Aiming High: Priorities and Progress in Graduate Education at Southern Miss

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PROFESSOR AND DEAN OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

New Faculty Orientation
Fall 2015

Philosophy on Graduate Education:
Graduate students are the heart of scholarship at a research university...

contributing to teaching, research, creativity, and dissemination of knowledge.
The Graduate School is not just an office.

Graduate Students

Colleges & Programs

Graduate School

Graduate Faculty

Graduate Council

It is a community.

Vision:
To be a model graduate school for public graduate education

➢ Priorities:
  o Efficient operations and service to stakeholders
  o Improved visibility through promotion and marketing
  o Recruitment and enrollment of the best and brightest
  o Professional development and student success
Grad School Staff: Dean’s Support

Carolyn Cawthon
Director of Operations & Recruitment

Desira Bailey
Administrative Assistant

Jackie Moore
Accountant

Vanessa Molden
Coordinator of Special Projects/Admissions Specialist

Grad School Staff: Audits and Completion

Sue Fayard
Graduate Tracking Specialist/Degree Auditor

Jeanne Stewart
Reviewer of Dissertations, Nursing Capstone Projects, & Theses

Sharon Pool
Degree Auditor
Grad School Staff: Admissions and Prospect Management

Emily Lymon
Sr. Graduate Admissions Specialist

Michelle Templeton
Manager of Graduate Admissions

Tracy Barnhill
Admissions & Enrollment Software Manager/System Analyst

Office Operations and Processes

- Six Sigma analysis
  - Application/Admissions Process review
  - Aging report
- Software improvements to admissions processes
- Assessment surveys to patrons
- Policy review
The Application and Decision Process

Is our application process easy? Goals:
- Glitch-free, seamless online application
- Quick review and decision

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<th>Maximum</th>
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Responsible party: Student, Graduate School, Program or Department

Recruitment and Enrollment
Graduate Enrollment at USM (Last 5 Years):

- Is currently flat
- Is down nearly 7% since its peak
- Represents nearly 19% of the total student body (F14)
- Consists of 53% full-time and 47% part-time students (F14)

![Graph showing Graduate Enrollment at USM over the last 5 years]

**Recruitment and Enrollment**

**Pipelining our own undergraduates**
- Talks to student groups
- USM Graduate Fair
- Interaction with McNair Scholars
- Encouraging undergraduate researchers
- Hosting informational events
  - Black History Month panel discussion

**Strategic Recruiting**
- Targeted off-site graduate recruiting fairs
  - Collect prospect data for departments
    (1354 cards collected 2014-15)
  - ABRCMS (targets minorities in STEM disciplines)
  - Partnering with CoST
- On campus prospect visits
  - Rust College
  - Troy University

**Prospect communication plan**
- Identifying, managing, and communicating with prospects

About 40 students assembled in TCC for lunch and a panel discussion called Aiming High: Strategies for Success in Graduate School.
Visibility and Promotion

- Improving campus communication
  - Monthly Dean’s Report
  - Workshops/info sessions
  - Open forums for faculty
- Marketing and promotion
  - Website; social media
  - Eagles, show us where you SOAR.

Cathryn Nicholas, student in the Master’s of Education in Special Education online program, is spreading her wings in Managua, Nicaragua.

Visibility and Promotion

Graduate Student Appreciation Week (April 6-10)
Graduate Student Hall of Fame (McCain Library)

25 students from Troy University visited campus during GS Appreciation Week
Unveiling of photo of M.F.A. student Hillary Scales-Lewis
Professional Development and Student Success

- Professional and career development programs
  - 3MT
  - Professionals in Preparation (Southern Miss Foundation)
- Workshops
  - Citation management
  - Plagiarism
- Quality mentoring
  - Training opportunities for faculty and students
  - Grad/Undergrad mentorship

Katrina Knauer, doctoral student in Polymer Science, placed 3rd overall in the CSGS 2015 Three Minute Thesis Competition. (Pictured with major professor, Dr. Sarah Morgan, right)

Professionals in Preparation: a Pilot Program Aimed at Strengthening Graduate Student Professional Development

- Seminars, panel discussions
  - Leadership
    - Panel discussion with deans
    - External speaker (co-sponsored)
  - Interviewing
    - Panel discussion featuring new faculty
  - Dining etiquette
  - Communication
    - Three Minute Thesis
    - External speaker (co-sponsored)
  - Publications and peer review
  - Ethics
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Non-academic career opportunities
- Mentorship
  - Graduate/undergraduate mentorship
  - Effective mentorship workshops
    - Panel discussion Lunch-n-Learn
    - Case studies Lunch-n-Learn
- Presentation skills
  - Required participation in Grad Student Research Symposium
- Travel awards competition
- Community Outreach
How can you contribute to QUALITY Graduate Education at Southern Miss?

➢ Prioritize time for your scholarship
  • High quality research enhances our reputation and helps us recruit and support the best and brightest students

➢ Become an effective mentor
  • Mentorship workshops will be held this fall semester
  • Don’t be afraid to ask for advice

➢ Identify and recruit high quality students
  • Graduate School is glad to assist