to personal information have been addressed. Only a student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies (on a "need to know" basis) will have access to potentially sensitive measures in the category of "personal growth."

A presentation on development of the system was enthusiastically received at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education in Indianapolis, IN on February 9, 2006.

**Future Plans:**

The ADGE system is scheduled to "go live" in April 2006, at the end of the spring semester. The Assessment Advisory Committee will continue to meet regularly to assess the progress and outcomes of the initiative, and to determine how the Graduate Center will use the aggregate information collected through the project.

Early indications are that our assessment system is capable of fulfilling needs beyond the walls of our own program. Our intention is to work toward a system design that allows for transportability and application in a variety of programs with different curricula and administrative structures.