

Texas has a significant number of graduate education programs

- Texas public universities and health-related institutions:
 - have about 2,300 graduate programs, including master's, doctoral, and professional programs
 - award about 44,000 graduate degrees per year
- In the past 10 years (FY 2005–2014)
 - graduate degree awards have grown 40%
 - universities proposed 494 new graduate programs
 - of which, 403 were approved
 - universities closed or consolidated a similar number of programs

This study supports THECB strategic planning

- THECB has adopted the new 60x30 strategic plan for 2015–2030

- Targets 80% increase in awards



- THECB will develop a specific strategic plan for graduate education
 - With Graduate Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) input


The study has three objectives

1. Assess the need to expand graduate programs in Texas higher education institutions
2. Provide guidance to THECB and higher education institutions on how to prepare and evaluate graduate program proposals
3. Analyze policies that can manage needed expansion of graduate programs in Texas

The study has several tasks

Task 1	Review THECB taxonomy and inventory of graduate programs
Task 2	Review other states' policies and practices on graduate program expansion
Task 3	Compare program offerings in Texas to state economic needs and strategic goals
Task 4	Conduct case studies in example fields
Task 5	Recommend ways to use and document relevant information in graduate program proposals
Task 6	Analyze alternative policies for managing expansion of graduate programs

Review THECB taxonomy and inventory of graduate programs

Task 1	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze THECB Program Inventory and Completions data Interview state and higher education system stakeholders to understand priorities for graduate education and the program approval process Develop criteria that describe different aims and markets for graduate programs
Task 2	
Task 3	
Task 4	
Task 5	
Task 6	

Review other states' policies and practices on graduate program expansion

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
- Task 4
- Task 5
- Task 6



- Review policies toward graduate program expansion in California, Florida and New York
- Interview higher education stakeholders in the three states
- Identify options for managing the distribution and expansion of graduate programs

Compare program offerings in Texas to state economic needs and strategic goals

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
- Task 4
- Task 5
- Task 6



- Analyze national and Texas-specific workforce and education datasets
- Review reports on strategic goals and labor market and occupation projections
- Understand current and projected workforce needs in a sample of occupations with graduate degree demand
- Assess the extent to which graduate programs are aligned with workforce need

Conduct case studies in example fields

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task 4

Task 5

Task 6



- Use taxonomy and workforce data to identify example fields for case studies
- Interview higher education stakeholders and employers to understand how graduate programs meet local, state, and national needs
- Obtain financial data to estimate costs and revenues for programs in sample fields

Recommend ways to use and document relevant information in graduate program proposals

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task 4

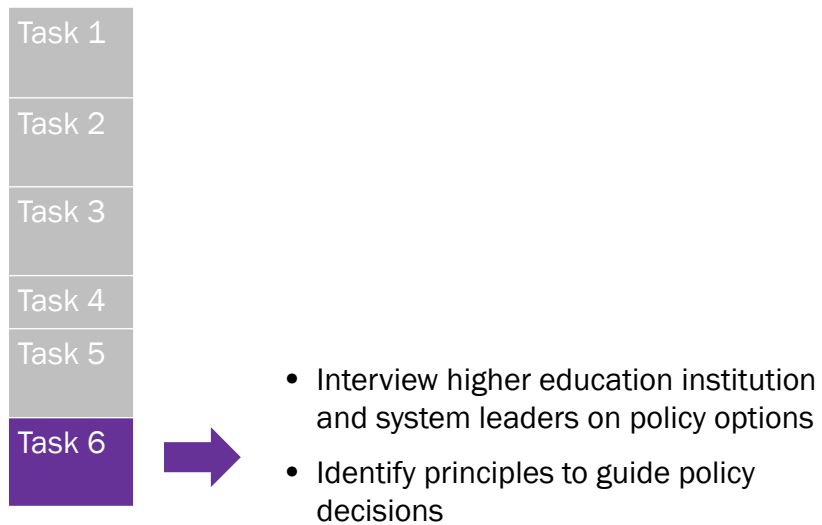
Task 5

Task 6



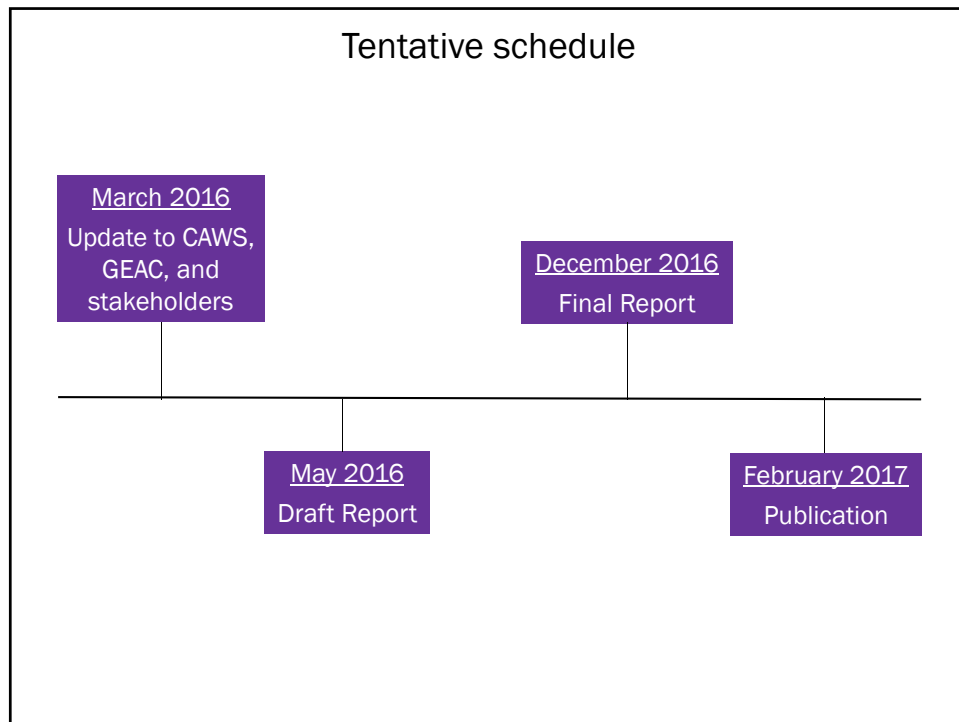
- Analyze data obtained from previous tasks
- Work with THECB staff and system level leadership in higher education
- Elicit input from GEAC

Analyze alternative policies for managing expansion of graduate programs in Texas



Like all research, this study has some limitations

- Available labor market information is an imperfect guide to future workforce needs
- Case studies allow in-depth focus but will not represent all graduate fields
- Interviews tend to reflect the experiences and perspectives of participants, and may not represent all views



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