

# Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Overview



Dr. Karen Butler-Purry  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies  
Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Graduate Advisor Workshop  
18 July 2019



**Dr. Karen Butler-Purry**

*Associate Provost for  
Graduate and  
Professional Studies*

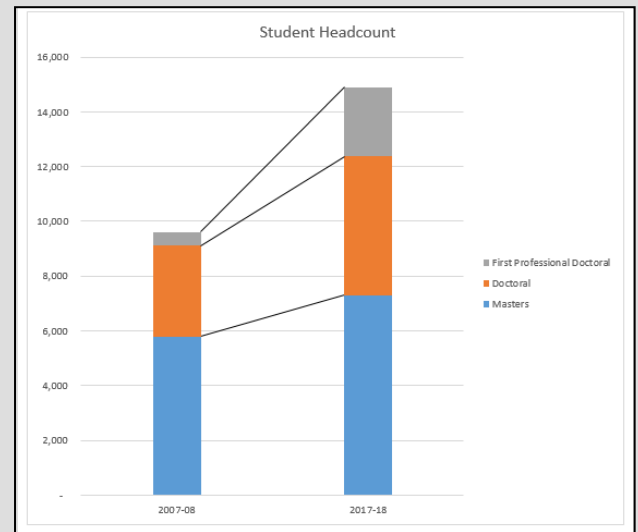
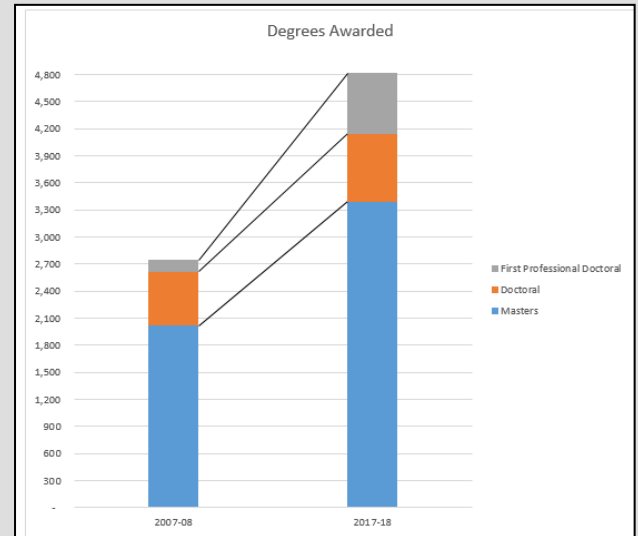
*Supports and promotes the  
advancement of graduate  
and professional studies at  
Texas A&M University*

# Graduate & Professional Student Enrollment and Degrees

## Enrollment and Degrees

Degree Count	2007-08	2017-18	Growth
Masters	2,015	3,391	41%
Doctoral	597	752	21%
First Professional Doctoral	129	670	81%
<b>Summary</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>4,813</b>	<b>43%</b>

Student Headcount	Fall 2008	Fall 2018	Growth
Masters	5,798	7,294	21%
Doctoral	3,308	5,070	35%
First Professional Doctoral	503	2,537	80%
<b>Summary</b>	<b>9,609</b>	<b>14,901</b>	<b>36%</b>



# OGAPS Strategic Goals & Objectives

## Strategic Goals and Objectives

### 1. Cultivate a diverse and globally aware graduate community

- ▶ Support college and department efforts to matriculate a diverse, high-quality graduate student population.



### 2. Enhance the graduate experiences and development of all graduate and professional students, personally and professionally

- ▶ Enhance and support graduate student high impact learning experiences consistent with *Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime*, the University Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).
- ▶ Promote and recognize graduate student success.



### 3. Practice intelligent stewardship of resources entrusted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

- ▶ Provide unparalleled support services for success.
- ▶ Facilitate strategic resource allocation to advance programming excellence.

- ▶ Ensure public trust through efficient resource utilization, accountability, and transparency.

### 4. Lead and advance graduate education at Texas A&M University and throughout Texas and the nation

- ▶ Identify “best practices”, guidelines, and procedures in graduate education.
- ▶ Promote adoption of best practices and influence graduate education policies and procedures.



### 5. Create and nurture an office climate that leads to excellent performance and collegiality among staff

- ▶ Promote regular staff participation in professional development and training activities
- ▶ Foster a climate of involvement, respect, and transparency.



- Enhancement of Distance Portal to OGAPS website with resources for off-campus students
- Continue work on developing an online system for graduate student academic milestone tracking and completion to replace DPSS
- Expand competencies in G.R.A.D. Aggies Professional Development Program
  - Including increased focus on career development and graduate student wellness
  - Utilization of external professional development resources: DoctoralNet, NCFDD, CIRTL @ TAMU network
- Enhance Data Transparency:
  - Complete implementation of GPS section of Accountability website and CNGLS
  - Posting of PhD alumni data and narratives of findings





# Data Transparency

**Accountability**  
MEASURING THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Search...

- Home
- Strategic Plan
- Vision 2020
- Reports & Surveys
- Campus
- Key Indicators
- Recognitions
- Contact Us

5 Aggie Research Innovations In 2013

**Student**  
METRICS

**Faculty & Staff**  
METRICS

**Vision 2020**  
METRICS

**Graduate & Professional Student**  
METRICS

**Strategic Plan 2015-2020**  
METRICS

**ED College Scorecard**

**THECB Accountability**

**EMPOWER**  
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Accountability**  
MEASURING THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Search...

[Home](#) | [All Metrics](#) | [Student Metrics](#) | [Faculty and Staff Metrics](#) | [Vision 2020 Metrics](#) | [Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Metrics](#)

**Filter by Tag**

- Enrollment
- Graduation
- Retention
- Student

[Filter](#) [Reset](#)

**All Metrics**

**Graduate & Professional: Applied, Admitted & Enrolled**

**Graduate & Professional: Degrees Awarded**

**Graduate & Professional: Student Demographics**

**Graduate & Professional: Time to Degree**

Texas A&M University Web Accessibility Site Policies Contact Us Sitemap

# Data Transparency

- HOME
- ABOUT
- BLOG
- PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
- NEW & CURRENT STUDENTS
- FACULTY & STAFF
- CONTACT US

## COALITION FOR NEXT GENERATION LIFE SCIENCE (CNGLS)

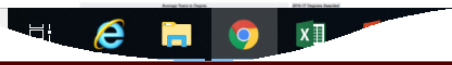
Texas A&M University is proud to be a member of the [Coalition for Next Generation Life Science](#). Coalition members commit to collecting and publicly sharing data across a number of domains. The end objective is to increase transparency, improve training outcomes, and enhance recruitment and retention efforts aimed at diversifying the life sciences.\*



[PhD Admissions and Matriculation Data](#)



[Demographics of Currently Enrolled PhD Students](#)



- Inclusion of cumulative GPAs on graduate transcripts and possible policy changes on how graduate GPAs are calculated.
- Facilitate the implementation of a new graduate and professional admissions application
- Develop a PhD Student Review System
- Improve graduate student mentoring
  - Increase utilization of Individual Development Plans
  - Expand graduate mentoring development activities for faculty and graduate students
- Acquire instance of SLATE CRM tool to establish more effective communication with prospective students, track effectiveness of recruitment efforts, improve communications with current students, and initiate communications with alumni

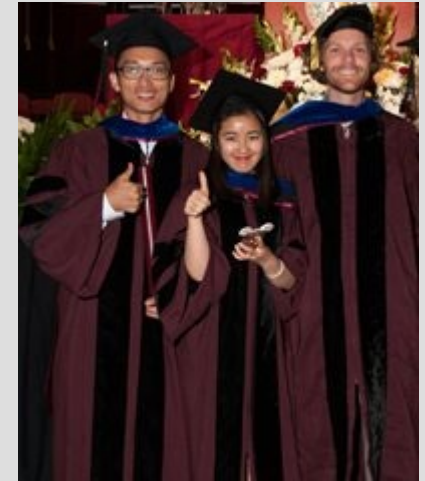




# New Doctoral Commencement and Hooding Ceremony

## **NEW commencement and hooding ceremony exclusively for doctoral students**

- **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Rudder Auditorium.**
- **For students who have completed their graduation application and cleared for hooding by OGAPS and Office of the Registrar for the Fall 2019 Semester. Actual diplomas for doctoral students will be delivered via direct mail by December 31st.**
- **We will no longer present doctoral hooding or diplomas during the ceremonies for undergraduate and master's degrees.**
- **All deadlines for filing for graduation for the Fall term, dissertation completion, hooding requests and ordering regalia will remain the same.**



# OGAPS at a glance

# OGAPS at a Glance

*268 graduate degree programs*

*graduate and professional student government*



# Leadership Team



**Dr. George Cunningham**  
**Senior Assistant Provost**  
*Administration, Special Projects, IT,  
Thesis & Dissertation*



**Dr. Shannon Walton**  
**Director**  
*Recruiting, Professional  
Development, and Student  
Success*



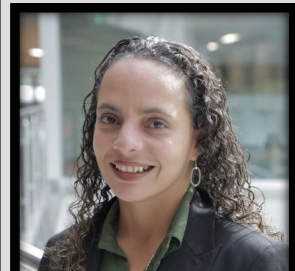
**Rachel Krolczyk**  
**Director**  
*Data Services*



**Dr. Jamie Saucier**  
**Assistant Director**  
*Graduate Records  
Processing*



**Yvonne Costello**  
**Assistant to the APGPS**  
*Supports Dr. K. Butler-Purry*



**Jackie Perez**  
**Director**  
*Business Services, Budget, HR  
Administrative oversight*



**Director**  
Jackie Perez





**Linda Thurman**  
 Fellowship & Scholarship Coordinator  
*Administers student fellowships, awards and grants, Supports J. Perez*



**LaRhesa Johnson**  
 Operations Administrative Coordinator  
*Graduate Committee Faculty, Graduate Council, Non-Resident Tuition Waivers*



**Susanna Banda**  
 Administrative Specialist  
*Manages student workers and front office*

**Vacant**  
 Business Coordinator

- **Field all incoming phone, e-mail and walk-in inquiries**
- **Manage student records**
- **Connect stakeholders with resources and information**
- **Maintain channels of communication**



**Laura Rueda**  
 Administrative Coordinator  
*Supports G. Cunningham, S. Walton, R. Krolczyk, Ombuds*



**Liz Rodriguez**  
 Administrative Coordinator  
*Supports J. Perez, R. Krolczyk, J. Saucier, R. Ramirez*

**Part-Time**

Cherise Castille, Administrative Coordinator  
 Lisa Williams, Administrative Coordinator  
 Leslie Woods, Communications Coordinator

# Records / Document Processing and Thesis and Dissertation Services



**Dr. George  
Cunningham**  
Senior Assistant Provost



**Clay Bryan**  
Thesis & Dissertation  
Coordinator

**Vacant**  
Publishing  
Specialist

**Vacant**  
Document  
Submission  
Specialist

## Part-Time Editorial Assistants

Jay Brakefield\*  
Judie Heidelbaugh\*  
Amy Motquin\*  
Julia Williams  
Mary Lou Wilshaw-Watts\*

\*Distance Reviewer

- *Review electronic thesis, dissertation and record of study documents for adherence to university guidelines*
- *Provide advice, preparation support and coordination for release of documents for public access*

# Thesis and Dissertation Review

**Average # of reviews: two per document**

<b>FY18</b>	<b># of Dissertation/ROS*</b>	<b># of Theses</b>	<b># of Manuscripts</b>
2017 C (Fall)	249	173	422
2018 A (Spring)	226	170	396
2018 B (Summer)	277	196	473
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>1291</b>

<b>FY19</b>	<b># of Dissertation/ROS*</b>	<b># of Theses</b>	<b># of Manuscripts</b>
2018 C (Fall)	236	149	385
2019 A (Spring)	261	192	453
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>838</b>

\*Record of Study

# Special Projects / Technology Management



**Russell Ramirez**  
Operations Manager



**JaeCee Crawford**  
Senior IT Coordinator



**Kyle Hill**  
IT Specialist



# Records and Document Processing



**Dr. Jamie Saucier**  
Assistant Director

# Records and Document Processing



**Kim Widdison**  
Graduate Records  
Coordinator



**Savannah Sanchez**  
Graduate Records  
Specialist



**Stacy Hernandez**  
Graduate Records  
Specialist



**Debbie Starnes**  
Graduate Records  
Specialist

**Karen Seago**  
Graduate Records  
Specialist  
(Part-Time)

- *Facilitate document processing relating to progress toward graduate degrees*
- *Advise faculty, staff and graduate students on university policies and procedures*

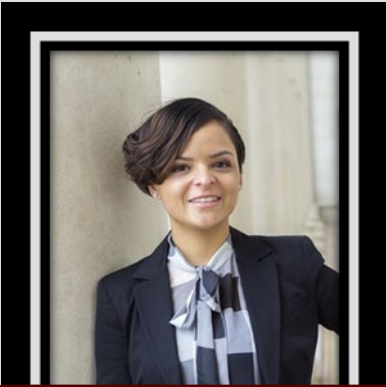
# Records & Document Processing



# Recruiting, Professional Development and Student Success



**Dr. Shannon Walton**  
Director



**Dr. LaToya Morris**  
Student Success  
Coordinator

**Find 2019-2020  
Recruiting Events posted  
on OGAPS website.**

**Simply enter 'Recruiting  
Events' in the search  
field.**

- *Perform recruiting activities in coordination with programs*
- *Attract high-quality, diverse students*
- *Facilitate graduate student orientations*
- *Facilitate fellowship and award advising, selection, and processing*
- *Partner with faculties and student organizations to support success.*



**Vacant**  
Recruitment Coordinator

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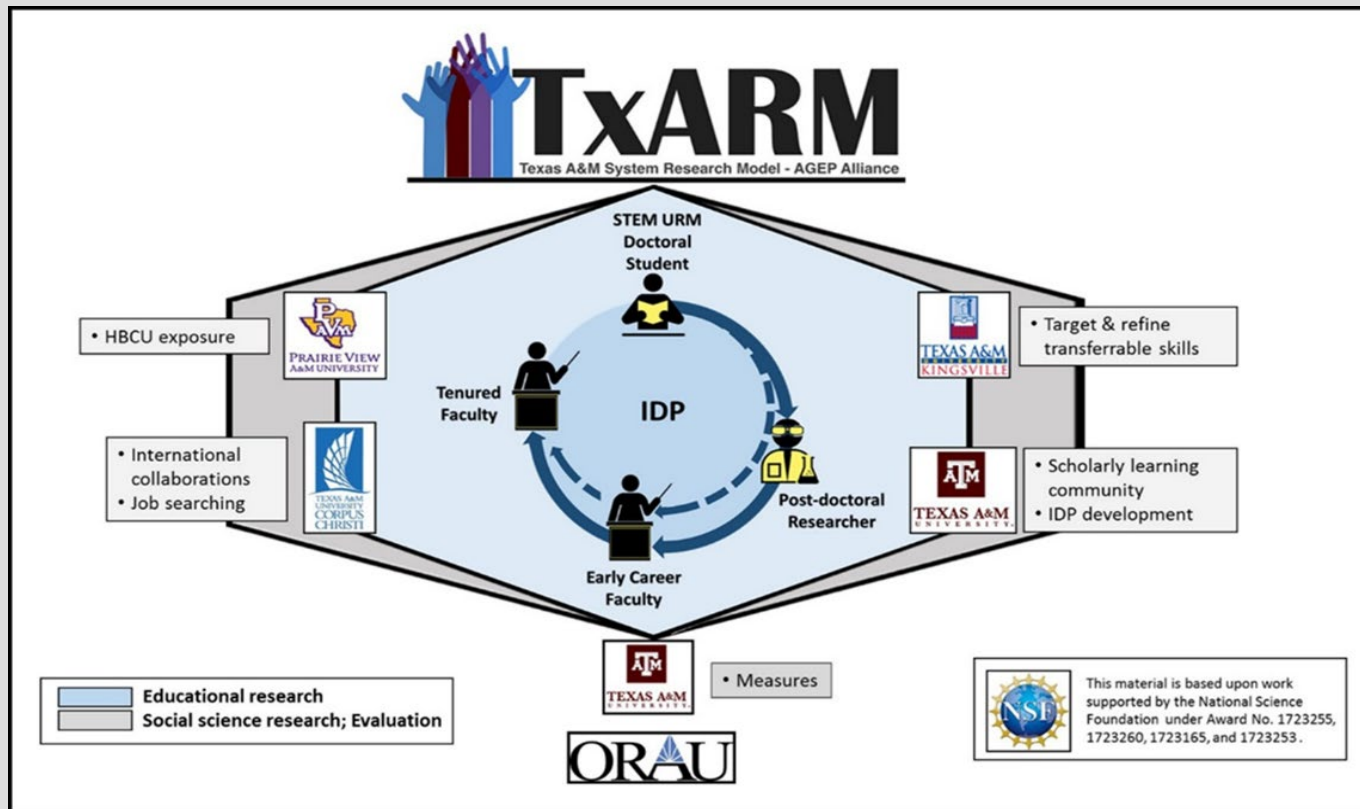
# NSF AGEP (Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) Initiative



**Isah Veronica D. Juranek**  
Program Coordinator

- *Facilitate alliance of Texas A&M System institutions*
- *Lead initiative to increase number of underrepresented minorities (URM) who complete doctoral degrees and continue on to the professoriate*
- *Offer activities and funding for alliance students*
- *Partners with units and organizations to support project goals*

# TxARM – Texas A&M System Research Model – AGEP Alliance



## Goal:

To develop, implement and study a model of STEM doctoral degree completion and the transition to successful postdoctoral fellowships and faculty careers for historically under-represented minorities.

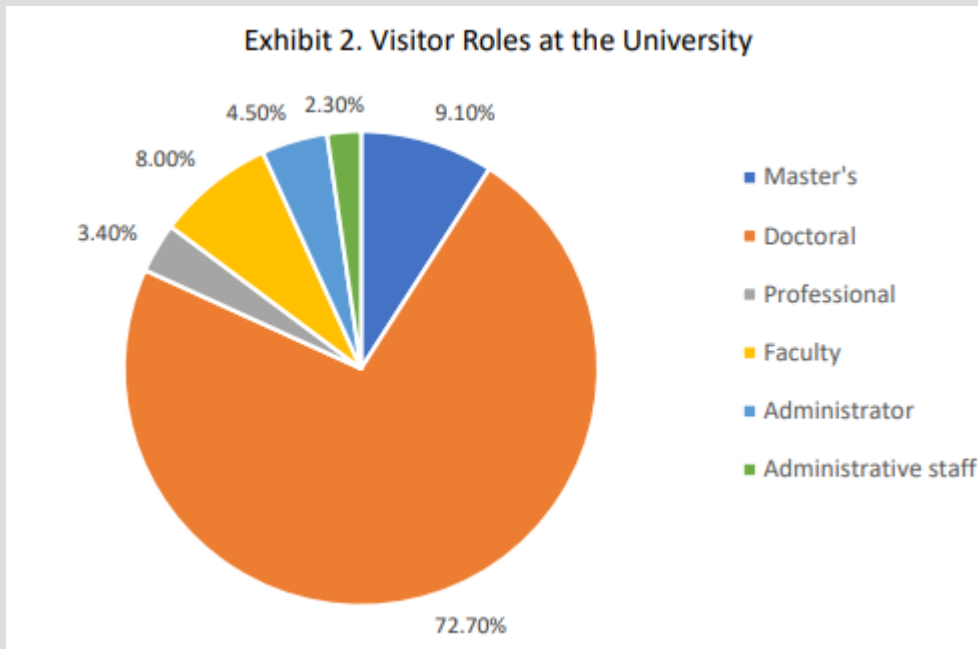
# Ombuds Officer



**Dr. Linda Castillo**  
Ombuds Officer

- *Assist students, faculty, staff and administrators to informally solve conflicts*
- *Confidential listener, not an advocate*
- *Provide advice to those voluntarily seeking it with respect and dignity*

## VISITOR STATISTICS 2017-2018



## Issues of Concern

- Grade Dispute
- Authorship/Intellectual Property
- Change Committee
- Workload/Assignment of Duties
- Other Degree Requirements
- Dissertation/Thesis Requirements
- Unfair treatment/Difficult Relations
- Probation/Suspension/Dismissal
- Other



# Graduate Student Well Being

## A GROWING CONCERN IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

**2010**  
Prevalence of mental illness in graduate students may be similar to the general population but help-seeking behavior has increased

(Hunt & Eisenberg, 2010)

**2014 - UC Berkeley Report**  
43-46% of graduate students in the biological/physical sciences were depressed

(UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly, Grad Student Happiness and Wellbeing Report, 2014)

**2015 - University of Arizona Report**  
Majority of PhD students reported “more than average” or “tremendous” current stress  
• Biggest contributors to stress were school and education-related issues

(Smith & Brooks, Grad Student Mental Health, 2015)



**2018 MARCH**

### Evidence for a mental health crisis in graduate education

Teresa M Evans<sup>1</sup>, Lindsay Bira<sup>2</sup>, Jazmin Beltran Gastelum<sup>3</sup>, L Todd Weiss<sup>4</sup> & Nathan L Vanderford<sup>4,5</sup>

With mental illness a growing concern within graduate education, data from a new survey should prompt both academia and policy makers to consider intervention strategies.

There is a growing cry for help from graduate students across the globe who struggle with significant mental health concerns<sup>1</sup>. Despite increased discussion of the topic, there remains a dire need to resolve our understanding of the mental health issues in the trainee population.

Recent research on mental health in the trainee population has focused on within-institution cohorts, such as the 2014 UC Berkeley report<sup>2</sup>, which found that 43–46% of graduate students in the biosciences were depressed, and the 2015 University of Arizona report<sup>3</sup>, which found that a majority of doctoral students reported “more than average” current stress

trainee population, we deployed a comprehensive survey that included clinically validated scales for anxiety (GAD07) and depression (PHQ09) via social media and direct email. We surveyed a total of 2,279 individuals (90% PhD students and 10% Master’s students). Respondents were from 26 countries and 234 institutions (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2) and represented diverse fields of study including, biological/physical science (38%), engineering (2%), humanities/social sciences (56%) and “other” (4%). The data presented here demonstrate that the graduate trainee community has a considerable prevalence

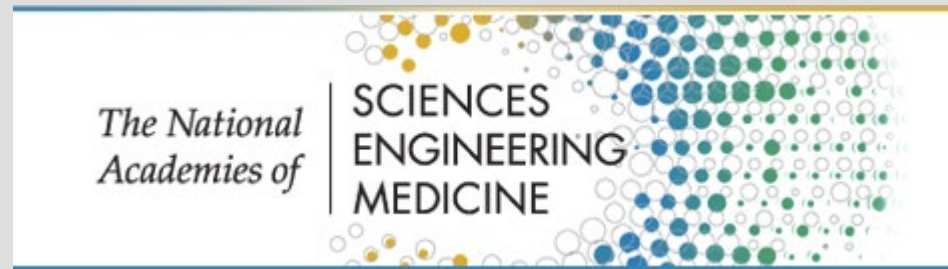
with perceived work–life balance and mentorship quality.

The transgender and/or gender-nonconforming population faces an increased risk of depression and anxiety<sup>4</sup>. Further, women consistently are more likely to suffer from mental health disorders than men<sup>7</sup>. Our results corroborate these findings within the graduate trainee population; both transgender/gender-nonconforming and female graduate students are significantly more likely to experience anxiety and depression than their male graduate student counterparts (Fig. 1b). Our study found that the prevalence of anxiety

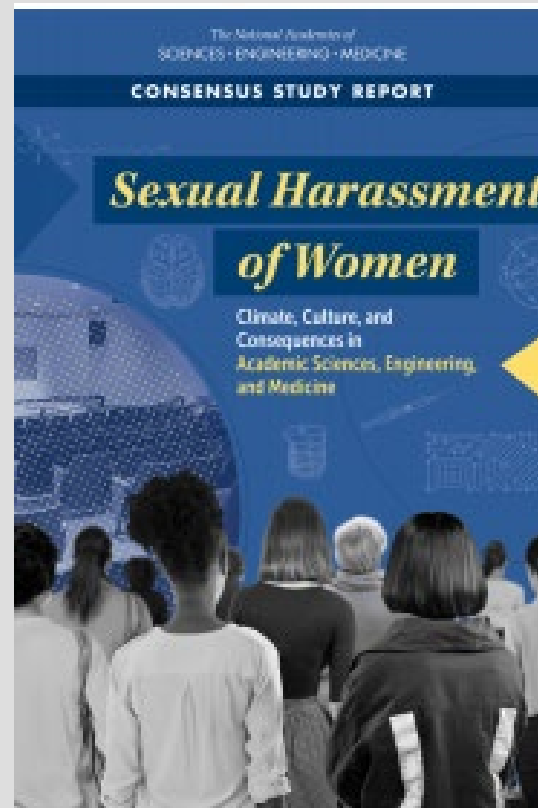
part of Springer Nature. All rights reserved.

From Mona Shattell, “Supporting Graduate Student Health and Wellness”, 2018 CGS Summer Workshop





**June 2018**  
**Report:**  
**Sexual Harassment**  
**of Women:**  
**Climate, Culture, and**  
**Consequences in**  
**Academic Sciences,**  
**Engineering, and**  
**Medicine**



# Graduate Student Well Being: Resources

## OFFICES OF THE DEAN OF **STUDENT LIFE** DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

- ✓ Harassment and discrimination
- ✓ Sexual harassment and assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and related retaliation

*Also offers other services:*

- ✓ Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center
- ✓ New Student and Family Programs
- ✓ Off-Campus Student Services
- ✓ Student Legal Services
- ✓ Women's Resource Center

## Student Counseling Service DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

- ✓ Personal Counseling
- ✓ Addiction
- ✓ Couples Counseling
- ✓ Crisis Intervention
- ✓ Group Counseling
- ✓ Psychiatric Services
- ✓ Self-Help, Outreach, Consultation



## G.R.A.D

### Aggies

#### Graduate Resources and Development

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Seminars
- ✓ Training



## Graduate Ombuds Officer

- ✓ Discuss concerns
- ✓ Identify solutions
- ✓ Plan path forward



# Graduate Advisor Brown Bags 2019-2020

**Schedule Coming Soon! Watch your e-mail**

***Examples of previous  
topics covered:***

- Graduate Catalog Updates
- Understanding Graduate Committee Faculty
- Obtaining the Graduate Student Data You Need
- Fellowship Nomination Information



http://ogaps.tamu.edu/calendars

Instructions on how to subscribe

Click headings to view the events

Description of each type of link

Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

Home About Prospective Students Incoming Students Current Students Faculty & Staff International Students

You are here: Home / Calendar Subscription

## Calendar Subscription

### Year-round Calendars

(includes Fall 2013, Spring 2014, and Summer 2014)

**Full Calendar:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#)

**Master's Non-Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

**Master's Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

**Doctoral Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

### Spring 2014

**Master's Non-Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

**Master's Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

**Doctoral Dates & Deadlines:**  
[RSS Feed](#) | [Download .ics File](#) | [Add to Calendar](#) | [PDF Document](#)

#### LINK DESCRIPTIONS

**RSS Feed**  
 This option allows you to view the RSS feed page and URL that is used when adding RSS feeds to your preferred device. (Must have an application that accepts and reads RSS feeds.)

**Download .ics File**  
 This option allows you to download the file containing the calendar events. You can then choose to either:

- Open the file on your smart device and import the events into your device's native calendar application.
- Open the file on your computer and import the events into your computer's default mail and calendar application.

**Add to Calendar**  
 This option prompts you to add the calendar events to your computer's default mail and calendar application.

**PDF Document**  
 This option allows you to download a PDF document listing the calendar events of the specified group.



<http://ogaps.tamu.edu/calendars>

Calendar subscriptions are separated by term and type:

## Terms

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Academic Year

## Types:

- **OGAPS Events** 
- Master's Non-Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines
- Master's Thesis Option Dates & Deadlines
- Doctoral Dates & Deadlines
- Awards & Fellowship Dates & Deadlines
- **Graduate Advisor Brown Bags** 
- Ask OGAPS Series
- Graduate Student Workshop Series

## OGAPS and Thesis & Dissertation Services

112 Jack K. Williams Administration Building

(979) 845-3631

<http://ogaps.tamu.edu>



### General Contacts

[ogaps@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps@tamu.edu) - Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

[ogapsprocessing@tamu.edu](mailto:ogapsprocessing@tamu.edu) – Records Processing

[thesis@tamu.edu](mailto:thesis@tamu.edu) - Thesis and Dissertation Services

[ogaps-tatep@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps-tatep@tamu.edu) - New Teaching Assistantship Training & Assessment Program

[ombuds@tamu.edu](mailto:ombuds@tamu.edu) - OGAPS Ombuds services

[ogaps-award-admin@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps-award-admin@tamu.edu) - OGAPS Awards Administrator

[ogaps-fellowship-admin@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps-fellowship-admin@tamu.edu) - OGAPS Fellowship Administrator

[GradCouncilAdmin@tamu.edu](mailto:GradCouncilAdmin@tamu.edu) - Graduate Council Administrator

[grad-aggies@tamu.edu](mailto:grad-aggies@tamu.edu) – Professional Development

[ogaps-grad-recruit@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps-grad-recruit@tamu.edu) – Recruiting