

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
2005-2006

The School of Graduate Studies reports here that graduate student enrollments for the 2005-2006 academic year saw record highs in both total enrollment at 3,311 and in doctoral enrollment specifically, with an increase from 591 to 623 students. The number of masters students also increased from 1,993 students in 2004-2005 to 2,688 students last year. This report will also provide information on initiatives of the Graduate School during last year and where major effort will be placed during the upcoming academic year. Primarily, we intend to continue major efforts to recruit students into USU graduate programs, generate additional support for graduate education, and we continued to strive to make the Graduate School more responsive to the needs of USU's students and faculty.

We have organized this report into three sections. Part one outlines activities and achievements for 2005-2006. Part two provides general information about the mission of the Graduate School and information concerning last year's actions by the Graduate Council. Part three consists of statistics about USU's graduate education system. The appendix to this report contains tabulated data about last year's graduate students.

I. CHANGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND NEW INITIATIVES

A. Changes and Achievements for 2005-2006

There were several changes in personnel of the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Laurens Smith continued as Interim Dean with Dr. Shelley Lindauer continuing as Interim Associate Dean for the majority of the year. Dr. Byron Burnham was named Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School effective June 1, 2006. Dr. Shelley Lindauer was named as Associate Dean. Other staff changes included the addition of Jamie Spence in June, who replaced Amber Larson at our reception desk. Randy Evans also joined the staff in June, replacing Patty Ross. In the face of these changes the priorities for the School of Graduate Studies during the 2005-06 academic year continued to focus primarily on aspects of the Graduate School's compact plan. Specifically, we sought to improve graduate recruitment efforts, continued addressing financial issues of graduate students through fellowships, awards, waivers, and tuition remissions, and to move forward on other program matters.

1. Graduate Student Recruitment

Dr. Shelley Lindauer made major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2005-2006. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized visits to a larger number of regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate students, awarded funds to improve unit recruitment efforts to 17 departments, expanded regional and advertising of USU graduate programs, implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students and accumulated a total of over 6,000 referrals. New efforts were made to begin tracking students through the recruitment process to analyze the effectiveness of our recruitment strategy. The Graduate School also continued to visit departments to discuss recruitment strategies and provided support for departments to access recruitment training opportunities.

2. Graduate Student Funding

The Graduate School was able to continue financial support of graduate students with a variety of mechanisms, including continued fellowships available through the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA), a COS/COE diversity fellowship, six Seely-Hinckley Scholarships, two Martin Luther King Fellowships, one Patel Fellowship, and nine dissertation fellowships (one more than last year). We provided substantial numbers of tuition waivers and remissions, and continued support for Native American students, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly.

In addition to funding to support travel by graduate students presenting at professional meetings and conferences offered through the Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate School continued to offered travel funding for students to advance their scholarly efforts.

3. Graduate Council Activities

Although described in more detail in a later section of this report, the USU Graduate Council acted on new acted on new graduate program proposals and a variety of graduate issues.

4. Graduate Application Processing and Student Training

With the university's implementation of elements of Banner, it was necessary that the Graduate School offer an on-line graduate application. To facilitate department access to graduate application information and all applicant materials, the Graduate School established an electronic records-keeping software system, eDrawer.

The Graduate School continues to offer on-going opportunities for the mandatory training of graduate students employed as graduate teaching assistants via Web-CT.

II. MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

A. Graduate Council

The Graduate Council reviews and approves the policies and regulations for graduate studies at USU and advises the dean on their application. Listed below are the Graduate Council Members who served in 2005-2006.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Kenneth L. White	Agriculture
Glenn McEvoy	Business
Susan Crowley	Education
Marv Halling	Engineering
Mark Zachry	HASS
Todd Cowl	Natural Resources
Richard Cutter	Science
Douglas R. Ramsey	Faculty Senate
John Elweiler	Library
Laurens Smith	School of Graduate Studies
Maure Smith	Graduate Student Senate President
Ben Sessions	Graduate Student Senate Vice President

A. Major Graduate Council Actions: 2005-2006

A proposal from the Special Education and Rehabilitation Department to reorganize specializations with the Disabilities Disciplines PhD was approved (9/14/05).

A proposal from the School of Accountancy to rename two specializations and to create a Personal Financial Planning specialization within the Master of Accounting was approved (11/9/05).

A proposal to suspend the 9-credit rule for tuition waivers and remissions (to spread the allocation of waiver/remission funding) was approved (1/27/06).

A proposal from the Business Administration Department to discontinue four specializations within the MBA degree was approved (1/27/06).

A proposal from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to suspend the 24-credits-in-residency policy to accommodate an international exchange program (for MS degree) with China was approved (2/17/06).

A proposal from the Department of Engineering and Technology Education to offer the Plan C option within their existing MS degree in Engineering and Technology Education was approved (3/24/06).

A proposal from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to offer an MS degree in Computer Engineering was approved (3/24/06).

A proposal from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to offer a Master of Engineering (Plan C) degree in Computer Engineering with two specializations (Electrical Engineering; Computer Engineering) was approved (3/24/06).

A proposal from the Sociology Department to offer a Master of Social Work degree was approved (3/24/06).

A. Funding for Graduate Students

The following funds were made available for student support through the Graduate Dean's office in 2005-2006

\$177,000	Presidential Fellowships
165,000	Research V.P. Fellowships
9,413	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships
4,542,900	Out-of-State Tuition Waivers and Doctoral In-state Tuition Remission, and Instate Tuition Scholarships
\$4,552,655	Total

B. Graduate Student Travel

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) administers funds from the School of Graduate Studies and from the Vice President for Research for travel cost for graduate students who present papers at professional meetings. Master's students are eligible for one \$300 award and doctoral students are eligible for two \$300 awards during their degree programs. Students can receive funding for USU-generated papers presented up to three months after graduation, with appropriate recognition of USU on the paper.

Of the 165 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2005-2006, 154 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$45,249. There were 39 more awards than in 2004-2005.

III. ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

A. Applications

Applications for graduate study at USU during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 are difficult to determine with exactness because of the conversion to Banner reporting systems. Some applicant information was compiled in SIS prior to Banner application processing. Also early in the 2005 application season, paper applications were still being received and needed to be hand entered. However, we will report the data as it currently exists. The total number of applications can be determined by using the data compiled in Banner reporting in consort with application revenue deposited. For the 2004-2005 year, there was an increase of about 1%. According to that increase the 2004-2005 numbers would be 3,024 based on the increase from 2003-2004. The revenue increase for the 2005-2006 applications from 2004-2005 was about 9%. As with the 2004-2005 applications the number for 2005-2006 applications would be about 3,263.

B. Enrollments

Total matriculated graduate student enrollment for Fall 2005 was 3,311, 16.3% of all USU students and a 28.1% increase from Fall 2004 (Table 3). The total of matriculated graduate students plus post baccalaureate, nonmatriculated students was 3,807, a decrease of 2.7% over last year.

The number of master's students for 2005-06 increased by 34.9% from 1,993 to 2,688 students (Table 4). There was an increase of 32 doctoral students to a total of 623 in Fall 2005, a 5.4% increase from Fall 2004 and a new record high.

C. Degrees Awarded

Numbers of degree types and their department distribution is unavailable at present because of database accessibility. However, 231 master's and 37 doctoral degrees were posted Fall 2005. An additional 340 master's degrees, 2 post-master's degrees, and 35 doctoral degrees were posted Spring 2006.

D. Student Diversity

American ethnic minority students continue to be a relatively small percentage of USU's matriculated graduate students. The total for the principal minority groups increased by about 19% in 2005-06 (Table 5).

TABLE 1

**Scholarship In-State Tuition Waivers
2005-06**

<u>College</u>	<u>Resident Semesters</u>	<u>Nonresident Semesters</u>
Agriculture	2	2
Business	5	3
Education	11	4
Engineering	7	3
HASS	4	3
Natural Resources	4	2
Science	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	39	21

TABLE 2

**Graduate Applications for Admission
to Graduate Study
1989-90 to 2005-06**

<u>Requested Year of Study</u>	<u>Number</u>
1989-90	(NA, computer failure)
1990-91	2469
1991-92	2667
1992-93	3162
1993-94	2933
1994-95	3203
1995-96	2997
1996-97	3085
1997-98	2586
1998-99	2360
1999-2000	2825
2000-01	3039
2001-02	3183
2002-03	3316
2003-04	2994
2004-05	3024
2005-06	3263 (estimated)

TABLE 4

**USU FALL QUARTER/SEMESTER MATRICULATED
GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT, BY LEVEL, 1994-2005**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Master's</u>			<u>Doctorate</u>			<u>Total</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u> Change
1994	1,771	54	3.1	490	13	2.7	2,261	3.1
1995	1,791	20	1.1	498	8	1.6	2,289	1.2
1996	1,862	71	4.0	459	-39	-7.8	2,321	1.4
1997	2,120	258	13.9	397	-62	-13.5	2,517	8.4
1998	1,716	-404	-19.1	369	-28	-7.1	2,085	-17.2
1999	1,914	198	11.5	368	-1	-0.3	2,282	9.4
2000	1,812	-102	-5.3	398	30	8.2	2,210	-3.2
2001	2,037	225	12.4	406	8	2.0	2,443	10.5
2002	1,956	-81	-4.0	490	84	20.7	2,446	0.1
2003	2,014	58	3.0	539	49	10.0	2,553	4.4
2004	1,993	-21	-1.0	591	52	9.6	2,584	1.2
2005	2,688	695	34.9	623	32	5.4	3,311	28.1
Change 1994-2005		917	51.8		133	27.1	1,050	46.4

Source: 1994-2001, Analysis, Accreditation, & Assessment, USU Fact Books; 2002-2005 Enrollment Summary Report

TABLE 5
Matriculated Ethnic Minority Graduate Student Enrollments
by Degree Level, Fall Quarter 1993-2005^a

Year	Master's					Doctorate					Total							
	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total % ^a	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total % ^a	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total % ^a			
1993	3	30	4	18	55	3.2	5	13	2	11	31	6.5	8	43	6	29	86	3.9
1994	4	26	7	19	56	3.2	7	9	1	11	28	5.7	11	35	8	30	84	3.7
1995	7	25	5	13	50	2.8	5	12	3	8	28	5.6	12	37	8	21	78	3.4
1996	9	27	6	17	59	3.2	5	9	3	8	25	5.4	14	36	9	25	84	3.6
1997	14	24	7	28	73	3.4	7	7	3	8	25	6.3	21	31	10	36	98	3.9
1998	7	19	7	16	49	2.9	6	5	1	6	18	4.9	13	24	8	22	67	3.2
1999	5	21	6	13	45	2.4	7	3	4	9	23	6.3	12	24	10	22	68	3.0
2000	6	19	14	16	55	3.0	7	5	3	9	24	6.0	13	24	7	25	79	3.1
2001	11	26	6	24	67	3.3	6	6	2	8	22	5.4	17	32	8	46	89	3.6
2002	5	16	9	18	48	2.5	5	7	3	9	24	4.9	10	23	12	27	72	0.1
2003	8	21	5	20	54	2.7	4	8	3	8	23	4.3	12	29	8	28	77	3.0
2004	4	19	5	19	47	2.4	5	8	3	10	26	4.4	9	27	8	29	73	2.8
2005	15	16	4	26	61	2.3	6	5	4	11	26	4.2	21	21	8	37	87	2.6

^a Percent of all master's, doctoral, matriculated graduate students.

Source: Office of Planning and Analysis, *USU Fact Books, Enrollment Summary 2004-2005*.