

**REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE**  
**THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**2008-2009**

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) reports overall graduate student enrollments for the 2008-2009 academic year are slightly down compared to the previous year (2.3%). There was a slight increase in master's level students (.7%) while doctoral students decreased (12.4%).

The report is organized into three sections. Part I outlines activities and achievements for 2008-2009. 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**

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 continue to concentrate upon building solid relationships with academic departments in this team effort. We established a monthly meeting with graduate program coordinators and graduate contacts in departments where we provide training, guidance, and information to assist in a student's progress towards a degree. This effort has provided constructive feedback from the departments to aid us in better serving their needs.

The *Degree Completion Compass* was published in fall 2008. The *Compass* is designed to provide students and faculty with both a timeline for completing a graduate degree, as well as explanations and samples of all forms which must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies. This will help students to move through their graduate programs in a timely and efficient manner. Copies have been distributed to departments and students.

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 offered subsidized health insurance for graduate assistants. Close to 900 students qualified for the subsidized insurance. Coverage is equivalent to USU staff insurance. A graduate assistant pays 20 percent of the insurance premium per year while the employing department or research project pays 80 percent per academic year. The insurance premium went up slightly for 2009-2010 (\$1,165 to \$1,178). The insurance covers the student for 12 months. SGS is in the process of transitioning the graduate health insurance over to the Student Wellness Center.

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

**Graduate Student Recruitment**

Dr. Shelley Lindauer continued to make major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2008-2009. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized visits to 15 regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate students from every college in recruiting, awarded \$1,000 in funds to improve unit recruitment efforts to 21 programs, expanded regional advertising of USU graduate programs and grants for department graduate brochures to 26 departments, implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students, and accumulated a total of over 6,000 referrals. 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 Annalisa Purser from Public Relations and Marketing to develop a variety of recruiting publications, including the *I Stayed* marketing campaign targeted at current high-achieving USU students.

### **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, one Martin Luther King Fellowship, one Patel Fellowship, and seven dissertation fellowships. We provided substantial numbers of tuition awards, and continued support for an American Indian Support Program fellow, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly.

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 2008-2009.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Paul Johnson	Agriculture
Glenn McEvoy	Business
Susan Crowley	Education
Barton Smith	Engineering
Richard Cutler	Science
Keith Grant-Davie	HASS
Eugene Schupp	Natural Resources
Shawn Fisher	Faculty Senate
John Elsweiler	Library
Byron Burnham	School of Graduate Studies
Adam Fowles	Graduate Student Senate President
Aaron Davis	Graduate Student Senate Vice President

### **Major Graduate Council Actions**

## [08-09 Faculty Senate Report]

A proposal from the Family, Consumer, & Human Development Department to change the name of the PhD degree from PhD in Family, Consumer and Human Development to a PhD in Family and Human Development was approved (09-10-08).

The Graduate Council approved a motion to eliminate the fulltime status requirement for graduate students in the summer (09-10-08).

The Graduate Council approved a proposal to change the name of the master's and doctoral degrees in Instructional Technology & Learning Sciences to reflect the name change of the department. The degrees will be an MS and PhD in Instructional Technology & Learning Sciences (11-11-08).

A request from The School of Teacher Education & Leadership (TEAL) for a MEd specialization in Instructional Leadership was approved (01-14-09).

The proposal for a new Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the Department of Mechanical, & Aerospace Engineering was approved (02-11-09).

The Graduate Council approved the request from SGS to limit the number of Continuing Graduate Advisement to ten credits, effective for new students entering USU fall 2009 (04-08-09).

### **Funding for Graduate Students**

The following funds were made available for student support through the School of Graduate Studies in 2008-2009:

180,000	Presidential Fellowships (15)
165,000	Research VP Fellowships (11)
22,879	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships (7)
344,200	Master's In-state Tuition Awards
68,300	Master's In-state Resident Scholarships
35,800	Master's In-state Nonresident Scholarships
1,150,694	Doctoral In-state Tuition Awards
2,280,106	Nonresident Tuition Awards
\$4,246,979	TOTAL FUNDS

### **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 190 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2008-2009, 170 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$51,726.20. There were 8 more awards than in 2007-2008.

### **PART III: ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

**Applications**

The total number of applications decreased slightly from 2,672 in 2007-2008 to 2,660 in 2008-2009, a decrease of 12 or .45%.

**Enrollments**

For the last two years (2007-2008 and 2008-2009) adjustments were made in the way programs within the Banner system were coded. A campus wide enrollment management committee was organized to evaluate and correct miscoded programs. It was discovered that a large number of post-baccalaureate students registered for classes (primarily via RCDE) and were coded as “Master’s Level” in the system. Actually, they were non-matriculated students. These students were re-coded to reflect that they were not in fact in a graduate program. Data in Table 1, while remaining consistent with prior data, reflect only the number of students that were enrolled in actual graduate programs.

Total graduate student enrollment for fall 2008 was 2,504, a decrease of nearly 2%. (Table 1.) The number of master’s students for fall 2008 decreased by 1.3% from 1,891 students to 1,866. There was a decrease of 40 doctoral students to a total of 627 for fall 2008, a 5.9% decrease.

**Degrees Awarded**

There were 254 master’s, 5 Educational Specialists, and 27 doctoral degrees posted summer 2008 totaling 286. In fall 2008 there were 188 master’s, 1 Educational Specialist, and 27 doctoral degrees posted for a total of 216 degrees. An additional 250 master’s degrees, 4 Educational Specialists, and 33 doctoral degrees were posted spring 2009 for a total of 287 degrees. For the 2008-2009 academic year there was a grand total of 789 degrees awarded.

Degrees Awarded by Type and Semester for 2007, 2008, and 2009

Degree	2006			2007				2008				
	Su06	Fa06	Sp07	Total	Su07	Fa07	Sp08	Total	Su08	Fa08	Sp09	Total
Master’s	243	236	267	746	242	316	283	841	254	188	250	692
Ed. Spec.					1	1	1	3	5	1	4	10
Doctoral	36	25	24	85	25	28	44	97	27	27	33	87
Total				831				941				789

**TABLE 1**

**GRADUATE ADMISSION APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT BY LEVEL, 1998-2008**

Year	Admission Applications	Master's Enrollment			Doctoral Enrollment			Total	
		Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	% Change
1998	2360	1716	-404	-19.1	369	-28	-7.1	2085	-17.2
1999	2825	1914	198	11.5	368	-1	-0.3	2282	9.4
2000	3039	1812	-102	-5.3	398	30	8.2	2210	-3.2
2001	3183	2037	225	12.4	406	8	2.0	2443	10.5
2002	3316	1956	-81	-4.0	490	84	20.7	2446	0.1
2003	2994	2014	58	3.0	539	49	10.0	2553	4.4
2004	3024	1993	-21	-1.0	591	52	9.6	2584	1.2
2005	2726	2688	695	34.9	623	32	5.4	3311	28.1
2006	2897	2892	204	7.6	637	14	2.2	3529	6
2007	2673	3282 *1866	390	13.5	668	30	4.7	3949 *2559	11.9
2008	2660	3397 *1866	115 -25	3.5 -1.3	627	-41	-5.9	4024 **2504	1.9 -2.1

Sources: 1998-2001, Analysis, Accreditation & Assessment, USU Fact Books; 2002-2008 Enrollment Summary Reports

\*Adjusted numbers by the SGS with non-matriculated students removed

\*\* This number includes the EdS degree (11)