The National Research Council (NRC) recently released its report “A Data-Based Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States”. The Data-Based approach by NRC is in contrast to the perception-based one employed by various popular magazines issuing annual ranking reports. Based on a wide variety of performance measures normalized for faculty size, the NRC report ranks the chemistry Ph.D. program at Brandeis as high as 13th among the more than 150 similar programs in US. The Brandeis chemistry department stands out for its recognized excellence when compared with much larger institutions. Our strength comes from an award-winning faculty of devoted teacher-scholars, who are widely recognized leaders in major traditional divisions of chemistry, as well as in the increasingly important interdisciplinary areas of chemical biology, complex systems, materials chemistry and catalysis. Our success reflects the effectiveness of our graduate education, which features close contact between faculty and students to ensure a rigorous yet supportive scientific training, a collaborative environment to nurture personal skills in communication, teaching and teamwork, and state of the art instrumentations to facilitate cutting-edge research.