

The RUGS Connection

Dean's Corner

Enhancing the Graduate School Experience: Our Ongoing Challenge

Past internal reviews of students' experience of graduate education at FIU have identified the need to develop a vital and nourishing graduate culture on campus as a top priority. During the past year, the University Graduate School (UGS) has partnered with several units on campus to bring forth initiatives intended to enhance the graduate school experience of our students. Some of these initiatives have resulted in changes such as: financial support for colloquia series in many of FIU's doctoral programs, enhanced recruitment in doctoral and other graduate programs, support for technical writing by graduate students through the Center for Excellence in Writing (CEW), and student-focused doctoral program reviews.

Annualization of graduate assistantships in the social sciences and the humanities and recent across-the-board increases in graduate stipends have also improved the financial stability of all FIU graduate students on assistantships. Stipend increases for Dissertation Year and Presidential Fellowships and the implementation of competitive fellowships for doctoral data collection have permitted better support and recognition of the efforts of graduate students and faculty. Finally, anticipated initiatives related to graduate student grant writing, professional development, enhancement of mentoring relations, responsible conduct of research, and graduate student mental health outreach have potential for significant enhancement of the experience of graduate education at FIU. Please participate in these newly initiated services and feel free to provide us feedback at ugs@fiu.edu. We look forward to working with the graduate community to further enhance the graduate experience at FIU.



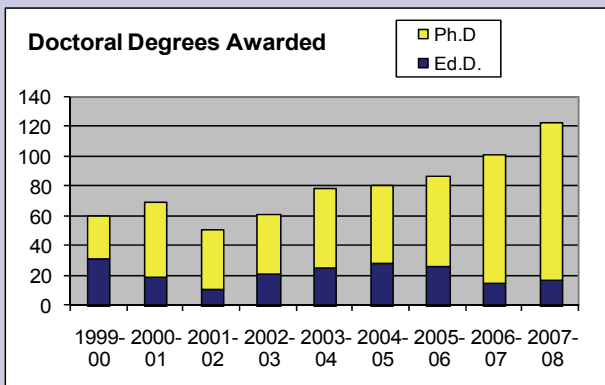
Jonathan Tubman
Associate VP for Research &
Associate Dean, University Graduate School

University Graduate School

Doctoral Degree Production

In 06-07, a major milestone was reached when the University awarded 100 doctoral degrees. In 99-00, 29 PhD degrees were awarded; in 07-08, 106 PhD degrees were awarded. While the number of EdD degrees awarded has decreased, PhD degree production continues to increase. In AY 99-00, the University awarded a total of 59 doctoral degrees and by AY 07-08 that number had increased to 122 degrees. This represents a 107% increase over nine years. The number of PhD degrees awarded over that same nine-year period alone increased by 87%.

Thank you and congratulations to the graduate students, staff, and faculty who helped the University to reach these milestones.



UGS Calendar

- 1/29 Primer on UGS Forms; 2-4p; GL 124G (RSVP only)
- 2/3 UGS Forms Workshop; 2-4 pm; Engineering Center
- 2/9 Last day to apply for graduation (spring 09)
- 2/10 UGS Formatting Workshop; 2-4pm – Invite only
- 2/11 Writing Thesis and Dissertation Proposals; 3-4:30pm; GL 124G – RSVP only
- 2/16 Intro to Grant Writing Workshop; 12-1:30pm; GL 154W
- 2/17 Counseling & Psychological Services Workshop; 9-11am; GL 125 (Note: open to graduate program directors only)
- 2/23 Form M-1 Due (fall 09 graduates)
- 2/23 Form D-1 Due (summer 2010 graduates)
- 2/26 Writing the Literature Review; 11a-12:30pm; GL 124G RSVP only
- 2/27 RCR Workshop: Research Misconduct & Ethical Situations; 1-3pm; GL 125
- 2/27 Last day to drop a course with a DR

For events, workshops, important deadline dates and information, you can visit our online calendar at: [UGS Calendar](#).

Professional Development

The University Graduate School will be co-hosting specific workshops to address issues identified by graduate faculty and staff as areas in which they would like to receive more training. The intent of these workshops is to further enhance the knowledge base of our graduate program directors, faculty and staff in regards to available campus resources.

Our first workshop will be facilitated by staff from the Counseling & Psychological Services Center on February 17th at 9:00 am in GL 125 (the Center for Excellence in Writing). The workshop will cover an overview of the services offered by the Counseling & Psychological Services Center for students, the appropriate protocol for referring students to the Center and a Q&A session for general questions.

For more information on the workshop or to RSVP, please email mccomba@fiu.edu.

Student Spotlight

The UGS would like to recognize the three recipients of its prestigious Willie E. Williams Endowment Award. The Williams Award recognizes graduate students who best represent, through scholastic and community endeavors, a commitment to building awareness and strengthening cultural diversity in Higher Education. Please join us in congratulating our recipients:

- Martin Wasserberg, PhD, Curriculum & Instruction
- Eric Hernandez, EdD, Curriculum & Instruction
- Brandi Williams, MPH, Public Health

Martin, Eric and Brandi each received a cash award of \$500 and were recognized for their achievements at the MLK reception which took place on January 15th.

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Office of Research

PeopleSoft Grants Module News

The PeopleSoft Financials system is being upgraded. A team composed of OSRA and UTS employees as well as external consultants is working to implement the Grants Module Suite in PeopleSoft. We encourage everyone to watch for news of the progress of the implementation, training sessions and go live information. It is very important that all individuals working with grants attend the training sessions that will be offered. Please share this information with your staff and co-workers, and encourage them to attend the trainings to ensure a smooth transition. We expect training to start in the next few months.

Revised Internal Clearance and No Cost Extension Request Forms

The [Internal Clearance Form \(last revised 12/5/2008\)](#) and the [No Cost Extension Request Form \(revised 12/03/08\)](#) should be used for all proposal submissions and no cost extension requests, effective immediately.

The changes to the Internal Clearance Form (ICF) include:

- Addition of indirect cost base type to indicate whether base is Total Direct Cost (TDC) or Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)
- Addition of Compliance/Commitment Question # 11 to indicate a guarantee department ID
- Addition of guarantee ID language in Dean/Director certification
- The No Cost Extension (NCE) Form changes include:
- Addition of sponsor contact email address
- Addition of remaining funds balance and requirement for plan of remaining funds
- Effort section to indicate level of effort for no cost extension period

The revised NCE form should be used for all no cost extension requests, including those that are under the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) and/or submitted via sponsor electronic systems.

We take this opportunity to remind you to use the latest version of all forms, which are available for download at <http://osra.fiu.edu/forms.htm#internal>.

If you have any questions about these revisions, please contact your Pre-Award Representative at 305-348-2494.

NIH transition to Adobe-based applications

In September 2008, the NIH announced its plan to transition to the new electronic Adobe-based grant application forms for Grants.gov application submissions for receipt dates on or after January 1, 2009. A detailed transition schedule is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-117.html>.

There will be two rounds of form updates. The first round is currently taking place, converting the present Pure Edge forms to Adobe. The second round of form updates will be implemented for receipt dates in May 2009 and beyond. Key details of this move from Pure Edge to Adobe include:

- Adobe-based application forms became available December 5, 2008. Applicants should access the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for which they are applying and download the new Adobe based application forms from the Grants.gov website.
- Adobe-based application forms will be updated again in March/April 2009. Applicants will need to access their respective FOAs at that time to download the latest version of the application forms for receipt dates in May 2009 and beyond.
- Grants.gov requires Adobe Reader version 8.1.3 or later in order to open, download, save, and submit an Adobe application. Compatible versions are listed on the [Grants.gov site](#) and can be downloaded from their website at no cost.
- FOAs with non-standard and standard submission dates expiring on or before January 31, 2009, which will not be renewed by the NIH, will use Pure Edge until their expiration date. A detailed listing of these FOAs is available at <http://grants.nih.gov>.

Please note that while the submission mechanism is transferring to the Adobe-based forms from Pure Edge, the submission process still remains the same and the Adobe-based forms look very similar to the Pure Edge forms that are currently being used. Please contact your Pre-Award Representative at 305-348-2494 if you have questions.

Intellectual Property News

Updated Conflict of Interest in Research Policy

The University Research Community should be aware that the institutional policy on Conflict of Interest in Research has been updated and is available for review at the University's Policy and Procedures library at <http://policies.fiu.edu/files/S72.pdf>.

NSF Changes to Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

The NSF has published a revised version of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), NSF 09-1, (http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf091) that will be effective for proposals, awards or funding increments received on or after January 5, 2009. The University Research Community can find highlights of the significant changes at <http://osra.fiu.edu/downloads/NSF%20Changes%20to%20PAPPG.pdf>

Staff Spotlight

Karla Y. Ortega, Assistant Director, Academic Support Services works closely with the UGS associate deans to audit exceptions and work on special projects. She also counsels academic units and students about UGS policies and procedures. Karla is an invaluable member of the UGS team and was recently promoted to Assistant Director, Academic Support Services to handle UGS adherence to SACS principles, compliance and research.

Karla earned a BA in Psychology and a Master's degree in Public Administration from FIU.

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