

## HISTORY

The Professional Science Master's (PSM) initiative began in 1997 with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the William M. Keck Foundation. In 2000, the Sloan Foundation began a partnership with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). This partnership focused on the expansion of the PSM initiative. The CGS team concentrated on PSM growth at master's focused institutions and engagement of university systems in addition to individual campuses. These Sloan funded expansion efforts continued through 2010. The CGS team also sought to develop a formal and sustainable affiliation review process. A stakeholder's group produced the PSM guidelines and designed quality assurance processes for the initiative. In 2012, the CGS and Sloan Foundation chose Keck Graduate Institute (KGI), one of the Claremont Colleges in southern California, to administer the affiliation review process. In partnership with the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA), the Commission on Affiliation of PSM Programs (PSM Commission) works to build support for this historic initiative.

## AFFILIATION REVIEW PROCESS

- Applications for PSM affiliation are reviewed by a committee of experts
- Affiliation renewal assessment of PSM programs is conducted on a 5-year cycle
- No campus site visit is held

## RESEARCH

- The Commission on Affiliation of PSM Programs conducts research on best practices, enrollments and degrees, and student outcomes

## ADVOCACY

### Promotional Assistance and Branding

- The PSM Commission and NPSMA promote student recruitment by collaboratively endorsing the PSM initiative, sponsoring regional and national conferences, and securing exhibit space at appropriate national meetings

### Consultative Meetings

- NPSMA regional and national meetings
- CGS summer workshop and CGS annual meeting sessions
- PSM program development consultation
- National and regional associations
- Promotion is provided through the graduate dean community, university and system-wide groups, higher education administration, legislative arenas, and professional industry organizations

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- Comprised of PSM national leaders, including representation from the Sloan Foundation, NPSMA, Business and Industry
- Annual meeting at the Commission on Affiliation of PSM Programs
- Monthly phone calls for the Commission on Affiliation of PSM Programs steering committee

## [professionalsciencemasters.org](http://professionalsciencemasters.org)

- PSM website features:
- Materials and resources for students, employers, faculty, administrators, and policy makers
  - PSM system links and resources
  - PSM initiative news & events information
  - Innovative STEM Master's program development resources and consultation
  - Comprehensive list of affiliated PSM programs
  - Program statistics and reports
  - Steering committee information
  - Affiliation details
  - Affiliation renewal details
  - PSM program guidelines
  - Historical documents
  - PSM logo & promotional materials
  - PSM certificate of completion