

The Graduate School

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Northern Illinois University
Your Future. Our Focus.



Introduction: Kerry Wilks, Ph.D.

Dean of the Graduate School &
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Today's Presentation

- Graduate School overview
- Admission & recruitment
- Student success initiatives



NIU's Graduate School

Graduate Program Portfolio

- 80+ degree programs
- 25 doctoral degrees

Embracing All Identities

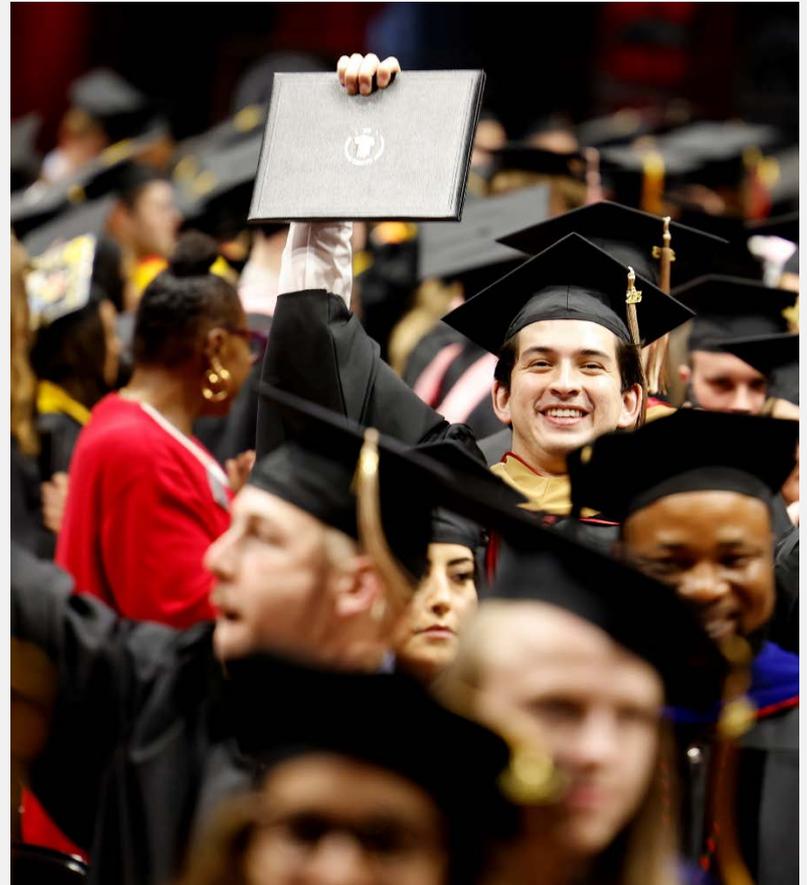
- Almost 4,000 graduate students
- ~25% of grad students are international students

Supporting Expertise & Market Demand

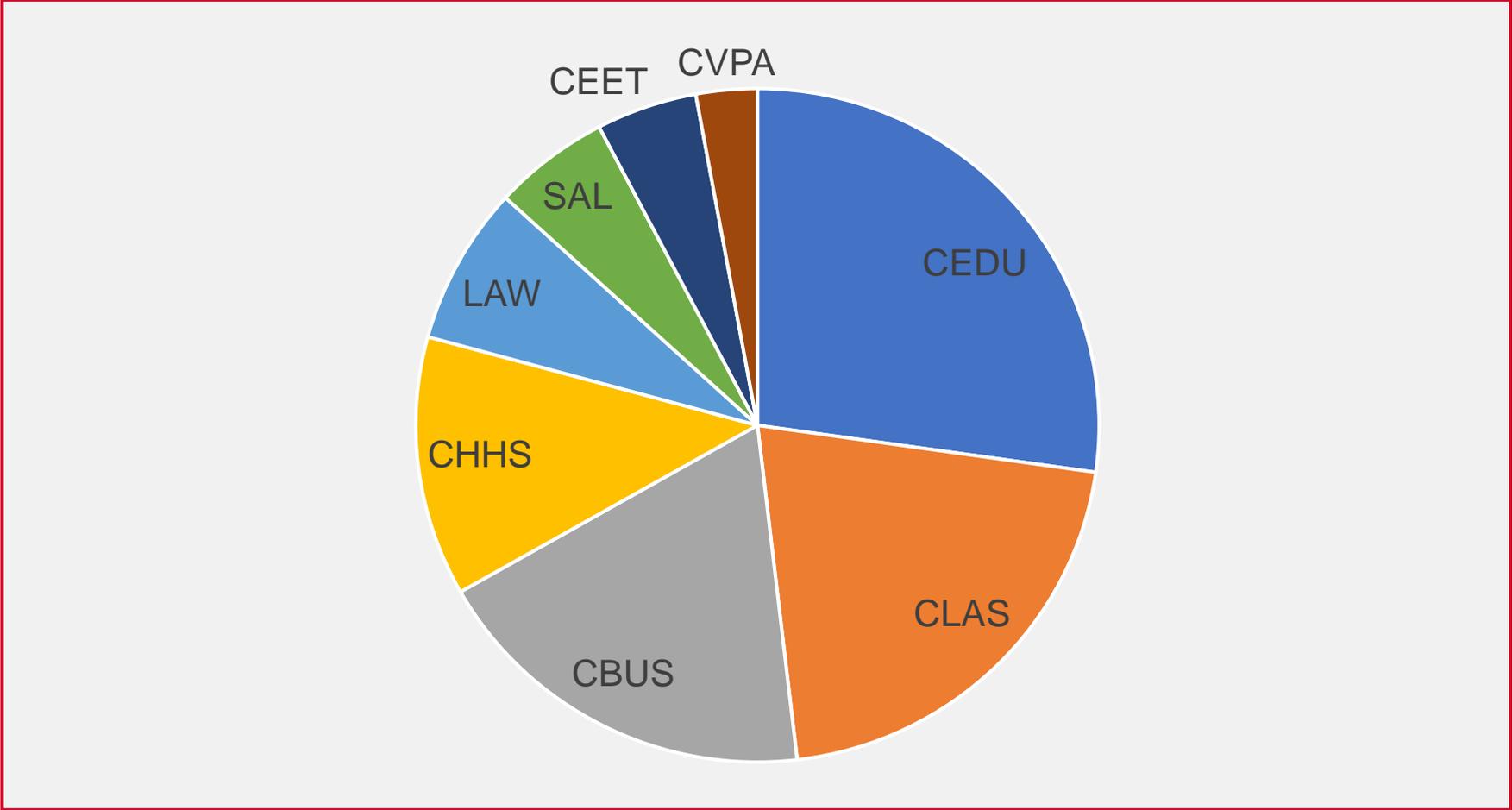
- Programs ranked in the top 20 (*U.S. News & World Report*)
- Online programs

Grad Degrees: Serving a Variety of Needs

- Research and artistic creation
- Regional, state and national workforce needs
- Preparation for other advanced programs



Fall 2023 Graduate Headcount by College



New Leadership: Student Enrollment & Student Success



Recruitment & Retention

- Graduate Enrollment Management (GEM)
- Data-informed enrollment marketing & recruitment strategies
- Retention efforts

Update on Goal 3B: Strengthen Graduate Programs, Enhance the Graduate Student Experience

Creating Graduate Student Community

- Listening sessions with international & underrepresented students
- Student advisory board & Cultural resource centers
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week



Professional Development: Microcredentials & On-demand Training

- Graduate Teaching Assistant Training
- Research Skills
- Career Preparation

Fostering Diversity & Equity

- Fellowships and Assistantship Programs: Restructured Rhoten A. Smith
- Mentoring and Professional Development
- Preparing Future Faculty of Color Conference (IBHE, DFI)

Grad Student Success Initiatives: Administrative

- Policy changes
- Hiring of GAs
- Assistantship policy



By the numbers...



Top 5 countries of origin:

- India
- China
- Nigeria
- Bangladesh
- Ghana!

International Student Engagement



- Welcome Events hosted by ISSS & Graduate School
- A Celebration of India
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



Student Ambassador Program



Their future. Our focus.

