State of the Graduate College: Fall 2021

Joe Shields  Dean
Beth Quitslund  Interim Associate Dean
Katie Tadlock  Assistant Dean
Outline for Graduate Chairs Meeting

• About the Graduate College: Basics
• About Our Graduate Students: Applications, Enrollment, Appointments
• Updates & Projects
  • The Slate Project
  • Graduate College Service and Process Updates
  • Continuous Enrollment Initiative
  • Graduate DARS
  • U.S.-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor
  • International Students and OPERS
  • Looking Ahead
• Q&A
About the Graduate College

Basics
Ohio University Graduate College

1935 Established

1979 Reduced to “Graduate Student Services”

2008 Reestablished

• Purpose:
  • Support, strengthen, coordinate, promote graduate education
  • Provide a home for interdisciplinary programs
Graduate College Functions

• Manages all applications + supporting documents for post-graduate study (outside of HCOM)
• Formally admits students (programs recommend)
• Provide I-20s for students needing visas
• Coordinates graduate appointments
• Manages residency petitions for in-state tuition (Grad/HCOM)
• Guidance for program initiation and significant changes
• Interface with Ohio Dept of Higher Education (ODHE)
  • Chancellor’s Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS)
Functions, cont.

• Professional development programming
• Manage interdisciplinary graduate programs
• Support applicants and students (email, phone, walk-in)
• Support faculty, administrators and graduate program directors
• Coordinate late registration and withdrawals for graduate students
• Coordinate graduate student tuition appeals
• Finalize theses and dissertations
• Assist with Graduate Commencement
• Maintain and Publish Graduate Catalog
Staff

- Joe Shields, Dean (A&S), Beth Quitslund, Interim Associate Dean (A&S)
- 14 permanent staff, including Katie Tadlock, Assistant Dean
- 2 interdisciplinary program directors (faculty)
  - IIP – Beth Quitslund
  - TBS – Kevin Lee
- 2 new staff since last update
  - Luanne Weisenbach – Records Managers Domestic Students
  - Jan Harmon – Graduate Services Admin/OGA
- Faculty Fellow Change
  - Previously Beth Quitslund
  - Allyson Hallman-Thrasher starting now
Governance

1. Graduate Council: University Standing Committee
2. University Curriculum Council for major changes/new programs/program review.
   • Includes Bridge Committee to Graduate Council
3. Associate Deans for Research (& Graduate Study): meets monthly to address operational and procedural issues.
4. Graduate Student Senate (GSS)
Individual Interdisciplinary Program (IIP): Ph.D./M.S./M.A.

• Thank you to Beth Quitslund for service as Graduate Director for the past 1.5 yrs
• Search in progress now for next Graduate Director
• Program Stats
  • 13 active students (all Ph.D.)
  • As of fall 2021 (from the 2012 restart)
    • 13 Ph.D.s awarded
    • 3 M.S. and 5 M.A. awarded
• Seven-year review this year
Translational Biomedical Science: Ph.D.

• Thank you to Kevin Lee for service as Graduate Director
• Quasi Endowments recently established – planning in progress
• Numbers
  • Faculty – 65 Affiliated Faculty
  • Students – 27 current students
    • 11 new in fall 2021; 2 more arriving in spring 2022
  • Graduates – 10 doctorates since 2018
    • more expected AY21-22
• Seven-year review this year
Graduate Students

Applications, Enrollment, Appointments
About Ohio University’s Graduate Students

Graduate Enrollment: Fall 2021

- Enrollment (fall 2021): 5,405 total
- Overall enrollment down 0.6% (-31) compared to Fall 2020
- Enrollment for eCampus, Outreach and Dublin:
  - Down 8.1% (-349) compared to 2020
- Trends in Outreach/E-learning/Dublin Programs
  - 62% of all graduate students in 2020 v. 58% in 2021
  - 60% of master’s students and 2.5% of doctoral students
International Graduate Students Issued I-20 and Enrolled for Term

- Fall 2019: 230
- *Fall 2020: 118
- Fall 2021: 263

*Likely impacted by COVID related travel restrictions
Applications: Summer/Fall 2021

• Summer 2021 up (+236 / 23%)
• Fall 2021 down 1% (-45)
  • Domestic (+52 / up 2.5%)
  • International (-20 / down 2.1%)
Updates & Projects
The Graduate College Has Moved!

• The Graduate College office is now located in Grosvenor 102
• Most staff are flexing between campus and working from a distance
• The main office is open 8-5 for general walk-in questions and help
• Appointments are required for submitting official international academic documents
• Leveraging Bookings for other appointments as well
Updates & Projects

Application Transitioning to Slate

• Spring 2022 is last term for “old” CollegeNET applications.
• Summer 2022 and beyond will use the new Slate application portal.
• Degree-seeking application currently open for summer and fall 2022.
• Nondegree application (Certificates, Endorsement, Exchange) opening late Oct/early Nov for summer and fall 2022
• Update bookmarks to ohio.edu/graduate/apply
• For questions or to update application close dates/materials please contact Nikole Morris (morrisk@ohio.edu)
Graduate Admission Future State

• Leveraging Slate for admissions and graduate enrollment management
  • Slate Reader to replace the aging GRADS system in AY22-23.
    • Offers a fully integrated admissions review and processing module
  • Already in use by Undergraduate Admissions
• Application and Admissions Communications
  • Already in use for many Ohio Online programs and Undergraduate Admissions
• Recruitment and program marketing
  • Allows Graduate College to adopt Ohio University branding standards
International Student Services: English Proficiency Changes

- Academic and Global Communication office (AGC, formerly known as ELIP) eliminated 2020
- The Graduate College had to make immediate adjustments.
- The Graduate College has been working closely with OPIE to evaluate oral English tests and establish classes to replace AGC classes geared toward non-native English speakers.
- The Graduate College is currently transitioning from the alternative SPEAK test waiver to a return to an oral English proficiency test, English classes, and probationary TAships by spring 2022.
International Student Services: English Proficiency Changes, cont.

• SPEAK test process as of October 2021:
  • The SPEAK test alternative waiver *coupled with an official TOEFL/IELTS report with low scores or with a regular English waiver (ENGW2 or ENGW4).*
  • The Versant English Test (VET) – in pilot
  • The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) test administered by OPIE – in pilot

• OPIE offering supplemental English language instruction for graduate students:
  • 2 sections of OPIE 5806D – Techniques for Gathering and Evaluating Research Information and for Research Writing
  • 1 section of Oral Communication in University Classes (intended for TAs/future TAs)
  • Evaluating need for non-D versions
International Student Services: Credential Evaluation Reminder
Handling Fulbright Tuition

• Many units have historically GRS contracts to provide Fulbright students with the tuition scholarship.

• Clarification from ISFS: tuition scholarship should be arranged as part of the funding package for an incoming Fulbright student.

• Exception to Graduate College rules: if tuition scholarship is not part of the funding package for some reason, write an OGA contract for tuition scholarship/non-residential fee waiver only.
Professional Development Offerings

• Fall workshops will be offered virtually and spring workshops will be offered in-person

• Main focuses
  • Lunch and Learn sessions to assist with thesis/dissertation completion
  • Preparing for an Academic Career
  • Succeeding in a Diverse Workforce
  • Teaching as a TA

• Schedule available on https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/current-students/graduate-professional-development
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<tr>
<th>Type of program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Career</strong></td>
<td>• Preparing for an Academic Job: Developing a Teaching Philosophy</td>
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<td>• Preparing for an Academic Job: Developing a Teaching Portfolio</td>
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<td><strong>Diverse Workforce</strong></td>
<td>• Challenging Bias and Microaggressions in the Classroom</td>
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<td>• The Culture of the American Classroom</td>
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<td>• AAUW START Smart Salary Negotiations</td>
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<td><strong>Teaching as a TA</strong></td>
<td>• Grading and Assessment: Effective Feedback, Grading &amp; Assessment of Student’s Work</td>
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<td>• Student Engagement/Active Learning: Learning How People Learn</td>
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<td>• Learning the Basics of Backward Design</td>
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<td><strong>Lunch &amp; Learn</strong></td>
<td>• Getting and Staying Motivated</td>
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<td>• Strategies for Overcoming Challenges in Completing your Thesis/Dissertation</td>
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Student Funding Opportunities

• Original Work Grant (with GSS) - Fall and Spring Deadlines
• Travel Award (with GSS) - Fall, Spring, and Summer Deadlines
• Student Enhancement Awards
Other Graduate Student Awards

• Graduate Council subcommittee reviews and selects OHIO nominees/recipients
• Named Fellowships
• External Awards
  • MAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Master’s Thesis Awards
  • MAGS Excellence in Teaching Awards
  • CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards
Graduate Writing and Research Support

• All student writing services now located in Writing Commons under the Academic Advancement Center
• Appointments via TutorTrac as with all tutoring/writing assistance
• Professional tutors for graduate writing, theses, and dissertations are available
• Currently still in transitional state and a work in progress: additional programming will come online over the academic year
• Expecting an advisory board for the Writing Commons will be formed to provide specialized knowledge about different writing populations
TAD Services Updates

• TAD director available to present to graduate classes
• Virtual workshops each semester on TAD process, graduation requirements, Word formatting, tables and figures
• TAD Services deadlines on our webpage
  • https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/etd
TAD Services – Individual Meetings

• All Virtual meetings
  • Scheduled w/ Microsoft Bookings
    • General questions about the Thesis and Dissertation (TAD) Process, including deadlines and Early for - 10 minutes
    • Working with TAD Forms and Templates – 20 minutes
    • Uploading to OhioLINK - 30 minutes
    • Formatting assistance - 60 minutes
  • Bookings link available on TAD Services page
Continuous Graduate Enrollment: Anticipated Start Fall 2022

• Policy outline approved by Graduate Council 2019
  • Doctoral & MFA students must enroll at least 2 semesters/yr without interruption unless on approved leave of absence.
    • Minimum load is 0.5 Credit Hours/Semester
  • This will reduce current 1 C.H. requirement for international students
  • Leave of absence (LOA) - no use of university resources
  • Degree requirements may not be completed during a LOA

• Implementation details TBD this year
• Faculty Senate approval required
Graduate DARS

• Post-Q2S, only graduate certificates and a handful of graduate degree programs have had encoded DARS
• Encoding now underway
• Based on Graduate Catalog; all discrepancies between catalog and program understanding must be resolved in process
• DARS to be used in graduation clearance
• Requires waiver/substitution procedure determined at college level
U.S.-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor

- Funding for Ph.D. students in any field sponsored by Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC)
- Document of Understanding signed May 2020
- Currently 19 students on campus, ~6 more deferred to spring 2022
- Handbook for working with application and admissions now available in Graduate Chairs resources: [https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/graduate-directors-webpage](https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/graduate-directors-webpage)
- Actively working on management improvements: stay tuned and please provide feedback
**OPERS and International Students**

- OPERS enrollment entails 10% gross pay contribution by employee + 14% contribution by academic unit
- OPERS is opt-out system: no choice within first 30 days = “irrevocable” enrollment in system
- In most Falls, about 92% of new international students opt out of OPERS
- This Fall, we used OPERS’s new digital election form, which required an SSN for completion; 76% opted out
  - In absolute terms, only 8-10 additional students enrolled in OPERS
  - Messaging about how to navigate lack of SSN did not reach all students
  - The solution is to call HR on the phone and ask for a placeholder number
- Cannot tell any students whether or not to elect OPERS, but it is critical to inform them of financial effects and encourage completion of election form
Looking Ahead

• Accelerated Graduate Pathways: more and easier to create
• Innovative master’s degrees wanted
Thank you for supporting Graduate Education at Ohio University

Questions?