

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
2007-2008

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) reports that graduate student enrollments for the 2007-2008 academic year reflected growth in both master's and doctoral enrollments. Total enrollments at the graduate level were 3,949, an 11.9% increase. Doctoral students increased by 30 (a 4.7% increase) and master's degree students increased by 390 (a 13.5% increase). These increases are a reflection of intensified efforts on the part of departments, programs, and the SGS in recruitment. This report will provide information about recent initiatives and plans for future recruitment activities and support for graduate students.

The report is organized into three sections. Part I outlines activities and achievements for 2007-2008. Part II provides general information about the mission of SGS and information concerning last year's actions by the Graduate Council. Part III consists of statistics about applications, enrollments, and degrees awarded.

PART I: CHANGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND NEW INITIATIVES

Changes and Achievements

Personnel changes included the departure of Randy Evans, Scott Jenkins, Marie Hicks, Launa Julander, and Jamie Spence. Both Randy and Scott received their master's degrees and have taken new jobs in the public schools. We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Berezay, Megan Poulton, Susan Cooper, Marcie Baker, and Nancy Kippen.

We continue to work on rapid acceptance processes for applicants for graduate studies. SGS recognizes the need to respond quickly with offers to qualified applicants. We are concentrating upon building solid relationships with academic departments in this team effort.

One of the outstanding achievements resulted from a cooperative effort by the Provost's and President's offices, the SGS, the research community, and academic departments. For the first time USU is offering subsidized health insurance for graduate assistants. Coverage is equivalent to USU staff insurance. Basically, a graduate assistant will pay 20 percent of the insurance premium per year while the employing department or research project will pay 80 percent per academic year. The insurance covers the student for 12 months.

The SGS's application processes are being integrated with the University's Banner system. Soon (this academic year) departments will be able to view graduate student application material and matriculation-related documents in real time using software purchased by the Provost's Office. This integration activity will use Xtender software, which will replace eDrawer (a third party software not compatible with Banner).

We continue to partner with the Office of International Students and Scholars as we respond to international applications.

Graduate Student Recruitment

Dr. Shelley Lindauer made major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2007-2008. 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 \$1,000 in funds to improve unit recruitment efforts to 23 departments, expanded regional advertising of USU graduate programs, implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students, and accumulated a total of over 6,300 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 monetary support for departments to access recruitment training opportunities. SGS has been working with Analisa Purser from Public Relations and Marketing to develop a variety of recruiting publications and plans to begin working closely with departments on recruitment materials over the next year.

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), six Seely-Hinckley Scholarships, two Martin Luther King Fellowships, one Patel Fellowship, and ten dissertation fellowships. We provided substantial numbers of tuition waivers and remissions, and continued support for Native American students, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly. Tuition and fellowship awards information was provided to colleges three months earlier than in previous years, allowing colleges time to recruit the very best students.

In addition to fund support for travel by graduate students who present at professional meetings and conferences offered through the Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate School continued to offer travel funding for students to advance other scholarly efforts. We increased the amount available for student travel through help from the Vice President of Research.

PART II: MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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 2007-2008.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Kenneth L. White	Agriculture
Glenn McEvoy	Business
Susan Crowley	Education
Marv Halling	Engineering
Richard Cutter	Science
Kelli Cargile-Cook	HASS
Eugene Schupp	Natural Resources
John Elsweiler	Library
Byron Burnham	School of Graduate Studies
Jeri Brunson	Graduate Student Senate President
Jillian Guttormsen	Graduate Student Senate Vice President

Major Graduate Council Actions

A proposal from the Psychology Department to change the name of the Research and Evaluation Methodology specialization within the PhD to Experimental and Applied Psychological Science was approved (09/12/2007).

The Graduate Council voted not to approve a motion from the Sociology Department to waive the requirement for MSW applicants to take either the MAT or the GRE standardized admission tests (10/10/2007).

A proposed Master of Music degree (specialization in piano performance and pedagogy) was approved (12/10/2007).

A proposed Master of Science degree in Anthropology (specialization in archaeology and cultural resource management) was approved (01/09/2008).

A proposed PhD degree (no specific specializations) in Engineering Education from the Engineering and Technology Education Department was approved (03/07/2008).

Funding for Graduate Students

The following funds were made available for student support through the School of Graduate Studies in 2007-2008:

\$180,000	Presidential Fellowships
165,000	Research V.P. Fellowships
22,879	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships *
4,417,222	Out-of-State Tuition Waivers and Doctoral In-state Tuition Remission, and Instate Tuition Scholarships
\$4,785,101	Total

*Financial Aid academic year (fall 07, spring 08, summer 08)

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 two \$300 awards and doctoral students are eligible for three \$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 167 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2007-2008, 162 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$47,344.68. There were 19 more awards than in 2006-2007.

PART III: ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Applications

The total number of applications decreased from 2,726 in 2006-2007 to 2,672 in 2007-2008, a decrease of 53 or 2%. When considered in light of the enrollment increases, this small decrease in applications has been more than compensated for in terms of improvements in other recruiting efforts such as faster response time (affected by electronic letters of recommendation, I-20 certificates, test score reports) to the applicants.

Enrollments

Total graduate student enrollment for Fall 2007 was 3,949, an increase of nearly 12%. This represents 11.9 % of all USU students (Table 3).

The number of master’s students for 2007-2008 increased by 13.5% from 2,892 students to 3,282. There was an increase of 30 doctoral students to a total of 667 for Fall 2007, a 4.7% increase.

Degrees Awarded

There were 242 master’s, 1 Educational Specialist, and 25 doctoral degrees posted Summer 2007 totaling 268 (down from 279 the year prior). In Fall 2007 there were 316 master’s, 1 Educational Specialist, and 28 doctoral degrees posted for a total of 345 degrees. An additional 283 master’s degrees, 1 Educational Specialist, and 44 doctoral degrees were posted Spring 2008 for a total of 328 degrees. For the 2007-2008 academic year there was a grand total of 941 degrees awarded, an increase of 109 degrees from the year prior.

Degrees Awarded by Type and Semester for 2006 and 2007

Degree	2006				2007			
	Su 06	Fa 06	Sp 07	Total	Su 7	Fa 07	Sp 08	Total
Master’s	243	236	267	746	242	316	283	841
Ed. Spec					1	1	1	3
Doctoral	36	25	24	85	25	28	44	97
Total Degrees				831				941

TABLE 1

**Scholarship In-State Tuition Awards
2007-2008**

<u>College</u>	<u>Resident Semesters</u>	<u>Nonresident Semesters</u>
Agriculture	1	2
Business	4	2
Education	9	3
Engineering	6	2
HASS	3	2
Natural Resources	3	2
Science	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	31	16

TABLE 2

**Graduate Applications for Admission
to Graduate Study
1989-90 to 2007-08**

<u>Requested Year of Study</u>	<u>Number</u>
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	2726
2006-07	2897
2007-08	2673

TABLE 3

**USU FALL QUARTER/SEMESTER MATRICULATED
GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT, BY LEVEL, 1995-2007**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Master's</u>			<u>Doctorate</u>			<u>Total</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>% Change</u>
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
2006	2,892	204	7.6	637	14	2.2	3,529	6
2007	3,282	390	13.5	667	30	4.7	3,949	11.9
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Change 1994-2007		1,491	83.2		169	33.9	1,660	72.5

Sources: 1994-2001, Analysis, Accreditation, & Assessment, USU Fact Books; 2002-2006 Enrollment Summary Report

