

INITIATIVE BRIEF

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE



The Graduate Student Success for Faculty Excellence Initiative will deepen UTSA's abilities to recruit and retain the best and brightest graduate students to complete their degrees and pursue meaningful

OVERVIEW

The Graduate Student Success for Faculty Excellence Initiative seeks to advance graduate education at UTSA by enhancing value-added programming and postdoctoral training; recruitment, admissions and diversity; funding opportunities; graduate programs and faculty; and career outcomes. Through this initiative, the university will review all its graduate education processes to ensure they are optimally aligned to support its dual mission of teaching and research; use evidence- and data-based decision making to provide recommendations for improving recruitment and retention, including programming to prepare graduate students to pursue careers across multiple sectors and positively impact society; and demonstrate the intellectual and economic contribution of graduate students to the city and state.

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THE CHALLENGE

Across Texas and the US, the landscape of graduate education is changing dramatically in response to evolving academic disciplines, new technologies, changing workforce needs and other socioeconomic factors. Despite flat graduate enrollment over the past several years, UTSA awarded a record high of 1,467 graduate degrees in the 2018-2019 academic year. However, the university has set even higher goals in line with its strategic vision to be a model for student success and a great research university.

THE IMPACT

Graduate students play a critical role in faculty scholarship and the university's research mission. The interventions developed through the Graduate Student Success for Faculty Excellence Initiative will better enable UTSA to meet its targets to enroll 5,500 master's students and 1,200 doctoral students by 2028, and to award at least 200 Ph.D. degrees annually in support of its goals to achieve designation as a Carnegie Research 1 institution and eligibility for the National Research University Fund. Moreover, the initiative is intended to improve the student experience and career outcomes for UTSA's graduate students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COMPONENTS

- » Recruitment, admissions and diversity
- » Funding and compensation for graduate students
- » Graduate programs
- » Graduate faculty
- » Value-added programming
- » Postdoctoral training and support
- » Alumni and career outcomes

BENEFITS

- » Improved ability for UTSA to compete for prospective graduate students
- » Improve instruction and training for graduate students
- » Improved instruction for undergraduate students in recitation classes
- » Improved time-to-degree completion
- » Improved attrition rate
- » Improved career outcomes

PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES

- » Assistantships, scholarships and fellowships
- » Endowed chairs and professorships for distinguished graduate mentors
- » Naming of the Graduate School