



## **Strategic Intervention for Doctoral Completion**

A collaborative initiative to *understand* and *improve* completion.

# ***Taking Action to Optimize Doctoral Completion at the Program Level***

**A Three-University Conference  
Sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools**

*The Georgia Center for Continuing Education,  
The University of Georgia, Athens  
February 4-6, 2007*

This three-day conference is designed to provide an opportunity for faculty from participating programs to:

- reflect on their experiences in attempting to optimize doctoral completion at the program level,
- share ideas and strategies with colleagues in other participating programs, and
- learn about centralized project activities designed to support their program improvement efforts.

Attendance is restricted to faculty in the 37 participating doctoral programs at The University of Georgia, The University of Florida, and North Carolina State University and to graduate school administrators at those same universities.

This working conference will be the last chance we have under the current grant to get together as a group to share what we have learned. We hope all those invited will be able to participate in the entire conference, beginning with the Dinner Program at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 4 until noon on Tuesday, February 6.

Dean Maureen Grasso  
Associate Dean Rebeca Ruffy  
Interim Dean Kenneth Gerhardt

# *Taking Action to Optimize Doctoral Completion at the Program Level*

## **Sunday, February 4**

**Overview.** Since work on this project began in late 2004, we have accomplished many things at both the project and program level. Sunday evening will give us a chance to reconnect with colleagues who have taken part in these efforts. During the dinner program, participants will learn about how our project fits into the national picture, be given information about our project activities, and be shown how our Website can be used to strengthen their programs.

Time	Location	Activity
5:00pm	Hotel Lobby	<b>Check-in</b>
6:00pm-8:00pm	Banquet Area	<p><b>Dinner Program</b></p> <p><i>Welcome to the Conference</i>                      Maureen Grasso Dean, UGA</p> <p><i>Welcome to the University of Georgia</i>      Arnett Mace Provost, UGA</p> <p><i>The Council of Graduate School's Nationwide Doctoral Completion Efforts</i>    Dr. Daniel Denecke Council of Graduate Schools</p> <p><i>Overview of Project Accomplishments and Tour of our Website</i>                      Maureen Grasso Dean, UGA</p> <p><i>Perspectives from Florida</i>                      Kenneth Gerhardt Interim Dean, UF</p> <p><i>Perspectives from NC State</i>                      Rebeca Rufty Associate Dean, NCSU</p> <p><i>Plan for the Conference</i>                      Dr. Tom Valentine UGA</p>

## Monday, February 5

**Overview.** Our entire project is built around a prescriptive theory that proposes four conditions necessary for optimal doctoral completion (see below). As participating programs planned their improvement efforts, we asked them to focus their goals on one or more of these conditions.

<b>Four Conditions for Optimal Doctoral Completion</b>	
<i>Condition</i>	<i>Description</i>
Condition #1: The right people apply for doctoral study	Applicants must be realistic about the demands and expectations of doctoral study
Condition #2: The right applicants are admitted as doctoral students	Admissions committees must properly screen applicants and, upon enrollment, orient them to the program
Condition #3: Students and faculty form productive working relationships	Faculty members and students must interact in a mutually respectful and task oriented manner
Condition #4: Students experience social support from fellow students	Students must recognize themselves as members of a community of learners facing common challenges and opportunities

On Monday, we will be holding a series of panel presentations and small group discussions focused on the four conditions. During each of the presentations, a panel of faculty members from the three universities will describe their accomplishments. In small groups, participants will discuss the utility of the ideas presented by the panel members and the activities they are undertaking in their individual programs.

Time	Location	Activity
7:00am-8:00am	Banquet Area	Breakfast
8:00am-9:00am	Master's Hall	<b>Program Activities Related to Condition #1</b> <i>Session Chair: Dr. Tom Valentine</i> Panel: Dr. Joseph Spillane, History, UF Dr. Michael Paesler, Physics, NCSU Dr. John Stickney, Chemistry, UGA
9:00am-9:50am	TBA	Small Group Discussions
9:50am-10:10am	TBA	Break
10:10am-11:00am	Master's Hall	<b>Program Activities related to Condition #2</b> <i>Session Chair: Interim Dean Kenneth Gerhardt</i> Panel: Dr. Mang Tia, Civil & Coastal Engineering, UF Dr. Ted Greenstein, Sociology & Anthropology, NCSU Dr. Jody Clay-Warner, Sociology, UGA
11:00am-11:50am	TBA	Small Group Discussions

Time	Location	Activity
12:00pm-1:00pm	Banquet Area	Lunch
1:00pm-2:00pm		<b>Program Activities Related to Condition #3</b> <i>Session Chair: Associate Dean Rebeca Rufty</i> Panel: Dr. Jih-kwon Peir, Computer Information & Science Engineering, UF Dr. Michael Hyman, Microbiology, NCSU Dr. Valerie Babb (with Aghigh Ebrahimi), English, UGA
2:00pm-2:50pm	TBA	Small Group Discussions
2:50pm-3:10pm	TBA	Break
3:10pm-4:00pm		<b>Program Activities Related to Condition #4</b> <i>Session Chair: Dean Maureen Grasso</i> Panel: Dr. Gregory Neimeyer, Psychology, UF Laura Lunsford, Psychology, NCSU Dr. Mary Bedel, Genetics, UGA
4:00pm-5:00pm	TBA	Small Group Discussions
6-8:30	Banquet Area	Dinner

## Tuesday, February 6

Time	Location	Activity
7:00am-8:00am	Outside K/L	Breakfast
8:00am-8:30am	K/L	<b>Input Session: “How Can Benchmarks Best Be Used to Judge Program Quality?”</b> Dr. Tom Valentine
8:30am-9:30am	TBA	Small Group Discussions
9:30am-10:00am	K/L	<b>Reports from the Small Groups</b>
10:00am-10:20am	TBA	Break
10:20am-12:00pm	K/L	<b>Future Directions</b> Dean Maureen Grasso Dr. Robert S. Sowell, CGS