The Graduate School of The University of Alabama

Strategic goals:

Partner with colleges and departments to develop nationally-prominent graduate programs that synergistically contribute to the University goal of a 32,000-student, first-tier, student-centered research university by enhancing UA's scholarly, teaching, and service missions.

Increase the size, quality, and diversity of the graduate student body and maximize opportunities for graduate student and graduate faculty development.

In short, be the best student-centered graduate program in the Southeast!

David A. Francko, Dean

---

The UA Graduate School — by the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Aspiration (Fall 2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Students</td>
<td>3781</td>
<td>4774</td>
<td>5200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% on GTA/RA/Fellowship</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40 (est)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% external RAs as % total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assistantships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave stipend</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>$13,600 (est)</td>
<td>$15,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Note: all assistantships and fellowships, regardless of funding source, carry health insurance and tuition scholarship (over 1800 positions in Fall 2010 vs 1350 in Fall 2006)

• Since Fall 2008, growth of Grad School enrollment (+20.0%) has outpaced growth in undergraduate enrollment (+17.4%)
Emphasis on Recruitment, Retention and Time-to-Degree

- Apps up from 6,003 in 2006 to 7,900 this year; national recruiting model with many partnerships between GS and departments
- CTSM video program featuring grad student athletes
- App fees used to enhance support (Res/Travel grant program = 709 students/$457,000 in 2010-11 vs 128 student/$75,000 in 2005-06 + several fellowships)
- Retention aided by nationally-recognized support and socialization efforts (e.g., Tide Together and Grad Parent Support Program)
- Time-to-degree better than average and improving

Accomplishments

- Nationally ranked graduate programs in Business, Communication, MLIS, and many other fields
- 1st-quartile rankings in Student Support/Outcomes and Academic Diversity in 2010 NRC Assessment of Research Doctorates; many 2nd-quartile programs in overall quality
- Record 1728 graduate degrees in 2010-11 (+182 above previous year’s record). Goal is 2000 degrees/yr by 2013
- More than 30% of ALL UA degrees; greatest growth in doctorates (180/yr up to 2009; 210 in 2010; 249 in 2010-11).
- National leader in development of minority scholars (SREB "Extra Mile Award", etc.); 3rd among 50 flagships in A.A. graduate degrees, 3rd in first-generation PhDs among all universities. African-American enrollment (more than double a decade ago at 614/13.5% grad enrollment in Fall 2010)
Challenges/Changes for 2011-12

- **Fall 2012 Enrollment goal = 5,000**
  - To get there:
  - Increase apps to 8200 (up 300)
  - Further reduce average app processing time to 42 days (46.5 this year, 68.5 previous year)
  - Increase acceptances by May 15 (1344 in 2011, 1221 in 2010, 1000 in 2009), especially international acceptances
  - Enhance growth in "core" disciplines (see census #)

Changes for 2011-12 (in addition to new GRE)

- 5-year ETD embargo option (following national best practices and publisher issues (Dec 2011)
- PhD exit survey (share with departments Spring 2012)
- Background checks for GTAs (beginning for Jan 2012 appointments, following established UA model)
Changes (cont'd)

- New questions on apps for background checking, etc. (disciplinary actions/expulsions, felony/sexual offenses, and military service) - - follows existing undergrad app format
- May 1 deadline for international app decisions (take action or we will)
- Possible ITAP changes to better screen/prepare international students

Contact info

- 1-877-UAGRADS
- http://graduate.ua.edu
- 102 Rose Administration, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487