

The Master of Research Administration



“Science is more important to a republican than in any other government.” –Thomas Jefferson-1821

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Objectives

1

Master Degree in Research Administration

Exploring the Education level impact

2

MRA Program of Study

Course Content

3

The Future

Looking Ahead



Source:

Education, Experience, Credentials or

Gender:

What counts most when it comes to salary?

Jennifer Shambrook, Ph.D.¹, Thomas J. Roberts, Ed.D.², & Robert S. Triscari, Ph.D. ²



What is more important, getting a degree or studying for the CRA in relation to increase in salary?

-2010 Research Administrators Stress Perception Survey (2010 RASPerRS) measured salary, years experience, educational level, CRA status, and gender. Using these empirical data, comparisons are made to show how salary levels are associated with each of these factors.

Methods:

- Surveyed 6,323 Research Administrators.
- 1,131 completed survey responses
- Confidence level of 99%
- Confidence interval of 3.48
- Data were both descriptive and analytical statistics
- Salaries were stratified into 5 levels in order to perform analysis of variance between groups.

Conclusions:

Masters or doctoral level educational degree, five or more years research administration experience, and male gender are significantly associated with higher salaries.

CRA credentials, higher education below the Masters level, or experience of less than five years are not shown to be statistically associated with higher salaries for Research Administrators.

Education results:

- Research Administrators with associate degrees make the lowest salaries; those with doctoral degrees make the highest.
- There is no significant difference between the salaries until the level of Masters degree is reached. The mean then increases significantly.
- There is also a significant increase between Masters and Doctoral degrees.

How is graduate school different?



Training

- Specialized
- Practical skills
- Lower \$\$
- Reputation/title
- Higher Interaction
- Short time
- May increase salary/promotion
- Worldview – only profession



Education

- General
- Theoretical-principles/Critical Thinking
- Higher \$\$
- Reputation/title
- Lower Interaction
- More time
- Increased salary/promotion
- Worldview - International

History

- 2008 NCURA Call for Implementation Proposals
- Fall 2009 NCURA Implementation Grant
- Spring 2011 Program Approved by Trustees
- Fall 2011 First Cohort
- Summer 2013 First graduating class (17)



Challenges During Implementation Proposal

- Obtaining institutional support
- Accurately determining need and demand
- Developing a cost effective budget
- Bucking the F2F versus online myth
- Territorial guarding



Approach to the MRA Program

Democratic Learning

While it is difficult to define what is “democratic learning” the goal of the MRA Program is to involve the participation, input and feedback of many stakeholders in the development, evaluation, and implementation of the program of study.

MRA Program

Needs Assessment

NCURA Funding

National Advisory Board

UCF Interdisciplinary Collaboration

University Review/Approval

Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning

Institutional Effectiveness

Holistic Program of Study

Research Administrators represent their institutions in diverse matters related to:

*Research
Development*

*Grants and
Contracts
Administration*

*Regulatory
Compliance*

*Institutional
Policies &
Procedures*

Commercialization

*Economic
Development*



Overview of the Profession

What Roles Do We Play?



Overarching Goals of the MRA

Preparing for the Research Office in the 21st Century



Educate professional research administrators to address the issues facing our research organizations

Integrate collaboration and participation of national experts in research into the curriculum

Foster a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in research administration issues

Instill a sense of duty and service to the research community into the new and current professionals

Address the need for providing excellence in research administration within our nation

Overview of the MRA Program

- Fully online – 36 credit hours
- 12 courses – 2 courses each term for 6 terms/semesters
- Designed for full-time research administrators
- Eligibility - 5 yrs experience, No GRE
- Tuition – flat rate for in and out of state.
Lower than traditionally out of state.



12 Courses/36 hours/2 years

1. Introduction to Research Administration
2. Legal and Regulatory Framework
3. Grant and Contract Management *
4. Leadership and Organization Models
5. Financial Management
6. Human Resource Management
7. Contracting for Sponsored Programs
8. Strategic Planning and Management *
9. Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization
10. Audits in Research Administration
11. Legal and Ethical Compliance
12. Public Program Evaluation Techniques *(capstone)

**Service learning courses*



Where do we go from here?

- What defines a profession?
- Future Education
- Future Research
- Accreditation
- Other trends in research administration





**Questions
Or
Comments?**

“To pursue science is not to disparage the things of the spirit. In fact, to pursue science rightly is to furnish the framework on which the spirit may rise.” – Dr. Vannevar Bush

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