

Professionalizing Graduate Education

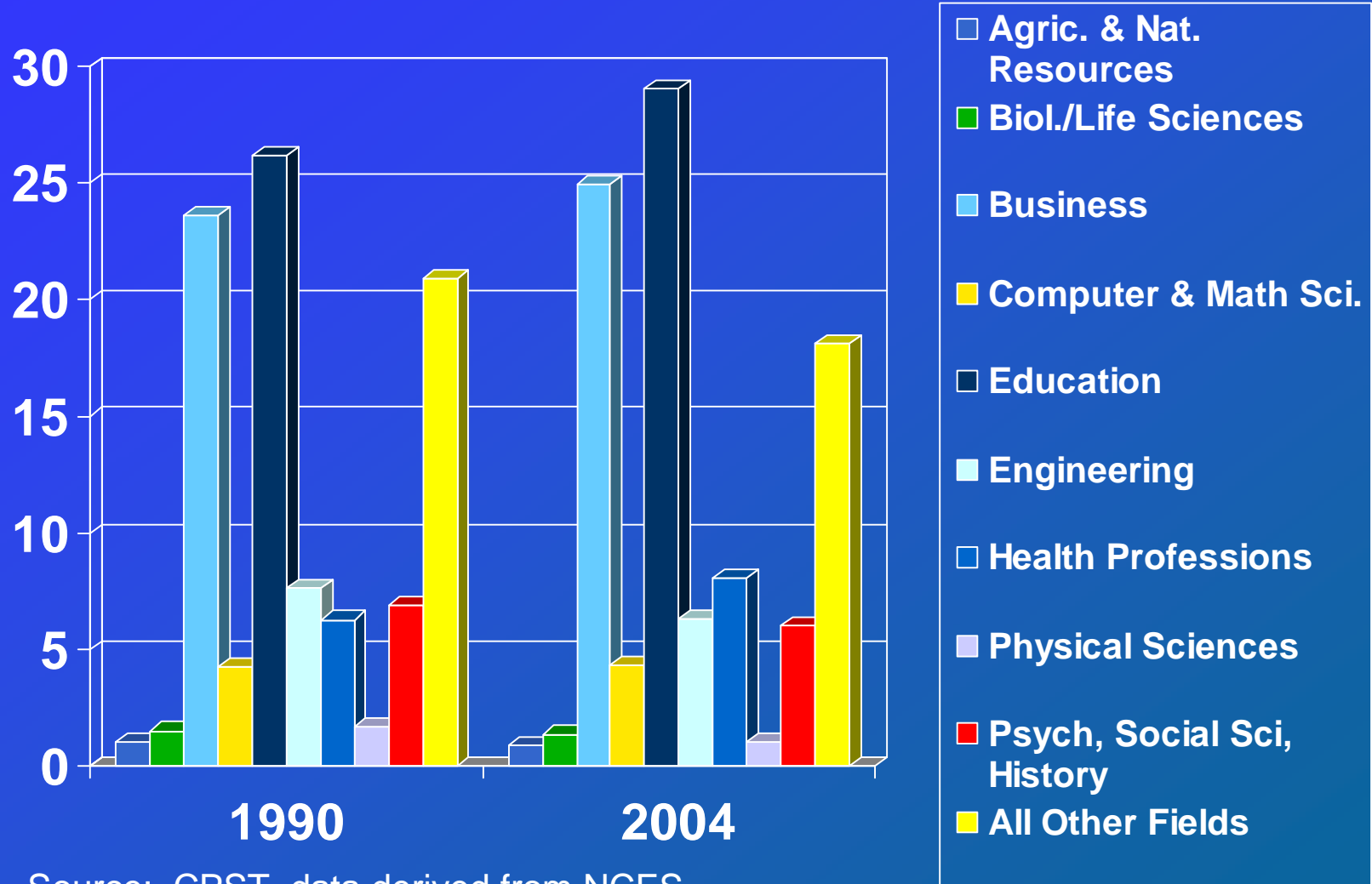
The Master's Degree in the
Marketplace

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Diversity in the Master's Degree

- Total Degrees awarded in 2003-04 – 1.4 million
- Master's Degrees awarded – 558,940 (40% of total degrees)
- NCES taxonomy – 32 disciplines, 426 fine fields
- Alternative taxonomies – NRC Research PhDs, NSF S&E, NORC Survey of Earned Doctorates
- Carnegie Foundation – Institutional Typologies
- Peterson's Guides – 900 degree titles, 1000+ degree abbreviations, 130 distance learning

Masters Degrees by Broad Field, 1990 and 2004



Source: CPST, data derived from NCES

Statistical Profile of Doctorate Recipients, 2003

Field	% PhDs with MS in any field	% PhD with BS in same field
2003 Total	72.9	52.4
Education	85.8	31.0
Engineering	82.5	74.4
Humanities	83.5	60.2
Life Sciences	52.3	47.8
Phys Sciences	60.7	65.3
Social Science	77.3	52.2
Prof/Other Field	81.7	28.4

Transformational Trends

- Professionalization > credentialism
- Globalization > competition
- Accountability > quality control
- Emergent organizational structures > Multi & interdisciplinary studies
- Technological advances > virtual colleges

Critical Issues in Master's Education

- Implications of reframing master's outside existing organizational structures
- Inadequate & conflicting degree taxonomies
- Ambiguity of degree hierarchies
- Quality control in unregulated environment
- Impact of for-profits, corporate, and online programs on graduate education
- Impact of credentialism on value of degree
- Lack of attention to role of master's level universities in preparation programs.