Section 1
Welcome to Graduate School!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your interest in graduate education at the University of South Florida. USF is a top-tier, metropolitan research university that last year was named by the Chronicle of Higher Education as the fastest growing research university in the nation in federal funding. We are distinguished by our excellent research and graduate education and our location in a major urban region that is among the nation’s most diverse. USF programs recognized as for being among the nation’s best include Marine Science, Psychology, Accounting, Applied Anthropology, Public Health and Biochemistry.

Strong interdisciplinary programs put USF on the leading edge of research and graduate education in a number of areas. For example, collaboration among researchers throughout the university has made USF a leader in the neuroscience of aging and USF’s interdisciplinary doctoral program in Aging Studies was the first in the country. The doctoral program in Cancer Biology joins USF research capacity with the strengths of the nationally recognized H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute.

In addition to doctoral programs, USF offers many opportunities for postgraduate study through our many Master’s and Certificate programs, many of which are designed to prepare graduates to make immediate contributions to the economic, cultural and social vitality of communities. USF also has launched the nation’s first School of Global Sustainability, an interdisciplinary program that will draw from the best researchers and scholars on campus to develop new solutions to the challenges of managing and protecting the world’s limited resources.

Our commitment to diversity, discovery and the application of knowledge relevant to urban communities has earned USF frequent citations as a model of an “engaged university.” The opportunities for graduate education at USF are vast, and we have worked hard to build an environment that supports and encourages innovation. In many areas, USF offers programs that are unsurpassed in their capacity to prepare you to make your best contribution to a challenging world. I invite you to inquire further about USF programs of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Genshaft
President
Office of the President

http://system.usf.edu/president/about-president-genshaft.asp
A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Embarking on graduate studies represents a serious commitment, and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the University of South Florida as your academic home for this journey.

The valued contributions, success and accomplishments of our graduate students are of the upmost importance to USF’s faculty and staff. As a leading research university, our mission is to engage in meaningful initiatives that support the educational, health, and socio-economic growth of the local, national, and global communities we serve. Our academic programs and research initiatives embrace interdisciplinary inquiry and discovery that are central to the graduate student experience at USF.

The university’s commitment to real-world research with a global impact is evident in its new School of Global Sustainability. Launched in early 2010, this innovative school is geared to preparing students for a new generation of “green collar” careers and finding solutions for a world challenged with the need to protect its fragile environment and limited resources. The school offers a Master of Arts degree in Global Sustainability which integrates various disciplines such as natural and social sciences, engineering, public health, economics, governance and policy, and issues of diversity, with the majority of the courses offered online. The school and degree program are exciting developments, shaped by USF faculty and researchers who are eager to mentor a new generation of global leaders facing challenges never before imagined.

At USF, our professors are leading scholars in their discipline who readily engage new graduate students in their laboratories and research projects. Among them, they hold 55 endowed chairs, 45 endowed professorships, and have won numerous prestigious national and international honors and awards. USF is home to a growing number of Fulbright Scholars, Guggenheim Fellows, NEH and NSF fellows, Getty Fellows, and those holding other esteemed academic positions recognized around the world.

Together with the accomplishments of our students, it is the talent that the faculty brings to USF that has built our reputation as the nation’s most rapidly growing research university over the past decade as noted by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Our university is attracting many of the world’s best and brightest students because they will have the academic mentoring of well regarded faculty to support their academic and scholarly endeavors through research and innovation.

For graduate students, their academic department usually represents the hub for their graduate school experience. However, at USF we value interdisciplinary collaborations and encourage students and faculty to forge relationships across disciplines. We believe that interdisciplinary partnerships with students, faculty, and researchers across campus, in the local community, and around the world strengthen both the university and the graduate student experience at USF. This “collaboration for competition” leads to the creation of new knowledge and exciting, innovative solutions to pervasive and emerging problems. From cross-disciplinary curricula to shared core research facilities, when graduate students engage in enhanced collaboration that provides students with the opportunity to optimize their fullest potential.
Delivering top quality graduate programs is a leading priority for our university as it strengthens its position as a premier research university with state, national, and global impact. The University of South Florida is a place where you can challenge yourself and focus on how you are able to contribute to your discipline, your university, your community, and your world in a meaningful and sustainable way. Whether your career aspirations are to remain in academe or to pursue professional positions in the public sector, business or industry, I am confident that your experience as a graduate student at USF will present you with wonderful and exciting new opportunities.

Ralph C. Wilcox  
Provost & Executive Vice President  

www.acad.usf.edu
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

It gives me great pleasure to write this introduction for the University of South Florida (USF) Graduate School Catalogue. As you will see from the information within, we are a forward moving exemplary Research 1 University. We have over 130 master’s programs, 43 doctoral programs, several dual degree programs, and over 100 graduate certificates. We also have many opportunities for non-degree seeking students. On our several campuses, USF serves more than 46,000 students, of which nearly 10,000 are graduate students. USF has student success, research and innovation, community engagement, global literacy and impact, and integrated, interdisciplinary inquiry as its strategic priorities. Our tuition, among the lowest in the country, provides affordability and we also offer a number of financial aid options. We recognize that graduate students have very different responsibilities and needs, so many of our programs offer flexible day, evening, and weekend classes in addition to online course and degree program offerings.

The mission of the Graduate School is to serve as the university hub of leadership for graduate education producing present-day and future global leaders—one student at a time. As a graduate student at the University of South Florida you can be proud that USF is one of only 25 public research universities nationwide that holds both very high research and community engaged designations by the Carnegie Foundation. Also, USF was awarded more than $380 million in research contracts and grants last year. The Graduate School works closely with the Office of Research and Innovation offering student research opportunities including participation in research events and interdisciplinary research grants. Graduate students at USF can also apply for research, teaching, and graduate assistantships enhancing their educational experiences by putting knowledge to action.

I personally invite each of you to learn more about graduate education and the USF System with locations in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota/Manatee, and Lakeland. We invite you to become the leader you are destined to be and welcome you to our community of scholars and family of learners!

Karen Liller, Ph.D.

Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation

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