Greetings, ‘Runners!

I want to welcome new and returning graduate students, faculty, and staff as we look forward to a new semester. This is a very exciting time for UTSA, since we recently achieved R1 Classification from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. In this special edition of Bird is the Word, we will highlight the many ways in which our incredible graduate students contributed to attaining this Top Tier triumph. The Graduate School is proud to partner with and support our students and academic colleges in numerous initiatives, research incentive programs, funding opportunities, and more throughout the year.

For those unfamiliar with Carnegie Classifications, R1 is the highest-ranked category and indicates a doctoral university with very high research activity. To achieve R1 classification, institutions must award at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees and have at least $5 million in total research expenditures as reported through the National Science Foundation Higher Education Research & Development Survey. The increased number of doctoral degrees awarded by UTSA and the research done by our doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows was instrumental in attaining R1. Doctoral enrollment at the university has increased 19.4% in the last three years, and in 2020, 153 doctoral degrees were awarded.

As we move forward during this significant milestone that makes such a profound impact on the UTSA graduate community, The Graduate School remains steadfastly committed to advancing academic excellence in graduate and postdoctoral education and training. We uphold the university’s commitment to expanding our federally-designated status as a Hispanic-Serving Institute (HSI) to one of becoming a Hispanic Thriving Institute.
through bold recruitment initiatives, continuing our strong partnerships with the academic colleges, and above all, providing ongoing support to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at the university.

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

UTSA’s recent affirmation of Carnegie R1 designation is a direct result of, and testament to, the innovative research by our graduate students and faculty. This prestigious designation reinforces our commitment to the discovery enterprise—graduate education and knowledge creation are foundational to this. I’m incredibly proud of the hard work by so many that led us to this milestone on our journey to become a great public research university.

UTSA President Taylor Eighmy

By The Numbers
STUDENT PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Over 400 student publications were published in the last three years across six doctoral programs that were reviewed for N Ruf.

Anthropology
Biomedical Engineering
Cell & Molecular Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Management and
External Fellowships - NSF GRFP

Last year, The Graduate School launched the Graduate School Fellowship Incentive Program (GSFIP) to encourage students to submit competitive applications for various national programs. The inaugural program was targeted for the NSF GRFP, but we have expanded this program to include the NIH F31 and Ford Foundation Predoctoral Program.

Four participants in the inaugural GSFIP program were selected for the NSF GRFP (a remarkable success rate of 66.67%):

Jennifer Brett – Anthropology
Morgan Johnston – Neuroscience
Daniel Martinez – Chemistry
Kaitlyn Varela* – Chemistry (Kaitlyn Varela was also recognized as a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow)

Outside of the GSFIP, Anthropology students have also been very successful in obtaining grants for dissertation-related work. In the last decade, 11 Anthropology students have been selected for the NSF GRFP. Over the last five years, 7 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement grants, a Fulbright Hayes Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant, a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, and more.

"The quality of our graduate education is inextricably linked to our Carnegie R1 designation, as UTSA’s graduate students power our dual mission of teaching and research. Graduate research assistants provide outstanding intellectual capital and partnership to faculty in conducting research; graduate teaching assistants are essential in disseminating new knowledge through quality instruction to our diverse undergraduate student body that prepares them for their careers. So, a huge thank you to our graduate students! We will continue to strive to best support you and your peers seeking to advance their careers through graduate education.

Kimberly Andrews Espy
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs"

Career Outcomes:
The Value of Staying for a Graduate Degree
Average earnings in San Antonio by Attainment
(US Census Bureau, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attainment</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Than High School</td>
<td>$20,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Grad</td>
<td>$26,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>$32,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>$50,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Degree</td>
<td>$64,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postdoc Corner

As of last count in November 2021, UTSA had a total of 61 postdoctoral fellows.

Three of our UTSA postdoctoral fellows were winners of the 2021 UT Health San Antonio Postdoctoral Research Forum (SAPRF) poster competition:

1st place – Dr. Althea Campuzano, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
2nd place – Dr. Lisa Shepard, Physics and Astronomy
3rd place – Dr. Alexis Blessing, Psychology

Thank you for representing the UTSA and the important research conducted in our campus community!

The receipt of Carnegie R1 demonstrates the value and impact of the research and scholarly work taking place in our university by faculty and students across all disciplines. To attain R1, we maximized support for our faculty, developed transdisciplinary research programs, worked closely with The Graduate School to increase support for graduate research programs and students, and expanded our research collaborations with external partners in government, industry and academia.

 Bernard Arulanandam
 Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Knowledge Enterprise

Enrollment Growth
UTSA is focused on expanding our federally-designated status as an HSI to one of becoming a Hispanic Thriving Institute. In addition to overall enrollment growth, our enrollment for Hispanic and Latino students has also grown significantly.
Retention and Recruitment

The Graduate School’s innovative streamlined enrollment programs, featuring VIP and auto-admit partnerships with the academic colleges, has expanded into an umbrella program called Keep Running With Us (KRWU). This program has an impact on overall enrollment growth while keeping students in the Roadrunner family and retaining top talent from our undergraduate programs.
2021 RECRUITING & OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

The Graduate School also had a robust recruitment presence last year, despite pivoting to a primarily digital environment because of the pandemic.

41 EVENTS
- 22 Virtual Information Sessions
- 11 In-person Events
- 4 Diversity Conferences
- 1 International Conference

Inquiries through events: 1,421
Applications that attended events: 384

2020-2021 GRA SUPPLEMENTS

The Graduate School provided funding to assist students through GRA supplements during the 2020-2021 academic year. This initiative was enacted to help recruit top students to UTSA graduate programs, and during the 2020-2021 academic year.

A total of $889,538 were awarded through GRA Supplements

114 students were provided funding: 102 PhD students and 12 master’s students
The University of Texas at San Antonio is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through research and discovery, teaching and learning, community engagement and public service.

Our Teaching Assistants are an integral part of the university’s teaching mission, and The Graduate School is proud to support our TAs as they navigate their teaching opportunities.
Madelyn Duffey - Teaching Assistant
Counselor Education and Supervision Doctoral Student and Democratizing Racial Justice Fellow

Department of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Department of Counseling

Teachings:
WGSS 2013, COU 3203 Child Abuse and Domestic Violence, COU 5713 Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internship, COU 6523 Couples and Family Counseling Theories

What is your personal teaching philosophy?: As an educator, I think students learn best when classes are relational, learner-centered, interactive, and collaborative.

I believe in providing a safe space for meaningful, student-led discussions. I also value mutual respect and encourage curiosity, and I love incorporating photographs, art, stories, pop-culture, and other cultural resources into my classes.

What else would you like to share?: I am honored to be a Democratizing Racial Justice Fellow, funded through Andrew M. Mellon Grant through the Department of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This opportunity is especially exciting because it allows me to use my interdisciplinary background to provide intersectional education rooted in social advocacy.
Tara Flaugher - Graduate Research Assistant
Navy veteran conducting dissertation research in the field of neuroscience

Tara was named a 2021 Department of Defense SMART (Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation) Scholar, a highly prestigious award that provides STEM students with full tuition, annual stipends, and employment with the DoD after graduation. Additionally, Flaugher was also selected as a 2021 Tillman Scholar. The Tillman Scholars program is a highly competitive program that selects 60 military service members, veterans, and spouses from a nationwide applicant pool.

The Graduate School recognizes and wishes to reward excellence in our graduate Roadrunner community. Click below for more information on nominations for 2022 Promoting Excellence awards!

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AT UTSA
Awards for outstanding students, faculty, staff, and programs

Closing Statement
As we start a new semester, we want to reinforce the importance of our graduate community to attaining this prestigious R1 Carnegie Classification. Our students, faculty, and staff make UTSA an incredible place to learn. The Graduate School remains dedicated to providing innovative and quality education for student professional development, while maintaining high levels of integrity, encouraging diversity, and cultivating life-long learning within the global community.

Please follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn for updates on events, programming, and other exciting opportunities this semester.
Go 'Runners!