

**REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE**  
**THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**2009-2010**

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) reports overall graduate student enrollments for the 2009-2010 academic year were 8% more than the previous year. There was an increase in master's level students (12.5%) while doctoral students decreased (4.4%).

The report is organized into three sections. Part I outlines activities and achievements for 2009-2010. 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 INITIATIVES**

A number of changes, achievements, and initiatives have taken place over the past year. Not all have had positive impacts on graduate education at Utah State University.

Our goal of rapidly processing applications for graduate studies was temporarily achieved this past year. However, budget cuts reduced the number of fulltime processors with the anticipated result of lengthening the time for processing applications. We plan to supplement remaining processors with seasonal support staff.

As we enter the third year of the Subsidized Graduate Student Health Insurance program we continue to improve the management of the program by working closely with the USU Student Health and Wellness Center. A location for a Health and Wellness representative has been identified in the Taggart Student Center, allowing students to conveniently access enrollment assistance and answers to questions about health insurance at the beginning of each semester. Approximately 72% of eligible graduate students are taking advantage of this benefit. Perhaps the most striking thing to report is that health insurance premiums have not increased for the third straight year. When the program was initiated, departments received an increase in operating budgets to cover the majority of graduate assistant insurance costs. Those funds have not been affected by the budgetary crisis. (Currently students pay \$237 or 20% of the premium and departments pay \$941 or 80% per year.)

In the past year we have distributed 750 copies of the *Degree Completion Compass* to graduate students and their advisors as part of an effort to make requirements for graduation as transparent as possible. We have received positive feedback from this effort.

The Graduate Student Research Symposium, which is managed by the Graduate Student Senate and supported by the School of Graduate Studies, reached new heights this year with 572 presentations and poster sessions from mostly USU graduate students. A number of other intermountain universities were represented. The Symposium provides a platform for our students to present findings from their research as well as receive feedback about their work and presentation abilities. We are very appreciative of the departmental support that our graduate students receive.

### **Graduate Student Recruitment**

Dr. Shelley Lindauer continued to make major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2009-2010. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized visits to 25 regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate students from every college in recruiting, 22 programs received \$1,000 each to improve unit recruitment efforts, continued to expand regional advertising of USU graduate programs, and implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students. 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 a new marketing campaign focusing on the quality of life at USU and in Utah.

### **Graduate Student Funding**

The Graduate School was able to continue financial support of graduate students with a variety of mechanisms, including six Seely-Hinckley Scholarships, two Martin Luther King Fellowships, one Patel Fellowship, seven dissertation fellowships, and we also provided substantial numbers of tuition awards. We continued support for an American Indian Support Program fellow, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly.

In addition to funding 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.

With some changes in residency requirements, additional funds for nonresident tuition awards have become available and have been distributed to departments for use in the upcoming school year.

An important issue regarding tuition awards specifically and graduate student support generally, needs to be addressed by the faculty. As budgets either remain static or decrease, the ability of the School of Graduate Studies to offer tuition awards continues to be constrained. With each increase in the cost of tuition and a continuing flat budget for tuition awards, the number of awards actually decreases. The School of Graduate Studies has made several changes to policies that have allowed us to extend the number of tuition awards; however, we will soon be forced to limit even further the awards given. The following table demonstrates the decreasing number of financial awards over time. Scholarships and fellowships are becoming fewer in

number, and these have not increased in the amounts awarded. In spite of combining assistantship stipends with tuition awards and subsidized health insurance, our package of financial support for graduate students continues to erode (see Table 1)

**Table 1: Fellowships, Scholarships, and Tuition Awards 2007-2011**

Year	Presidential Fellowships	Vice-President for Research Fellowships	Master's Resident Tuition Scholarships*	Master's Nonresident Tuition Scholarships*	Master's Resident Tuition Awards**
06-07	15	13	49	21	238
07-08	15	11	31	16	220
08-09	15	13	31	16	200
09-10	15	11	26	13	173
10-11	15	11	32	17	183

\*Awards are for one semester, for up to 12 credits, no graduate assistantship is required, and students are chosen competitively based upon GPA and GRE/MAT/GMAT scores. The number of these awards increased for 2010-2011 because so many students in 2009-2010 used awards for only 9 credits.

\*\*Awards are for one semester, and are awarded to students with graduate assistantships, for up to 9 credits. The number of these awards increased for 2010-2011 because so many students in 2009-2010 used awards for only 6 credits.

## **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 2009-2010.

#### Representative

Paul Johnson  
 Glenn McEvoy  
 Susan Crowley  
 Barton Smith  
 Richard Cutler  
 Keith Grant-Davie  
 Eugene Schupp  
 Shawn Fisher  
 John Elsweiler  
 Byron Burnham  
 Richard Kelly  
 Aaron Davis

#### Representing

Agriculture  
 Business  
 Education  
 Engineering  
 Science  
 HASS  
 Natural Resources  
 Faculty Senate  
 Library  
 School of Graduate Studies  
 Graduate Student Senate President  
 Graduate Student Senate Vice President

### **Major Graduate Council Actions**

[09-10 Faculty Senate Report]

A proposal to rename the MS in Health, Physical Education and Recreation to a MS in Health and Human Movement was approved (09-09-09).

The Graduate Council approved the proposal from Family, Consumer, and Human Development to offer a Master of Marriage and Family Therapy (10-14-10).

With the new minimum wage hike in July 2009, salaries for graduate students were determined to be inadequate. GC approved a minimum increase to \$675 at a .50 FTE or \$400 at a .25 FTE (10-14-09).

The proposal to require an international trip for MBA students (main campus) during spring break (MGT 6300) was endorsed (11-11-09).

Graduate Council approved the R401 proposal to move the MS and PhD degrees in Irrigation Engineering from Biological Irrigation Engineering to Civil and Environmental Engineering (2-11-10).

The proposal to consolidate the three existing graduate programs in the Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences into a single graduate program (MS/PhD) with five specializations was approved (4-14-10).

### **Tuition Awards for Graduate Students**

The following amounts were made available for student tuition support through the School of Graduate Studies in 2009-2010:

\$180,000	Presidential Fellowships (15)
165,000	Research VP Fellowships (11)
28,896	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships (6)
319,877	Master's Resident Tuition Awards
68,300	Master's Resident Scholarships
35,800	Master's Nonresident Scholarships
1,162,211	Doctoral Resident Tuition Awards
2,569,521	Nonresident Tuition Awards
<b>\$4,529,605</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</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 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 171 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2009-2010, 163 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$48,110.00. There was one less award than in 2008-2009.

### PART III: ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

#### Applications

The total number of applications increased from 2,470 in 2008-2009 to 2,637 in 2009-2010, an increase of 167 or 6.8%.

#### Acceptances

The total number of acceptances decreased from 1,513 in 2008-2009 to 1,459 in 2009-2010, a decrease of 54 or 3.6%.

#### Enrollments

Total graduate student enrollment for fall 2009 was 2,533, an increase of 8% (Tables 2 and 3). The number of master's students for fall 2009 increased by 12.5% from 1,726 students to 1,941. There was a decrease of 27 doctoral students to a total of 592 for fall 2009, a 4.4% decrease.

**Table 2: Graduate Admission Applications and Enrollment by Level, 2004-2009**

Year	Admission Applications	Master's Enrollment			Doctoral Enrollment			Total	
		Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	% Change
2004	No data	1993			591			2584	
2005	1581	2688	695	34.9	623	32	5.4	3311	28.1
2006	1859	2892	204	7.6	637	14	2.2	3529	6.6
2007	1922	* 2821	-71	-2.5	665	28	4.4	3486	-1.2
2008	2020	* 1726	-1095	-38.8	619	-46	-6.9	2345	-32.7
2009	2046	1941	215	12.5	592	-27	-4.4	2533	8.0

**Sources: 2004-2009 Enrollment Summary Reports**

\* In 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, while remaining consistent with prior data, reflect only the number of students that were enrolled in actual graduate programs.

**Table 3: Fall 2009 International Graduate Admission Applications and Enrollment**

<b>Total</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>
Non-US Citizens	608	93
<b>Countries/Regions of Origin</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>
China	110	17
India	199	25
South Korea	14	4
Middle East & Turkey	38	6
<b>Total non-US Citizens by Field of Study</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Enrollments</b>
Arts & Humanities	19	5
Business	83	19
Education	25	2
Engineering	239	42
Life Sciences	19	3
Physical Earth Sciences (including Math & Computer Science)	160	19
Social Sciences & Psychology	21	1
Other Fields	42	2

### Degrees Awarded

There were 254 master's, 4 Educational Specialists, and 33 doctoral degrees posted summer 2009 totaling 291. In fall 2009 there were 247 master's, 2 Educational Specialists, and 19 doctoral degrees posted for a total of 268 degrees. An additional 334 master's degrees, 2 Educational Specialists, and 40 doctoral degrees were posted spring 2010 for a total of 376 degrees. For the 2009-2010 academic year there was a grand total of 935 degrees awarded (see Table 4).

**Table 4: Degrees Awarded by Type and Semester**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>			<b>2008-2009</b>			<b>2009-2010</b>					
	Su07	Fa07	Sp08	Total	Su08	Fa08	Sp09	Total	Su09	Fa09	Sp10	Total
<b>Master's</b>	242	316	283	841	254	188	250	692	254	247	334	835
<b>Ed. Spec.</b>	1	1	1	3	5	1	4	10	4	2	2	8
<b>Doctoral</b>	25	28	44	97	27	27	33	87	33	19	40	92
<b>Total</b>				941				789				935

