Biomedical Graduate Education: Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
School of Basic Biomedical Sciences
VISION

The goal of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs is to provide leadership and assistance in the development of an outstanding program of integrated graduate education that prepares students and postdoctoral fellows for effective careers in the biomedical sciences.
The mission of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs in the School of Basic Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Florida, College of Medicine is to coordinate and lead initiatives in support of the recruitment, funding, retention, and graduation of a talented and diverse student body and to promote excellence in graduate education. We will fulfill this mission by:

- Providing outstanding service to prospective graduate students, currently enrolled graduate students, faculty and university colleagues.
- Providing the administrative structure, leadership, and guidance necessary to support a superior educational and research environment within the College, enabling students to pursue rigorous, challenging, and relevant graduate degrees.
- Supporting a diverse student body in recruiting, funding, retention, and graduation with strategies for clarifying goals; selecting an appropriate graduate program and funding graduate work through assistantships and fellowships.
- Providing accurate and timely information about the College’s Graduate Programs and its commitment to enrolling a diverse student population by attending graduate and professional school fairs at USF and its neighboring institutions.
- Promoting professional development and scholarship across disciplines and working toward creating the institutional environment necessary for facilitating the academic achievements of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
- Encouraging undergraduate students to consider graduate study within the College of Medicine by participating in research programs and other academic projects.
- Assisting in the development of policies for the appointment of postdoctoral fellows.
“Graduate Programs in Integrated Biomedical Sciences”
Graduate Program Concentrations

School of Basic Biomedical Sciences

GPIBS

Graduate Programs in Integrated Biomedical Sciences

- Anatomy & Cell Biology: M.S., Ph.D.
- Biochemistry & Molec. Biology: Cert., M.S., Ph.D.
- Bioinformatics & Comp. Biology: Cert., M.S.
- Biotechnology: Cert., M.S.
- Cardiovascular Engineering: Cert.
- Clinical Research: M.S.
- Medical Science (MS³): M.S.
- Microbiology & Immunology: M.S., Ph.D.
- Molecular Medicine: Cert.
- Neuroscience: Cert., M.S., Ph.D.
- Pathology & Lab. Medicine: M.S., Ph.D.
- Pharmacology & Therapeutics: M.S., Ph.D.
- Physiology & Biophysics: M.S., Ph.D.
- Bioethics & Humanities: M.A.
COM Graduate Program Enrollment Trends

Graduate Enrollment Analysis

- Funded Grad 1
- Enrolled Grad 1
- Funded Grad 2
- Enrolled Grad 2
- Funded Grad 1+2
- Enrolled Grad 1+2

FTE

Year

01-02 02-03 03-04 04-05 05-06 06-07

Projected
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*50% underrepresented minorities (URM)  #Average scores for all Ph.D. students
## COM Graduate Program Enrollment

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Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs

- I Ph.D. student stipends for 06-07
- II Student stipend “bridge-funding” policy
- III New programs (M.S. in Clinical Research; Biotechnology; Women’s Health,)
- IV Revised M.D./Ph.D. program policies
- V “Graduate” Faculty credentialing proposal
- VI Relocation of Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
- VII Development of graduate student recruitment tools
- VIII “Biomedical science careers” seminar program
- IX NRC Graduate program review
- X GPIBS program metrics
- XI GRE “scores” and student admissions
- XII Adopt an entrepreneurial educational approach
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs I

Ph.D. student stipends

*Current levels:*

- Ph.D. stipends for 05-06: $21,000 annually

*Proposed levels:*

- Ph.D. stipends for 06-07: $22,000 annually

Decline 3% raise approved for October, negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement

Maintain $600 contribution to Ph.D. student’s health insurance premium for students selecting university plan

Maintain the 32 credit hour requirement for full-time graduate students (12/12/8)
Ph.D. student stipends: “Bridge-Funding” Policy

Current policy:

- None (Investigator/Department/Administration)

Proposed policy:

- Cost-sharing between Department and OGPA
  
  Peer-reviewed application, initiated by Investigator and Department Chair
  
  50/50 cost sharing (department/OGPA)
  
  Initially limited to maximum of 1 year of support
  
  Designed for senior students with graduation plan
  
  Limited to College of Medicine extramurally-funded investigators
New Program Concentrations

Certificate programs:
- Biomedical communication (Molecular Medicine)
- Pharmacogenomics (Molecular Pharm/Phys - FAMU)

Master’s concentrations:
- Clinical Research (OGPA)
- Biotechnology (Molecular Medicine)
- Women’s Health (Neurosurgery)
- Professional Science Master’s

Doctoral concentrations:
- Signature programs
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs IV

Combined M.D./Ph.D. Program

Program highlights:

- Combined admission to M.D. and Ph.D. programs
- 2-3/4-2 year program organization
- M.D. instruction substitutes for graduate courses
- USMLE and Qualifying examination requirements
- Student’s contribute tuition for M.D. courses
- Doctoral student stipend during rotations and research training (pro-rated)
Graduate Faculty Credentialling

Program highlights:
- Department-initiated process
- Three ranks – Full, Associate and Affiliate
- Faculty reviewed by Department/Graduate Education Committee/Dean
- Restrictions possible on “Graduate Faculty” service
- Only “Graduate” faculty eligible for service on Graduate Council
- “Graduate Faculty” recognition
- Program approved by Graduate Education Committee
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs VI

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs (OGPA)

**Relocation:**
- OGPA will move to MDC 2307 office suite
- Relocation scheduled for late September 2006
- New signage to help faculty and students locate office
- Retain existing phone and fax numbers
- New office layout – “student friendly”
- Equipment-sharing with Office of Research
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs VII

Graduate Student Recruitment

**Actions:**

- Re-design OGPA web-site (informational + forms)
- Development of brochure(s) and poster(s) for all graduate programs
- Develop enhanced interdisciplinary Ph.D. curriculum
- Sponsor student “open house” and informational events
- Attend student recruitment fairs (USF Research)
- Consultations with USF undergraduate advisors
- USF Honor’s College discussions
- Marketing of all COM graduate programs to local undergraduate institutions
- Modify “admission” requirements (GRE)
- Collaborate on novel training grant applications (pharmacogenomics, biotechnology)
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs VIII

Biomedical Science Career Seminar

Program Highlights

- Designed to expose senior undergraduate and graduate students to “alternative” career opportunities
- Seminar program proposed for Spring semester, 2007
- Development in collaboration with AMSGS
- Speakers selected from approximately 22 careers
- Associated with 2 credit hour graduate course
- USF campus-wide marketing
- Top-rated activity from AMSGS student survey
- Funding from OGPA and AMSGS
NRC Graduate program review

Review highlights:

- Review coordinated by USF Graduate School
- Involves programs which produce 5 or more doctoral degrees in past 5 years
- COM graduate program will be identified under “Integrated Biology/Integrated Biomedical Sciences/Biology” taxonomic code
- Review involves completion of various questionnaires (Program; Faculty; Students)
- Data collection timeline: May 06-February 07
“GPIBS” program metrics

10 proposed performance metrics:

- # of graduate program enquiries & applications
- # of graduate students enrolled
- GPA and GRE scores of students
- Total tuition $ received [USF and COM]
- Gender/ethnicity composition of student body
- # of grants that include graduate student support [submitted/awarded]
- # of graduate fellowship applications [submitted/awarded]
- # of publications listing graduate student as author/coauthor
- # of Graduate Certificates, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees awarded
- Graduate student’s first position

Start with 05-06 year as initial data
Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs XI

GRE “scores” and student admissions

*Highlights:*

- University’s policy regarding GRE requirements are changing
- GRE “score” may only be required (“0” possible)
- Movement away from using “standardized” tests in recruitment
- Potential to enhance recruitment (some students intimidated by test)
- GRE guidelines and examination are changing
- Department/Program implementation options
- Guidelines to be included in Graduate Catalog
College of Medicine Graduate Program Review

February 28th & March 1st, 2006

External Reviewers:

Roger Chalkley, D.Phil.
Senior Associate Dean
Vanderbilt University

Allan Yates, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean
The Ohio State University
Graduate Program Review Recommendations

- Appoint an Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs
- Adopt a name for the graduate program
- Establish single Ph.D. graduate program for student admissions with uniform policies
- Develop guidelines for gaining “Graduate Faculty” status
- Review role(s) of MS and Certificate Programs
- Enforce minimum number of laboratory rotations
- Increase number of funded graduate advisors
- Increase faculty participation in recruitment
- Develop a policy concerning student “bridge” funding
- Establish graduate seminar program
- Evaluate number of funded graduate slots available for 2006 and 2007
- Upgrade graduate student facilities
Graduate Program Review Recommendations

• Reexamine the organization of the MD/PhD program
• Clarify the administrative structure of COM, SBBS, Graduate and Signature Programs
• Include more course components emphasizing analytical thinking and problem solving
• Establish Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
• Examine student course registration (number of hours)
• Establish student advisory committees
• Define merged department’s curricula
• Develop a universal graduate student handbook
• Restrict COM graduate funds to 1st year students
• Encourage development of AMSGS scientific functions
• Fund all student health insurance
• Consider establishing Graduate Council for Health Sciences
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Proposed Changes in the Graduate Programs XII

Adopt an entrepreneurial educational approach

Goals:
- Stimulate graduate education
- Enhance graduate student educational opportunities
- Facilitate development of “interdisciplinary” programs
- Develop consistent program policies
- Stimulate “on-line” and “distance” education (MDC 1507 graduate lecture archiving)
- Enhance student recruitment
- Increase “revenue” stream to departments