Who are your Graduate Students?

13 Aug 2018
The OU graduate student population

Some key numbers to watch

Areas of focus for graduate faculty
OU graduate students are a big part of the overall student body

Enrollment (FA17)
- Grad: 23%
- 6505
- Undergrad

Degrees conferred (AY18)
- Grad: 34%
- 2565
- Undergrad

Fall 2016, IRR – access the data at minerva.ou.edu
Distributions by campus and degree level

**Enrollment by campus (FA17):**
- Norman: 57%
- Tulsa: 9%
- Law: 12%
- Extended: 22%

**Degree level (FA17):**
- Master’s: 77%
- Doctoral: 16%
- Certs: 7%

Fall 2016, IRR – access the data at minerva.ou.edu
Graduate applicants are from around the US ...
Graduate applicants are from around the US … and around the world

75% from 7 countries:
- China
- India
- Iran
- Bangladesh
- Saudi Arabia
- Nigeria
- South Korea

50% from China and India
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PhDs: OU vs AAU

Annual PhDs Conferred

OU  |  AAU  | Publics
213 | 296  | 296

Bottom quartile ranks mostly in STEM

LIFE SCIENCES
- Biological and biomedical sciences: 20

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND EARTH SCIENCES
- Chemistry: 34
- Geosciences, atmospheric, and ocean sciences: 7
- Physics and astronomy: 30

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCES
- Computer and information sciences: 29
- Mathematics and statistics: 30

ENGINEERING
- Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical: 21
- Bioengineering and biomedical: 31
- Chemical: 9
- Civil: 29
- Electrical, electronics, and communications: 17
- Industrial and manufacturing: 9
- Materials science: 33
- Mechanical: 30
- Other engineering: 12

PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
- Psychology: 2
- Anthropology: 16
- Economics: 29
- Political science and government: 33
- Sociology: 15
- Other social sciences: 18

EDUCATION
- Education administration: 6
- Education research: 25
- Teacher education: 1
- Teaching fields: 19
- Other education: 10

HUMANITIES AND ARTS
- Foreign languages and literature: 25
- History: 17
- Letters: 22
- Other humanities and arts: 5

OTHER NON S&E FIELDS
- Business management and administration: 16
- Communication: 6
New graduate student data dashboard (in beta)

Applications, time-to-degree, degree-completion, demographics – by program

www.ou.edu/gradweb/faculty_resources/test_dashboard
Doctoral time-to-degree

- Health & Exercise Sci 4.0
- Economics 5.0
- Physics 6.9
- Adult and Higher Ed 8.4
Doctoral completion

10-year:
No GA 32%
Black/African American 43%

[Diagram showing completion rates for 5, 7, and 10 years, with 26%, 44%, and 56% completion rates respectively.]
Not all graduate students will stay the doctoral course, but more of them should—and when half [nationally] do not, it's our fault.

In U.S. Education PhD programs, the median time to degree for first generation students is **1.5 years longer**.
In a 2014 Berkeley survey of graduate students, the top predictor of graduate student well-being was graduate students’ beliefs about career prospects.
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Areas of focus for graduate faculty
Some graduate mentorship best practices

**Communication**
Regular and honest – but kind – feedback.

Annual evaluations, after an annual committee meeting.

Share advisor expectations up-front, in writing.

**Respect**
Treat graduate students as junior colleagues.

Be a coach. Great coaches care, communicate high but achievable standards, use an adaptive approach, and engage in participative feedback.

**IDPs**
Work with students to develop individual development plans, with concrete, annual goals that address degree completion, professional development, and career plans.

**Faculty mentors**
We have all had challenges, so don’t be afraid to develop a support network.

Your more senior colleagues have been there before.

**Enlist the committee**
The student-advisor relationship can be tricky.

Three or five is more effective than one.

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Graduate students are the most vulnerable student population, and they often need more support than graduate mentors realize.
Resources - ou.edu/gradweb

- Graduate Bulletin
- Graduate College counsellors
- Graduate Student Life
- 3MT
- Robberson Travel and Research Grants ($150K)
- Bullard and Mergler PhD Completion Fellowships
- Recruitment support ($350K in fellowships; travel)
- Student support/coaching – Sherri Irvin
The objective of the Graduate College is to guide, support, and enhance the educational experience of every graduate student at the university.