Greetings, ‘Runners!

As we settle in to the Fall 2021 semester, I want to offer each and every one of you a warm welcome to the UTSA graduate community. The Graduate School is here to support you through all stages of your graduate career, from professional development to career preparation and readiness. Whether you are a new or returning Roadrunner, this is an exciting time to be part of our community.

We have several exciting opportunities for you, including a new transdisciplinary research team grand challenge and our Graduate School Fellowship Incentive Program – keep reading to learn more about these programs! We are also introducing a new Level Up Graduate Event Loyalty program to reward you for attending our numerous professional development events through the Fall semester.
This semester is already off to a great start, and we look forward to supporting your academic endeavors and hope to see you at one of our many virtual events this fall. Birds up!

- Ambika Mathur
  Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School

Enrollment & Admissions

2020 - 2021 Degrees Awarded
Total: 1,428

Master's Degrees: 1319
Doctoral Degrees: 109

2020 - 2021 Application Numbers
Applications Received: 3,787
2020 - 2021 Enrollment
Total Enrollment: 4,821 (3,862 Master's, 959 Doctoral)
The Graduate School recruitment team will be collaborating with campus partners and hosting many sessions this semester, both virtual and in person! These events are designed to assist students in preparing for graduate education. Check out our event calendar for more information!

**RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES**

- New Graduate Student Ambassadors have been selected!
- Last academic year, we hosted **28 virtual events** and had a total of **1209 prospective student** registrations.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Attending virtual conferences: SACNAS, ABRCMS, HACU, etc.
- **GRAD APP:** Graduate Application Preparation program will kick off **September 24th**. This is a series in which we cover common components of the graduate application and share tips on how to strengthen your profile.
- More in-person tabling events are happening this semester! See you on campus for free swag.

**MEET WITH GRADUATE SCHOOL STAFF**

**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

VIRTUAL: Monday, Wednesday, Friday  |  IN PERSON: Tuesday, Thursday

Graduate & Postdoc Success
Graduate and Postdoctoral Success (GPS) is here to help master’s students, doctoral students and postdoctoral associates navigate their career. To learn more about upcoming GPS events and offerings, investigate our Event Calendar. Click on each image below for more information!

**GPS EVENTS**

- Spring and summer we issued 127 micro-credentialing badges.
- Our newly launched (Spring 2021) National Perspectives Guest Speaker series had a total of over 350 participants.
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week (April 2021) saw a total of 13 virtual sessions and over 450 participants.

**ORIENTATION**

- Fall 2021 Orientation: 473 attendees
- Student Testimonials:
  - "This orientation makes it easier to connect with your peers and know some people you’re going to go to class with."
  - "I learned that we belong! I also learned the importance of connecting with peers and staff to prepare and work on a self-care plan ahead of time, before the stress of graduate school begins."
  - "UTSA is a fantastic institution for academic purposes as well as for the future professional life."
  - "Amazing Program!"

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

**ROADRUNNER ASSISTANTSHIP ACADEMY**

- 190 participants for the new week-long program
- Student Testimonials:
  - "The Roadrunner Academy helped me overcome the fear of teaching online. It boosted my confidence by giving me information about various digital teaching tools."
  - "The Roadrunner Assistantship Academy instilled a sense of community for TAs."
  - "This is my first year as a TA, therefore this academy has provided vital information such as navigating and utilizing Blackboard, using Adobe software, and producing an adequate learning environment to students, to which I will incorporate into my TA experience."

**COMING UP**

**LEVEL UP LOYALTY PROGRAM**

- This three-tiered program was created to reward students for taking advantage of our numerous professional development events. Attend our sessions in full and earn prizes based on your participation!

**GPS CAREER PATHWAYS**

- A new GPS Guest Speaker series, Career Pathways, will include Alumni Career Stories, Career trajectories, and National Perspectives. This series will bring speakers and leaders from the UTSA, San Antonio, and Texas Community.
ACTIVATE YOUR FREE ACCOUNT
As a student, you have access to free workshops on time management, writing practices, and more!

1. VISIT THE WEBSITE
   Visit facultydiversity.org/join & select our institution from the drop-down.

2. ACTIVATE MEMBERSHIP
   On our institution's landing page, click Activate My Membership.

3. COMPLETE REGISTRATION
   Complete the registration form using your UTSA email & check your email to verify.

Competitions

The Graduate School hosted a variety of competitive opportunities in the 2020-2021 school year, with numerous financial awards granted to our students. Click each box for more information!
We are excited to host our third Transdisciplinary Team Grand Challenge this semester, with a broad focus area of water! Our challenge to UTSA graduate student researchers is to work together to propose conceptual projects addressing any aspect of water, including broad topics such as watershed protection or equitable access to water and narrower topics such as measurement of contaminants at point of pollution sites or campaigns to promote awareness of safe water recreation. To learn more about deadlines, eligibility, and awards, visit our website.

Last year, we launched the Graduate School Fellowship Incentive Program using the NSF GRFP as a pilot funding mechanism. We are expanding the program this year to include several external funding opportunities to encourage a culture where our students and their mentors prepare and submit competitive applications for these national programs.

The Graduate School will award monetary incentives to students and their mentors who prepare and, after obtaining approval from the UTSA Fellowship Incentive Review Committee, submit applications in response to a variety of approved fellowship opportunities. To learn more about eligibility, incentives, and the eligible funding mechanisms, please visit our website.
CONGRATULATIONS

UTSA Neuroscience doctoral candidate
Tara Flaugher

Tara Flaugher is a UTSA doctoral student and veteran. She has been named a 2021 Department of Defense SMART Scholar and a 2021 Pat Tillman Scholar. These programs are highly competitive and will assist Tara in her research and academic career.

Spotlights

Lindsay O’Day
Assistant Director for College Relations
How long have you been with The Graduate School?
I celebrated my ten-year anniversary earlier this year - I started with The Graduate School in February 2011.

What’s your favorite part of your job?
I love collaborating with the various areas of The Graduate School to discuss their marketing and communications needs, then coming up with a creative plan to highlight their accomplishments and upcoming initiatives.

Tell us a little known fact about yourself:
I try to travel to a new place at least once a year – previous highlights have been England, Scotland, Canada, Wales, and Hawaii. I’m anxiously awaiting post-pandemic travel, because my next planned stops are Italy, France, and Australia.

Favorite place to eat on campus:
Steak ‘n Shake at the JPL. Their chicken fingers are amazing!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

New job? Exciting research? Completing your dissertation? We want to hear from YOU. **Complete and submit our spotlight form**, to share your accomplishments, or the accomplishment of others, with the graduate school community!

Tell us about it!