Greetings, ‘Runners!

As we start a new semester, I want to welcome all of you to the graduate community. Our role at The Graduate School is to support graduate students through all stages of the student life cycle, from graduate school preparedness to career readiness. Whether you are a new or returning face to UTSA, I wanted to draw your attention to some of the exciting programming and opportunities that we offer, as well as take a look back at our Fall 2020 semester.

We had 4,659 graduate students enrolled last semester, comprising 13.4% of total UTSA enrollment, and 43% of enrolled graduate students were first generation. Our innovative VIP and Keep Running With Us programs brought in 164 and 71 newly enrolled students, respectively. Through programs ranging from competitive awards, scholarships and fellowships, GRA supplements, and more, The Graduate School was able to assist our student population to the tune of $1.8 million in funding opportunities.

We’ve also launched two new 100% virtual centers: the Center for Transdisciplinary Training and the Center for Graduate & Postdoc Career and Professional Development. These two centers provide competitive opportunities and career readiness preparation via various programs. The Center for Transdisciplinary Training has hosted two team grand challenges, encouraging students to partner across disciplines to find innovative solutions for the many issues facing the world today. Previous challenges include COVID-19 and Social justice. The Center for Graduate & Postdoc Career and Professional Development will be hosting a National Perspectives speaker series this semester, offering career preparation and networking opportunities to our graduate community at UTSA. In addition, the Center also offers digital badging opportunities in a variety of fields.

We look forward to supporting your academic achievements and seeing you at a virtual event this semester. Birds up!

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

A Look at Last Year...

Fall Degrees Awarded
Total: 458
Master’s Degrees: 425
Doctoral Degrees: 33
2020-2021 Application Numbers
Applications Received: 1,374

Fall 2020 Enrollment
Total Enrollment: 4,607 (3,714 Master’s, 893 Doctoral)

Recruitment Corner
The Graduate School recruitment team will be collaborating with campus partners and hosting many sessions this semester. These virtual events are designed to assist students in preparing for graduate education. Check out our event calendar for more information!

This semester, we are proud to introduce our GREAT students. These ambassadors are a diverse and supportive group of current UTSA graduate students available to share their experiences with prospective students and provide support in recruiting efforts to the university.

Applications are closed, but keep an eye out for new ambassador positions next semester! GREAT student responsibilities include:

- Peer mentoring
- Occasional travel to conferences
- UTSA tabling and virtual events
- Social Media presence

New Online Graduate Certificate Programs
Data Science
Facilities Management

UTSA Online Graduate Programs
We have two new #UTSAonline graduate certificate programs! Develop and sharpen your analytical skills while earning a Data Science Graduate Certificate or become a qualified facilities manager through the Facilities Management Graduate Certificate.

Online graduate degrees are tailor-made to fit your busy lifestyle while helping you reach your educational goals. Same degree, expert faculty, and high academic standards. Learn more by visiting online.utsa.edu/programs.
**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
- 32 synchronous events held
- Synchronous and asynchronous attendees:
  - Fall and Summer 2020: 3,990
  - Fall and Summer 2021: 2,000
- Graduate and postdoctoral fellows can view the full catalog of sessions to date on The Graduate School YouTube channel.

### Orientation
- 232 attendees.
- Faculty guest speakers appeared from:
  - College of Architecture, Construction and Planning
  - College of Science
  - College for Health, Community and Policy
- Current student and alumni guest speakers appeared from Nursing, English, and Business and Computer Engineering.
- One student spoke after the Spring 2021 orientation.

### Digital Badges
- 431 badges issued since launch in Summer 2020
- 351 badges issued in the last six months
- Offerings for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and the San Antonio community.
- Badge collections include First Year Experience, Leadership and Professionalism, Communications, Educator Development, and many more.

### TA Orientation
- Not yet
- TA orientation and training is offered in asynchronous format on Blackboard Learn.
- To date, 101 teaching assistants have registered for the online learning course.

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### 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!

### Transdisciplinary Grand Challenges
- **GRAND CHALLENGE 1: COVID-19**
  - Student teams developed proposals for innovative solutions concerning virus problems related to the pandemic.
  - A total of 11 proposals submitted
  - Participants from six of the seven academic colleges and 22 programs
  - Two teams tied for 1st, two tied for 2nd, and one team was awarded the Graduate Dean's Choice recognition.

- **GRAND CHALLENGE 2: SOCIAL JUSTICE**
  - Students identified and implemented community projects to identify solutions for the current issues of social justice.
  - A total of 13 proposals submitted
  - Students from all seven academic colleges participated
  - First, second, and third place winners were awarded.

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### 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.
NOW TAKING NOMINATIONS

In an ongoing effort to promote excellence within our graduate community, The Graduate School is proud to announce a series of awards for students, faculty, staff, and academic programs here at UTSA. Applications for Outstanding Thesis, Outstanding PhD Dissertation, and Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant are now open! Visit our website for further details.

Spotlights

Ginger Hernandez
Manager of Administrative Support Operations

How long have you been with The Graduate School?
I will be celebrating 14 years this summer.

What's your favorite part of your job?
Working with my colleagues across campus to provide support to our graduate students.

Tell us a little known fact about yourself:
I love finding baking recipes on Pinterest to see if I can nail it.

Favorite place to eat on campus:
Chick-fil-A