



HBCU Mid-Atlantic Professional Science Master's Alliance

This employer survey is intended to be administered in a face-to-face interview/meeting or in a phone call. It is not intended to be sent to employers with a request that they fill it out and return it. The value of in-person interaction is (1) a higher return; (2) the opportunity to clarify points that are ambiguous; and (3) the opportunity to build relationships with key employers, both for the benefit of our PSM programs and the benefit of our institutions—especially the institution making the contact. We have provided below an introduction, which can be used to explain the PSM and the context for the survey. This is a necessary introduction, though it need not be read *verbatim*.

Employer Survey

The Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree is a relatively new type of Master's degree, designed to provide students with advanced training in the sciences, along with relevant business and management skills. Currently, more than 150 PSM degree programs are offered at about 80 colleges and universities across the nation. PSMs help spur innovation and economic competitiveness.

Unlike a traditional Master's degree designed to prepare students for further academic work, PSM programs are designed to prepare graduates for professional positions in the business, government and non-profit sectors, engaged in the application of science and technology. The curriculum and learning goals are developed with extensive input from prospective employers. Some examples of fields in which programs are emerging include, water resource management, information technology, biotechnology, bioinformatics, environmental science, industrial mathematics, applied statistics, renewable energy, and forensic science.

To serve employers in the national capital region and their needs for employees with particular science-based interdisciplinary specialties, a group of universities in the mid-Atlantic region, including seven historically black institutions, has formed an alliance to develop collaborative PSM degree programs, utilizing the strengths of each institution. Members of the alliance include: Bowie State University, Delaware State University, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, and American University.

New Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree programs having close ties with and career pathways into the rich variety of employers in the national capital area are being launched now at these universities. This employer market survey is being conducted to identify regional employer workforce needs in the STEM fields, to engage interested employers in curriculum and degree planning, to guide in the selection and priority of specialties for which PSM programs would be developed and implemented, and to educate employers about the PSM. Employer engagement early, often, and throughout the planning and implementation of these academic programs is essential to their success.

PSM Programs...

- ❖ *Are often interdisciplinary containing courses that provide a background well suited to today's job market.*
- ❖ *Include workplace skills such as management, communications, leadership, law, or regulatory affairs.*
- ❖ *Provide rigorous scientific or mathematical graduate education.*

- ❖ *Incorporate an internship or final team project.*

This interview will take about 15 minutes, unless you desire to speak longer about issues of importance to you and your organization. Your answers will remain anonymous and confidential. Thank you for your help!



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Name: _____ Title: _____ Date of Interview: _____

Organization: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

1) Had you heard of the Professional Science Master's degree (PSM) prior to our contacting you?
Yes No

2) Do you anticipate your organization will hire master's graduates in science in the next

12 months Yes No
24 months Yes No

3) What scientific or technical disciplines does your organization hire? (Circle all that apply)

Engineering	Computer Science	Other: list
Physical Sciences	Environmental Science	
Biological Sciences	Interdisciplinary	
Math/Statistics	All	

4) What are the most important skills you look for in graduate science hires? (Circle all that apply)

Technical competence	Business
Project management	Regulatory affairs
Communication	Other

5) How does your organization currently recruit technical employees? (Circle all that apply)

College Career Fairs	Relationships with Colleges and Faculty
Internet	Other: _____
Professional Scientific Associations	

6) Does your organization currently have student interns? Yes No

7) Would your organization consider providing a site for PSM students to do an internship?
Yes No

8) Would your company consider hiring PSM graduates? Yes No

9) Are there activities/areas (e.g. ecology, alternative fuels) in which you anticipate high demand in your organization within the next 24 months?

Note: Interviewer can write additional comments here and/or use separate note paper. In this section, you can discuss recommended PSM plus courses and any other relevant information that goes beyond the survey.

Interviewer's Name: _____ Institution: _____
Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____