Professional Science Masters Degrees:
Hands on Training and the Advisor’s PSM Toolkit

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Growing Options

W.M. Keck Foundation

America COMPETES Act

NRC

NPSMA

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS
What is a PSM?

PSM programs combine rigorous study in science or mathematics with skills-based coursework in management, policy, law or related fields. These programs emphasize the written and verbal communication skills, leadership, and team-building required in professional settings.

- Wikipedia

“Science Plus”
Varied Program Areas

- Biology / Biotechnology (59)
- Chemistry (8)
- Bioinformatics (17)
- Computational Sciences (15)
- Environmental Sciences (22)
- Forensic Sciences (4)
- Mathematics and Statistics (21)
- Medical-related Sciences (16)
- National Defense (2)
- Physics and Geological Sciences (17)
Industry Involvement

Advisory boards
60+ members

Internships
2.5 offers per student

Experiential component
12.5 Team Masters Projects

Successful Employment
90% employment rate
What employers want:

- Broad Scientific Knowledge
- Quantitative reasoning
- Ethical judgment
- Intercultural skills
- Social responsibility
- Self-knowledge
- Self-direction
- Global knowledge
- Critical thinking
- Writing
- Adaptability
- Oral communication
- Teamwork
Technical to Broad

- PhD / MD
- Professional Science Masters
- MBA

- Business
- Science
Different than MBA?

Operations Management  Accounting  Marketing  Organizational Behavior, etc.

Career enhancers vs. changers
All backgrounds welcome
Curriculum focus
PhD Alternatives?

- Curriculum focus
- Career options limited
- Timeline
  - 7.9 years study / dissertation (median)
  - 4-6 years of Postdoc experience

Deeply focused on a technical discipline
PSMs Create “T” Shaped People

Operations Management  Accounting  Marketing  Organizational Behavior, etc.

Deeply focused on a technical discipline
Admissions considerations...

Academics

- Grades
- Tests

Professional

- Quality
- Quantity

Fit Passion Communication
Toolkit and Discussion

Pink sheet survey of your needs:

NPSMA ScienceMasters.com

KGI.edu/EducationUSA.html
Admissions@kgi.edu
KeckGrad