



# Annual Report

*2014-2015*

*\*\*Preliminary Report\*\**

# Introduction from the Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies

Greetings from the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). On behalf of the dedicated staff of OGS, I am pleased to provide the 2014-2015 Annual Report so that the University of South Florida community can stay apprised of the many activities and services delivered by this office. I am confident that you will find the contents of this report to reflect an important aspect of our work: a vision and strong commitment to providing support to departments, schools, and Colleges in facilitating graduate education at USF, a mission crucial to the overall success of the institution.

While the contents of this report necessarily focus on events during the past year, we are particularly enthused with what will transpire in the coming year. A major accomplishment has been laying groundwork for an initiative termed the graduate student success effort. While USF has made great strides in enhancing undergraduate student success in recent years, a development reflected in our impressive performance in the Florida Board of Governors' Performance Based Funding Model, there has been less attention paid to the success of our graduate students. We will seek to remedy this in the coming academic year by assessing the state of graduate education at USF, much in the same way that a self-reflective overview of the undergraduate experience led to some significant policy and practice changes. Going forward, it is fully realized that an assessment of graduate education is more complex, and much less of a central enterprise, than its undergraduate counterpart. Therefore, a graduate student success effort will require analyses at a more localized level (usually, the department) in which graduate education is delivered. We look forward to assisting the campus community in the effort in the year ahead.

Much of the success that we have experienced this past year is due to an impressive team effort from those working in the Office of Graduate Studies. In particular, Assistant Dean Peter Harries deserves a special note of praise for his work in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the office. In addition, the efforts of the Graduate Council, chaired this past year by Dr. Russell Kirby, have been greatly appreciated, representing as they do the faculty voice in overseeing decisions regarding graduate-level policy, programs, and curriculum. As well, the Enrollment/Graduate Associate Deans group has been especially helpful in advising OGS on any number of issues that have arisen during the past year. And while graduate admissions has moved from this office and now resides in the Office of Admissions, we very much appreciate the work of Elizabeth O'Connell, Director of Graduate Admissions, in keeping us informed regarding all facets of the admissions and enrollment process.

We trust that you will find the overview of OGS activities in the pages that follow to be informative. Undoubtedly, the academic year ahead will bring us new sets of challenges and opportunities to be addressed. OGS stands ready and willing to continue to play a critical role in advancing graduate education at the University of South Florida, and contributing to achieving the ambitious goals that our institution strives to accomplish.

Sincerely,

M. Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice Provost &  
Dean, Office of Graduate Studies



## Did you know...

This year the Office of Graduate Studies:

- Initiated the development of a 'Graduate Student Success Effort'
- Played a critical role in developing the Graduate and Professional Student Task Force – a collaboration between the Graduate and Professional Student Council and Student Government
- Launched Finance-A-Bull, a peer-to-peer financial advising program
- Continued to develop mandatory TA training in conjunction with the Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATLE)
- Continued to develop, refine, and refocus our professional development offerings for graduate students
- Saw the continued increase in the number of participants presenting at the 7th Annual Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Research Symposium
- Sent the 14 graduate student winners of the Research Symposium to the Statewide Research Event at the University of Central Florida
- Provided \$2,849,527 in fellowship awards
- Provided over \$30,785 to support conference travel
- Increased opportunities, programming, and events for graduate students to become engaged and network during New Graduate Student Orientation, Week of Welcome (WOW), Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week as well as through other professional development workshops



# Graduate Academic Affairs

## Academic Policy and Curriculum Processing

Through the collaborative efforts of the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and the USF Graduate Council (UGC), chaired by Dr. Russell Kirby, the following academic policies were reviewed and updated:

### Academic Policies

Incomplete Grades	Revised policy to remove "IA" as an option	9/18/14
Dual Degree Policy	Clarified policy that courses to be shared must be "Structured courses"	9/18/14
Major Professor Definition	Revised so that the MP must be from the student's Academic Area" instead of department (Essentially rescinded policy to make it "department", approved 2/3/14)	9/18/14
USF 3.027 Academic Integrity	Reviewed and recommended approval with minor corrections	10/6/14
Time Limit	Revised policy to reflect course currency requirements	12/1/14
Incomplete Grades	Added statement regarding instructor notating the required work as part of I-Contract	12/1/14
Graduate/Affiliate Faculty	Revised policy statement regarding who is approved to teach Graduate Courses	1/12/15
Reinstatement/Readmission	Revised policy to provide for two options - reinstatement or readmission	2/2/15
Dissertation Defense	Minor amendment to policy that student must attend defense in person	2/2/15
Dissertation Defense	Minor amendment to the policy that at least one Major Professor attend in person	3/9/15
Graduate Certificate Policies	Updated policy section to ensure consistency with recently changed policies	3/9/15

### Academic Curriculum

The OGS also works with the UGC in the review and approval of graduate curriculum including the creation, revision, or termination of degree programs, concentrations, graduate certificates, and graduate courses. As of April 8, 2015 a total of 259 curricular actions were processed and approved by OGS and UGC. These included the approval of eight new degree programs (see below), 50 program changes, and 2 program terminations/suspensions. In addition, two new Accelerated Programs were added to the inventory. Other curriculum actions included approval of 9 new concentrations, as well 14 new Graduate Certificates, and over 147 graduate courses processed.

### New Program Pre-Proposals

AS	Applied Linguistics Ph.D.
MD	Occupational Therapy OTD

### New Programs (3)

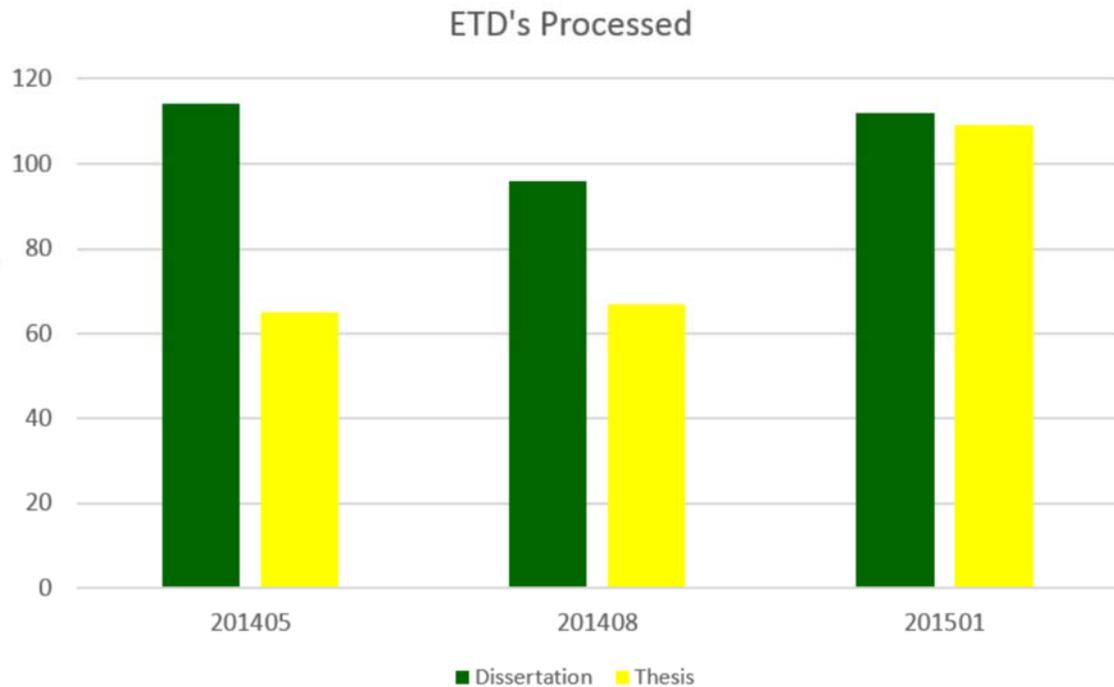
NR	Nurse Anesthesia M.S.- pending approval
RX	Pharmacy M.S. - pending approval
RX	NanoPharmacy PhD - pending approval



# Graduate Academic Affairs

## Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Processing

The OGS editorial staff work with masters' thesis and doctoral dissertation students to ensure compliance with required formats and final preparation of the documents for publication. Ultimately these documents are available through Scholar Commons where since 2004 over 2 million downloads have been executed. Over 550 documents were processed for 2014-2015.



## New Waiver Process

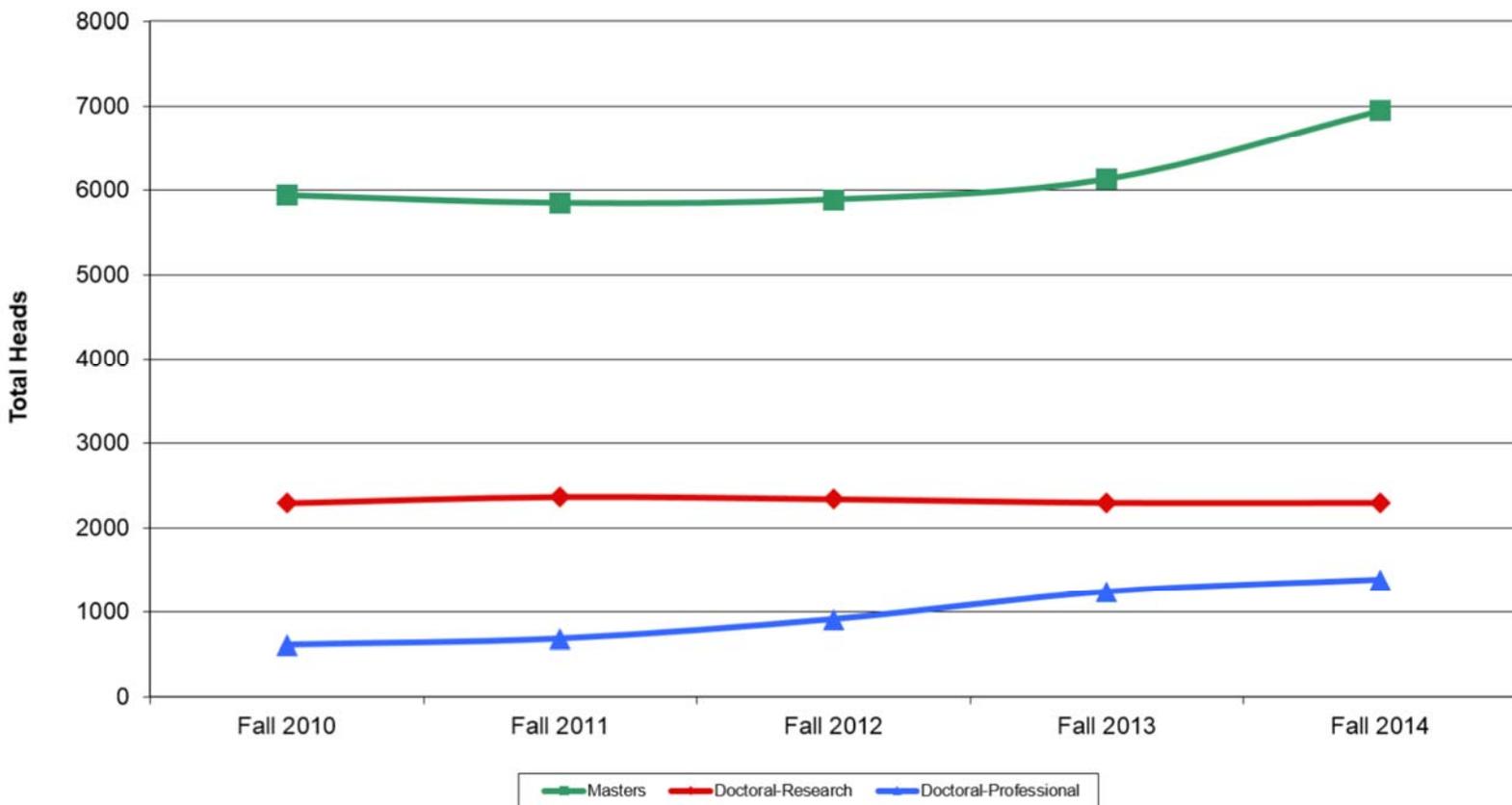
The OGS developed a new electronic online system that was developed, piloted, and launched in Spring 2014. This new online system has successfully streamlined the waiver process for out of college (OOC) waiver requests to our office. Times to process waivers have gone from weeks to about 24 hours in most cases. Errors have been eliminated with the verifications steps, and conversations regarding errand student appointments and registration are occurring earlier in the process at a time where they can be effectively handled.

# Graduate Enrollment Trends

USF is one of only 25 public research universities nationwide classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with Very High Research Activity and as Community Engaged. These designations are a direct reflection of the increasing number of research-oriented graduate students enrolled at USF. The number of research doctoral and Master's students has increased by 77% and 44%, respectively, from Fall 2000 to Fall 2015. As of Spring 2015, graduate and professional students constitute around 25% of the total student population on the USF campus. During the 2014-2015 academic year, these students comprise the enrollment in 45 research doctoral programs, three professional doctoral programs, 129 master's/specialist programs, and 110 graduate certificate programs.

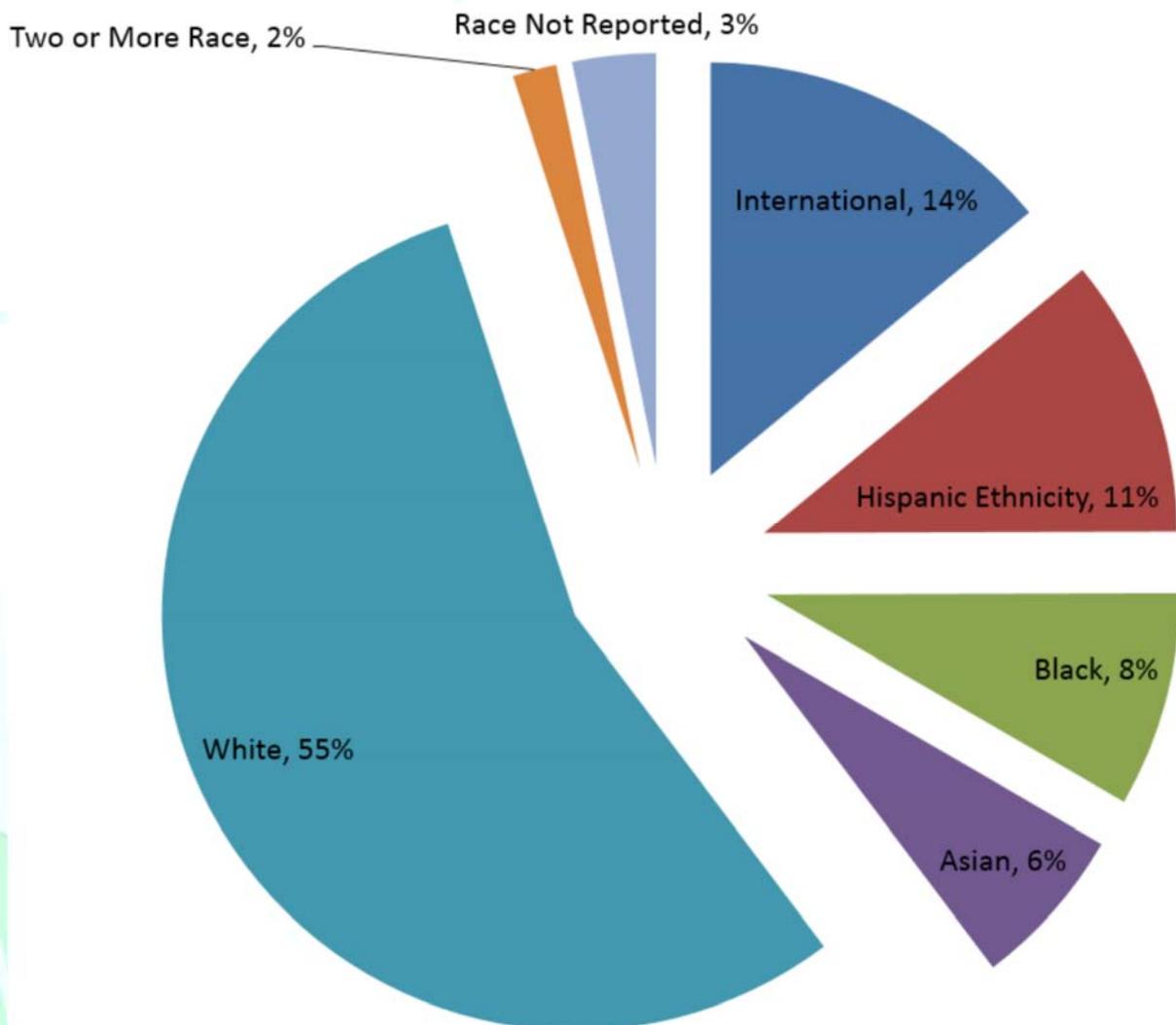


**Total Graduate Students**



# Growth in Graduate Student Diversity

A diverse student body is the cornerstone of both USF's and the Office of Graduate Studies' educational philosophy. The continuing increase in under-represented graduate students has led to the diversification of the overall graduate population. In terms of overall headcount, students from under-represented populations now represent approximately 20% of the research doctoral and master's student population at USF. In addition, over the past five years, applications from international students have increased by over 120%, with a resulting overall increase in enrollment of over 110%. The graduate cohort entering in Fall 2014 consisted of 14% international students overall (24% of all research doctoral students and almost 13% of all Master's students).

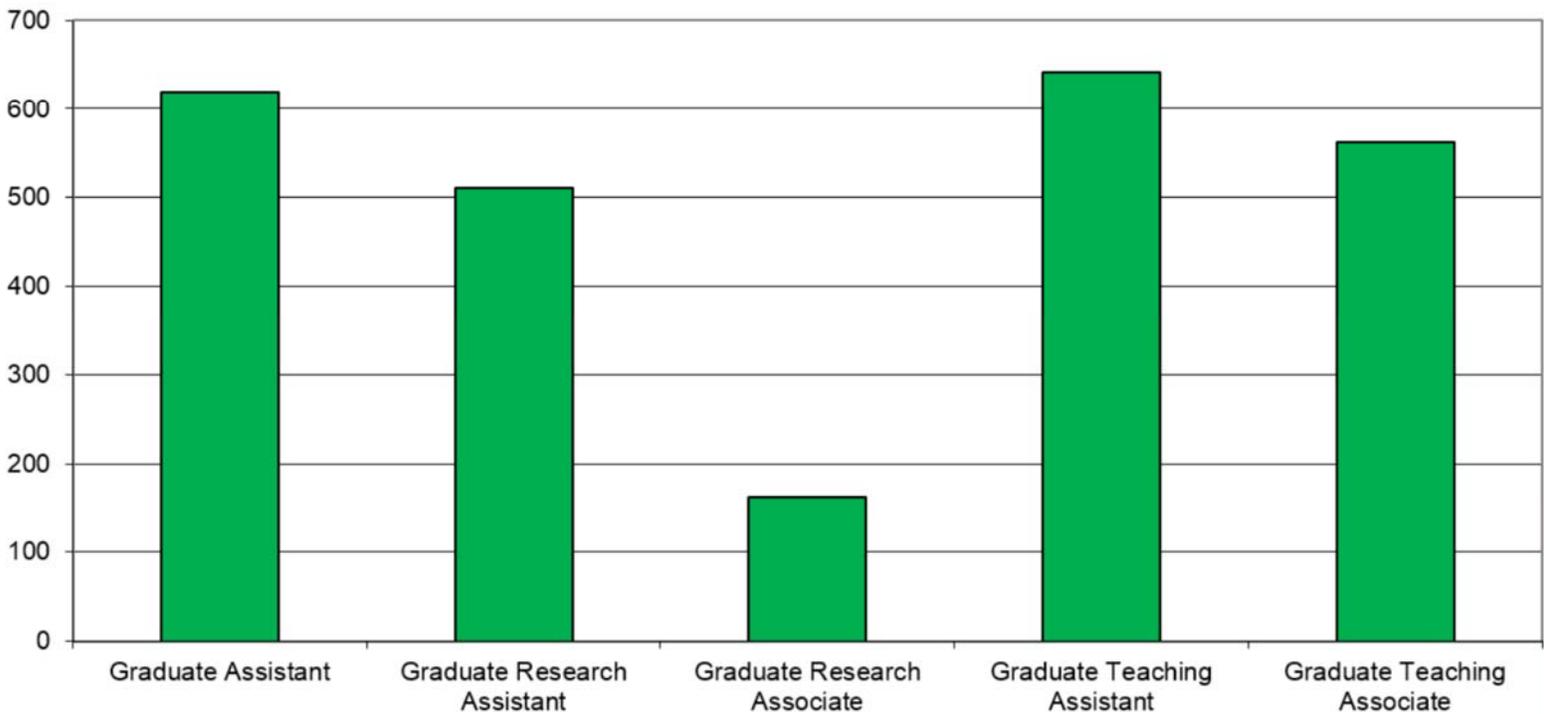


# Graduate Assistantships

USF maintains a strong commitment to providing graduate assistantships in support of the institution's mission to enhance graduate education. These positions range from Graduate Assistants to various categories of Graduate Research and Graduate Teaching assistantships. These are funded from a variety of sources that include State Education and General (E & G), research funded through Contracts and Grants (C & G), as well as various revenue producing activities (AUX). These funds support over 2,400 full-time graduate students and include tuition waivers as well as payment of insurance premiums. Recently, the Office of Graduate Studies has partnered with local community and state colleges, other USF campuses, and universities to provide graduate students with new TA position opportunities. These graduate students provide instruction and other didactic support in these settings.

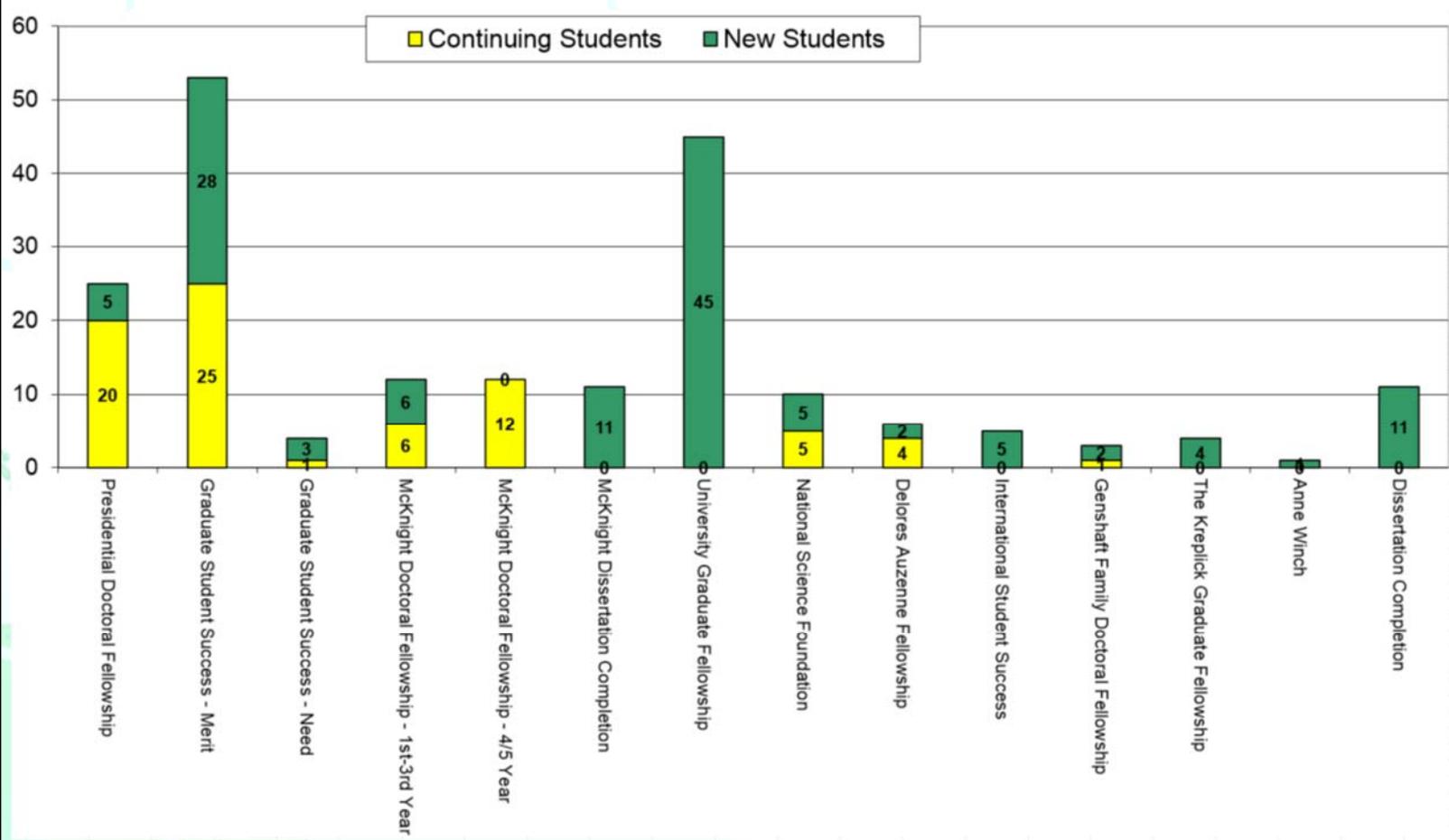


**Fall 2014 Graduate Assistants Stipends by Job Classification**



# Graduate Fellowships: Supporting Student Success

USF Graduate Fellows, whether representing the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, the Graduate Student Success Diversity Fellowship, the McKnight Programs, or USF Foundation Fellowships, such as the Genshaft Family Doctoral Fellowship, comprise a diverse population of students, disciplines, and research interests that epitomize the Office of Graduate Studies goal of “preparing global leaders, one scholar at a time.” In 2014-2015, 220 students representing both master’s and doctoral programs received awards to enhance their graduate education and promote graduating in a timely manner. The number of continuing and new students who received awards for specific fellowships are presented below.



# Degrees Conferred

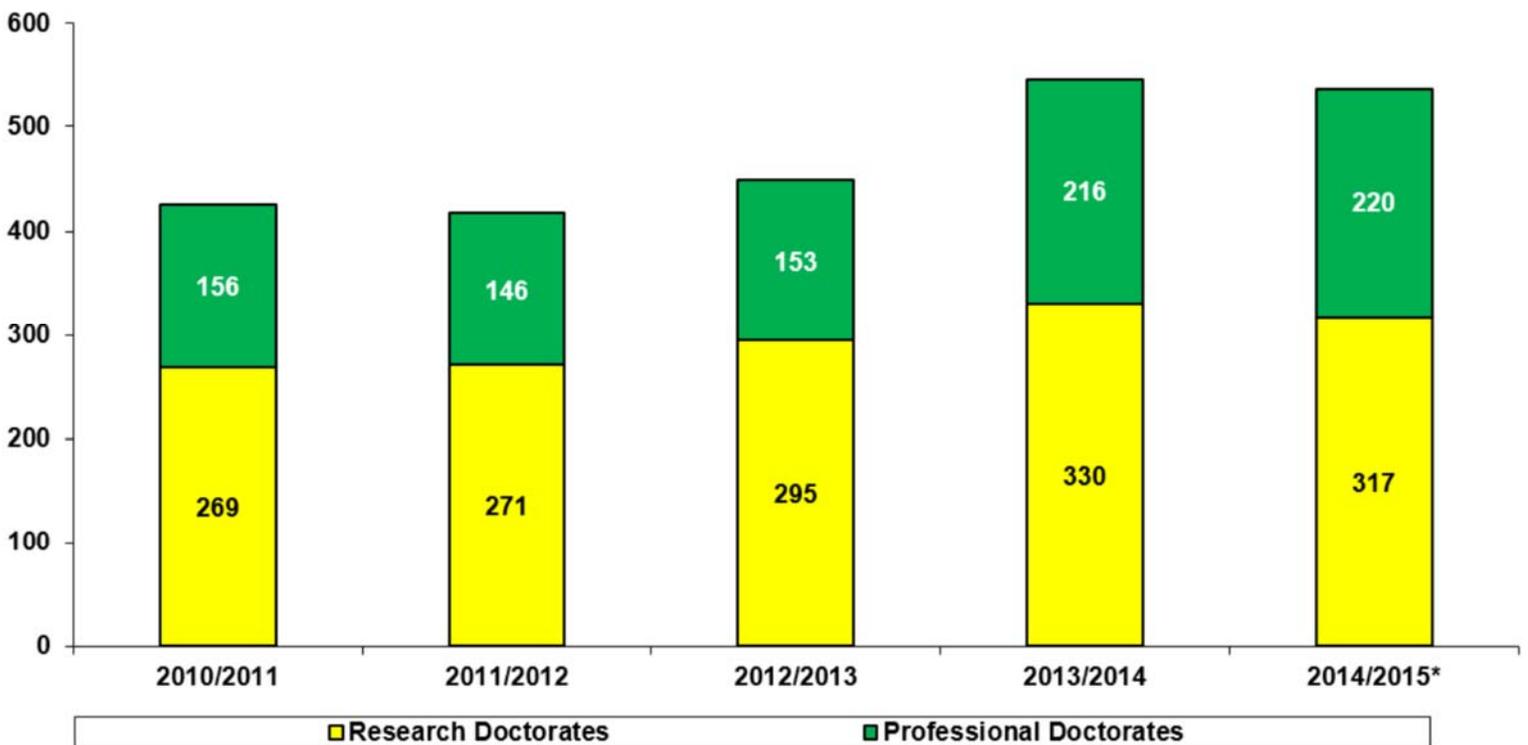
Masters: In 2014-2015\*, USF Tampa graduated 3000 students with Master's degrees representing an increase of 26% over the 2010-2011 year. Students from under-represented populations earned 20% of the master's degrees awarded by USF Tampa and international students earned 8% of the degrees, an increase of over 3% from 2010-2011.

Doctoral: In 2014-2015\*, 317 Research PhD's were awarded by USF Tampa. This represents a five-year increase of 30% in the number of Research PhD students graduating annually. Students from under-represented populations earned nearly 15% of the research doctoral degrees awarded and international students earned 18% of the research doctorates. In addition, USF Tampa conferred an estimated 220 professional doctorates during 2014-2015\*.

\*spring 2015 estimated



## Doctoral Degrees Conferred



# Office of Graduate Studies Research

The Office of Graduate Studies continues to promote graduate student success through its external grant funding. These include:

## **ETS® Personal Potential Index (ETS® PPI) Grant Funding**

We continued to collect data using the ETS® Personal Potential Index (ETS® PPI) to test the efficacy of this instrument's ability to predict student success during the application process to graduate school. This tool is designed to supplement letters of recommendation by focusing on evaluations of specific characteristics, knowledge and creativity, resilience, communication skills, planning and organization, teamwork, and ethics and integrity, which may prove to be important additional predictors of success in graduate school and augment the GRE® Revised General Test. This ETS® PPI grant will allow us to compare the results of the index to the performance and completion rates of students across a wide range of graduate programs with the ultimate goal of developing a more effective tool for evaluating graduate student success and guiding admissions decisions.



## **Sloan Foundation Funding**

OGS used the funding received from the Sloan Foundation to enhance underrepresented (URM) STEM Graduate Student Success through institutionalizing a range of elements, including an enhanced recruitment effort. With these funds we have developed the Dean's Scholars programs whereby URM STEM graduate students will return to various institutions and conferences to recruit future USF students. In addition, workshops and speaker presentations were undertaken to enhance this effort.

## **Enhancing Graduate Student Financial Literacy**

This year the Office of Graduate Studies completed its pilot program Finance-A-Bull using funding from the Council of Graduate Schools, with sponsorship from TIAA/CREF. This program was designed to increase financial education specifically designed for current and potential graduate students. Through Finance-A-Bull, students were able schedule appointments with our student advisor. In collaboration with IT, we have been developing an initial version of a tuition and fee calculator to better assist students in anticipating their out-of-pocket costs each semester and to better interpret their USF bills. Although the grant funding has ended, OGS will continue to support and grow this program.

# Graduate Research Symposium

On Monday, March 10, 2015 the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) hosted the 7th Annual Graduate Student and Post-Doctorate Research Symposium. The event was held in the Marshall Center Ballroom and provided a venue for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in many disciplines to present their current research and obtain feedback from faculty and peers alike. The symposium brought together graduate students and post-doctoral scholars as well as faculty mentors and judges in an effort to foster further academic collaboration. The Office of Graduate Studies is proud to announce the winners of the 6rd Annual Graduate Student and Post-Doctorate Research Symposium listed below.

**Title: The Truth About Ybor: José Yglesias and His Literature of Place**

Name: Megan Mandell, Haili Alcorn, Michael Stowe, Neal Fischer

Major Professor: Laura Runge

College: AS

Program: English

**Title: Presence of Huffing During Voluntary Cough is Associated with Penetration-Aspiration in Individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

Name: Stephanie Randall-Watts, Lauren Tabor, Joy Gaziano, Raele Robison, Kathryn Turner, Tuan Vu, Emily Plowman

Major Professor: Emily Plowman

College: BC

Program: Communication Sciences & Disorders

**Title: Self-Directed Learning Expanding The Inquiring Mind**

Name: Kristeen Bulluck

Major Professor: William Young

College: AS

Program: Adult Education

**Title: Image-based 3D morphometric analysis of the clavicle intramedullary canal in male population**

Name: Jazmine Aira, Jazmine Aira, Sergio Gutierrez, Brandon Santoni, Mark Frankle, Peter Simon

Major Professor: William Lee

College: EN

Program: Chemical & Biomedical Engineering

**Title: Modulation of the BK Ion Channel as a Potential Treatment for Tinnitus**

Name: Andrea Lowe, Samantha Cresoe, Joseph Walton

Major Professor: Joseph Walton

College: EN

Program: Biomedical Engineering

**Title: Synthetic combinatorial libraries as a tool for the discovery of novel antibacterial agents against the ESKAPE pathogens**

Name: Renee Fleeman

Major Professor: Lindsey Shaw

College: AS

Program: Cell Biology, Microbiology & Molecular Biology



# Graduate Research Symposium

**Title: Transcriptomic and Proteomic Analysis of the Human Parasite *Brugia Malayi* on Stimulating the Ecdysone Receptor with Ligand 20-Hydroxyecdysone**  
Name: Amruta Mhashilkar, Thomas Unnasch, Rays Jiang  
Major Professor: Thomas R. Unnasch  
College: PH  
Program: Global Health

**Title: Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Indicator System (FPQC IS): What's the Status of Florida's Perinatal Health?**  
Name: Lindsay Womack, Humberto López Castillo, Linda Detman, William Sappenfield  
Major Professor: Kathleen O'Rourke  
College: PH  
Program: Epidemiology

**Title: Slingshot-Cofilin activation mediates mitochondrial and synaptic dysfunction in Alzheimer's Disease**  
Name: JungA Alexa Woo, Xingyu Zhao, Hirah Khan, Courtney Penn, Xingmin Wang, Aurelie Joly-Amado  
Major Professor: David Kang  
College: MD  
Program: Neuroscience/Molecular Medicine

**Title: Terrestrial phosphides and implications for the origin of life**  
Name: Kristyn Rodzinyak, Lyle Garong, Nikita La Cruz, Matthew Pasek  
Major Professor: Matthew Pasek  
College: AS  
Program: School of Geosciences

**Title: Enhancing harmonic generation using nonlinear Metamaterials**  
Name: Sinhara Silva, Jiangfeng Zhou  
Major Professor: Jiangfeng Zhou  
College: AS  
Program: Physics

**Title: Palynology and stratigraphic analysis of the terrestrial pre-glacial environment, Sabrina Coast, East Antarctica**  
Name: Catherine Smith, Eugene Domack  
Major Professor: Eugene Domack  
College: MS  
Program: Geological Oceanography

**Title: Determinants and Prevention of Low Birth Weight in sub-Saharan Africa: The Effects of Bed Net Distribution**  
Name: Joseph Coleman, Olga Petrova, Gabriel Picone  
Major Professor: Gabriel Picone  
College: AS  
Program: Economics

**Title: The Landscape Legacies of Sugar at Betty's Hope Plantation, Antigua, West Indies**  
Name: Suzanna Pratt  
Major Professor: E. Christian Wells  
College: AS  
Program: Anthropology



# Professional Development Initiatives for Graduate Students

The changing landscape of academia, largely as reflected in the shrinking of the university employment in combination with the need to train students for a broader range of job opportunities that exist for Master's, research PhD, and professional doctoral students. Therefore, the



Office of Graduate Studies and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs have realigned their efforts towards professional development. Our offices have developed a variety of partnerships across campus with organizations, such as the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC), along with other offices, such as the Library and the Writing Studio, to help develop stronger, more relevant programming for graduate students with a focus on non-academic jobs. To augment these efforts, the office in conjunction with the Policy Committee of Graduate Council to examine “best practices” for developing a comprehensive professional-development framework that will mesh efforts at the department, college, and university levels. Going forward, the Office of Graduate Studies will continue to increase our offerings devoted to preparing students for non-academic careers along with continuing to enhance our existing partnerships with individuals and offices across the campus and beyond.

# Professional Development Initiatives for Graduate Students

During 2014-2015, the Office of Graduate Studies developed, collaborated, and helped facilitate a range of professional development workshops; these included:

- Writing Workshops (facilitated by Dr. Vernetta Williams):
- Workshop #1: Next Level Writing: Expectations, Norms and Conventions of Graduate School Writing
- Workshop #2 - The topic Funnel: Narrowing Down Your Research to a Workable Topic
- Workshop #3 - It's Not Simply What You Write but How You Write: Creating Sentence Variety
- Workshop #4 – You Want Me to do What? How to Write a Literature Review
- Workshop #5 – Collaborative Writing: Avoid the Epic Fail
- Not a Bad Gig: Teaching Careers in America's Two-Year Colleges (facilitated by Rob Jenkins)
- Dissertation Forum facilitated by the Writing Studio and Library
- Research Integrity & Compliance Student Researcher Workshop (Co-sponsored with USF Research Integrity & Compliance)

Other workshops:

- ◇ Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Workshops
- ◇ CVs and Resumés: Comparisons and Contrasts
- ◇ Oral Presentation Skills Workshop
- ◇ Developing Compelling Posters
- ◇ Professional Branding on Social Media (with photos)
- ◇ What to Expect as a Postdoc
- ◇ Preparing Scientists for Industry Careers



# Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

In 1993, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students established an appreciation week to recognize the contributions, impact and value of graduate and professional students across the nation's campuses. In recognition of graduate students' contribution to our various colleges, departments, labs, classrooms and offices, the Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate and Professional Student Council hosted "Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week 2015" from April 6th to April 11th to encourage graduate student engagement, networking and professional development. A list of scheduled activities are highlighted below:

## Monday, April 6, 2015

- ◆ Grad Café
- ◆ Graduate Student Lounge ALN 209  
(9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- ◆ Professional Branding for LinkedIn Workshop & Photos
- ◆ College of Education TECO Room (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

## Tuesday, April 7, 2015

- ◆ Grab & Go
- ◆ College of Education Atrium (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

## Wednesday, April 8, 2015

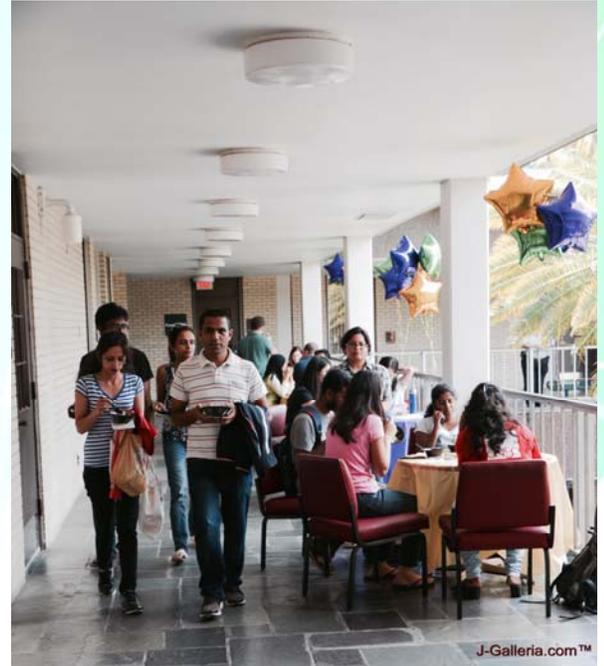
- ◆ Ice-Cream Social
- ◆ Graduate Student Lounge ALN 209  
(12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

## Thursday, April 9, 2015

- ◆ Graduate & Professional Student Social
- ◆ John and Grace Allen Building ALN Courtyard  
(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

## Friday, April 10, 2015

- ◆ Grad Bowling Night





# OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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### STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the Baccalaureate, Master's, Specialist, and Doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine.

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.