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 35,000-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

From mid-2000s to 2012, one of strongest growth records in U.S.

- Applications up 40% to over 8,300
- Enrollment up 32% (3,690 to 4,853)
- Doctoral enrollment up 50% (1,169 to 1,758)
- Black/AA enrollment up 66% (414 to 687)
- Degrees conferred up 31% (1,369 to 1,797) and trending sharply upward

BUT caution 2 years ago and last year: New Acceptances and New Enrollments up only 18 – 20%; rest of growth due to enhanced retention = eventual drop in enrollment due to record graduations??
Fall 2014 - continued progress on some fronts, "hitting the wall" on others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>8297*</td>
<td>7813 (-484)</td>
<td>8131 (+356)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Accepted</td>
<td>2201</td>
<td>2081 (-120)</td>
<td>2233 (+152)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Enroll.</td>
<td>1315</td>
<td>1323 (+8)</td>
<td>1418 (+95)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrolled</td>
<td>4853*</td>
<td>4701 (-152)</td>
<td>4745 (+44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA/Blacks</td>
<td>687*</td>
<td>656 (-31)</td>
<td>657 (+1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International stud.</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>472 (+13)</td>
<td>502 (+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral stud.'s</td>
<td>1758*</td>
<td>1674 (-84)</td>
<td>1663 (-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Degrees</td>
<td>1797</td>
<td>1941 (+144)</td>
<td>2025 (+84)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Res/Trav #/#</td>
<td>505K/796</td>
<td>566K/861</td>
<td>671K/1014*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Denotes all-time record value

Other enrollment indicators

- Distance Program enrollment down -15 to 1460, last 2 years down -38, reversing 8 year upward trend (DNP down ca. 40 due to state distance regs = ca. ½ of total doctoral decline)
- Basically every college up a bit or down a bit (e.g., A & S =1,111 in 2014, 1,105 in 2013, 1,092 in 2012)
- **UA Grad School now 13th or 14th in SEC in grad student enrollment as % of total (down to 13.1% from 18% in early 2000s, 15% in 2011, and 13.5% last year)**
- Nationally -- enrollments of new grad students down 2009, 2010, 2011; total enrollment down nearly 2% in 2012, likely drops in 2013 and '14 as well)
Summary – Why the enrollment drop?

- Continue to graduate more students each year than previous year’s record = compared with 2012, needed to ca. +230 more new students each year just to stay even!
- HOWEVER, enrolling ca. 103/year more than 2 years ago) + slight drop in distance students and doc students
- Pool of available GA/RA/fellowships down significantly 3 years in a row after growing for 6 consecutive years - - CANNOT grow if resource base is shrinking

What to do in 2013-14?

- Work with Deans/VPs to reverse decline in internal and external position funding – add back ½ of lost positions this year
- Work if possible to re-establish grad ed as higher priority of UA and full-time, tenure track faculty as cornerstones of mentorship network
- Use new application software/protocols (APPREVIEW on-line and Talisma) to increase apps from 2-year low of 7800 to new record 8500
- Commit to aggressively making offers of enrollment to QUALIFIED students, and let THEM decide whether to come with no promise of funding - - MUST reverse trend of fewer new acceptances and enrollments!
- Reverse 2-year trend of fewer enrollees in Distance programs and Gadsden offerings in Education?