



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Graduate  
College

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Academic Year 2020-2021



*A screenshot from our [November 2020 Scholars Share program](#) featuring members of the Graduate College team, Graduate Student Association, and graduate student speakers*

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# INTRODUCTION

## A Message from the Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education & Dean of the Graduate College

The Graduate College is proud to present our 2020-2021 annual report. In this report, you will find a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the graduate and postdoctoral communities from the 2020-2021 Academic Year, as well as an outline of programs and initiatives led by the Graduate College, many in collaboration with our academic and campus partners.

This year, the Graduate College welcomed Anne Converse Willkomm as Assistant Dean of the Graduate College. Under Anne's leadership, the Graduate College developed a new strategic plan which aligns with the University's strategic plan, [Drexel 2030 - Designing the Future](#), and outlines **five strategic initiatives**: 1) Define the Role of the Graduate College, 2) Foster Diversity and Inclusion, 3) Support Professional Staff and Faculty Who Support Graduate Students, 4) Provide Programming and Events to Support Graduate Students, and 5) Communicate with Graduate College Stakeholders to Disseminate Information to Optimize the Student Experience.

As part of Strategic Initiative #2, the Graduate College is pleased to welcome Alonzo M. Flowers, III, PhD, as its first Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion effective September 1, 2021. Dr. Flowers was also the inaugural faculty chair of the **Diversity Advisory Council (p. 16)**. The **Committee on Graduate Academic Affairs (p. 13)** continued its important work reviewing graduate academic policies and processes and making recommendations to the **University Council on Graduate Affairs (p. 11)**, including to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our graduate students' academic progress. The **PhD Project Working Group (p. 18)** continued to work with the academic units to increase PhD student stipends and provide clarification of policies and procedures related to graduate student working hours. We also hosted our inaugural **University-wide Retreat on Graduate and Online Education (p. 38)**.

We completed our first full year of partnership with [Drexel University Online \(DUO\)](#). This partnership has allowed us to coordinate our approach to optimizing graduate recruitment, enrollment and experience, both on campus and online. In addition, we piloted our first **Wellness Weekdays (p. 33)** virtual workshop series for the graduate and postdoctoral communities in partnership with the DUO team. This series was offered in addition to our existing **Scholars Share (p. 30)**, **Financial Literacy (p. 31)**, and other **personal and professional development offerings (p.33)**.

Working alongside the Executive Board of the **Graduate Student Association (p. 40)**, we have partnered on a wide range of *virtual* programs. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted our second *virtual* [Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars Conference \(p. 35\)](#), a free, student-led conference in the spring. The GSA also introduced a new [health insurance deductible subsidy program](#) for graduate students enrolled in Drexel's student health insurance plan to help cover the cost of health care during these challenging times. We also partnered with Human Resources to offer **SupportLinc (p. 24)**, a 24/7 confidential and professional service for support, guidance, counseling, and resources, to all graduate students and their families and household members **at no cost**.

We are so proud of our graduate and postdoctoral communities as they continue to persevere, and to our faculty and professional staff who have gone above and beyond to support our students and postdocs. Despite the incredible challenges of the past year, **nearly 2,000** graduate students completed their degree program, many of whom joined us in person to celebrate **Commencement (p. 46)** at Citizens Bank Park in June! The Graduate College, in partnership with our academic and campus partners, will continue to advocate for the needs of our graduate and postdoctoral communities, providing them a voice and the opportunity to elevate Drexel's reputation around the world through innovative research and critical thinking, identifying solutions to the world's biggest problems and preparing their industries for the future.

I encourage you to read through this report thoroughly and reach out to us with further questions or to get involved in our initiatives. We welcome your thoughts and feedback.



Warm Regards,

**Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD**

Chief Strategy Officer

Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education

Dean, Graduate College

Founding Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies

Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, College of Medicine

# ABOUT THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

Founded in 2015, the [Graduate College of Drexel University](#) is committed to the advancement of graduate education and ensuring graduate student success. Under the leadership of Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD, [Chief Strategy Officer](#), Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education and Dean, the Graduate College oversees more than [120 graduate programs](#) across 15 colleges, schools and centers, including more than 40 doctorate programs. The college works closely with academic and administrative departments to advocate for graduate students through the lifecycle of their graduate experience.



The college also collaborates with the deans, associate deans, program directors, and faculty and professional staff advisors as the central administrative unit fostering interdisciplinary research and academic programs, offering professional development, career and academic support, and developing and disseminating changes in policies and procedures among the graduate community. Furthermore, the Graduate College partners with the [Graduate Student Association](#) and the nearly 30 active and [recognized graduate student organizations](#) to develop academic, cultural and social programming that enhances the Drexel experience for our diverse graduate student community. The Graduate College is guided by the **mission statement** below:

*The Graduate College serves as a central hub within the University to advance the graduate and postdoctoral education by advocating for the academic and professional development of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Specifically, creating a nurturing and supportive environment focused on advancing intellectual communication, scholarship and interdisciplinary research across disciplines that promotes diversity, scholarly integrity, equity and inclusivity. The Graduate College also acts as a liaison between Drexel's service-oriented offices and Schools/Colleges to enhance the graduate student experience. Furthermore, the Graduate College serves as a resource for professional staff and faculty who support graduate students, as well as a resource for academic units in recruitment and financial projecting and planning to achieve University-wide financial goals.*

## HISTORY

Formerly the Office of Graduate Studies, the establishment of the Graduate College was recommended by the university advisory committee on graduate education convened by the Office of the Provost in coordination with the Faculty Senate. The committee's conclusion was supported by an external review and site visit by a national leader in graduate education. A heightened emphasis on graduate education — at the master's, doctorate and postdoctoral levels — was deemed essential for Drexel to secure its place among the nation's leading research universities.

## TODAY

Today, Drexel University is designated as an [R1 Doctoral University](#), indicating the highest level of research activity by the [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#). This prestigious category marks an affirmation of the University's growing research enterprise and impact on society. The Graduate College, through its councils, committees, and working groups, aims to continue improving the graduate student experience in an effort to grow and diversity graduate enrollment and our academic community. The Graduate College and partners are also integral to the implementation of the University's strategic plan, [Drexel 2030 - Designing the Future](#), and enhancing graduate education.





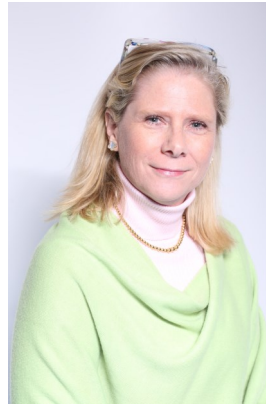
# MEET THE GRADUATE COLLEGE TEAM



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Chief Strategy Officer

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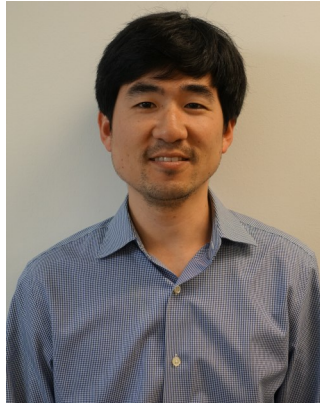
*\*Dr. Flowers will begin his role effective September 1, 2021.*

***Continued on next page...***

# MEET THE GRADUATE COLLEGE TEAM



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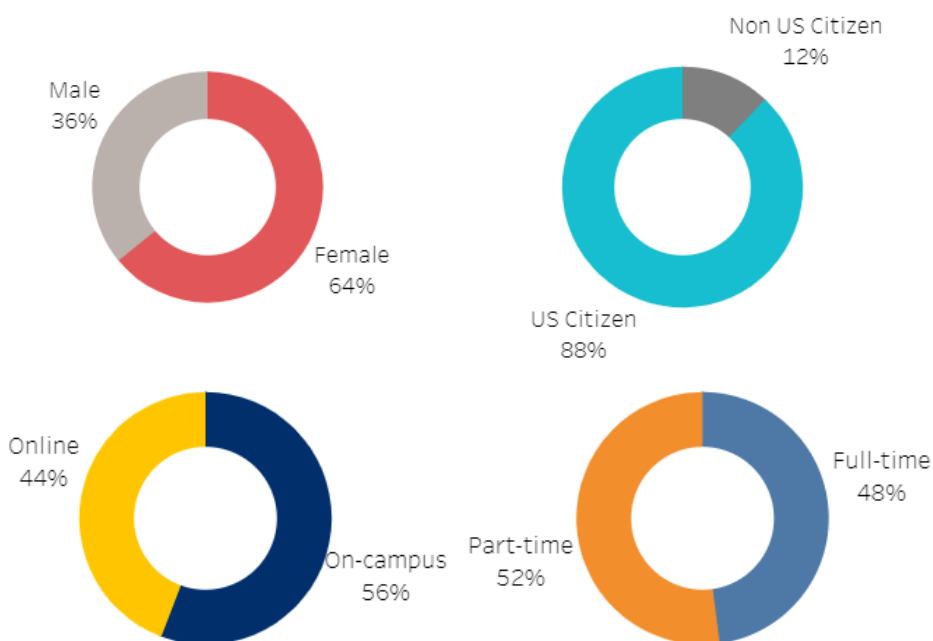


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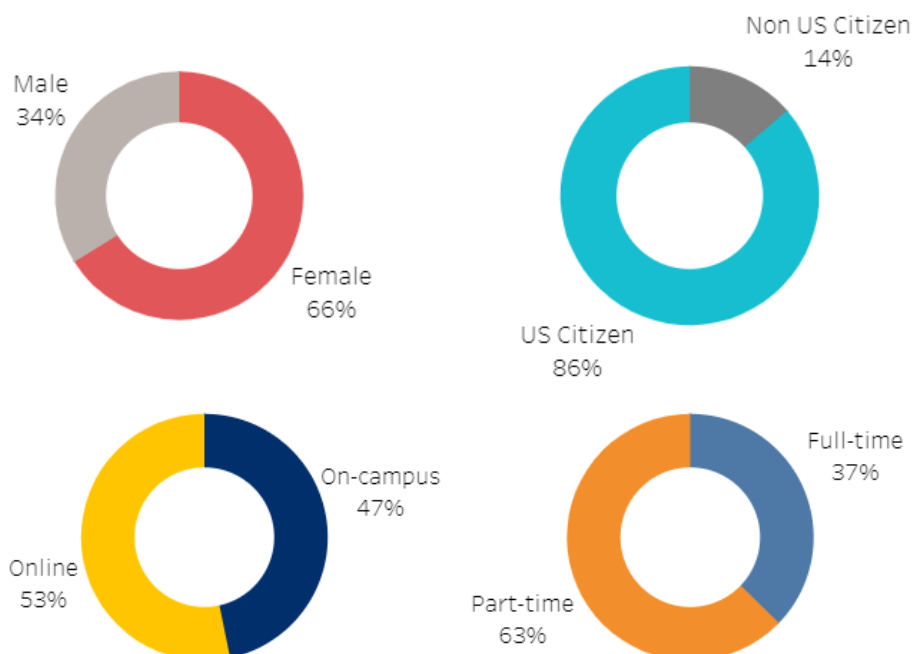
# GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SUMMARY 2020-2021

In Fall 2020, Drexel had **9,034 graduate and professional students** enrolled, including JD and MD programs, and **7,498 graduate students** without JD and MD programs. Drexel welcomed **2,897 new graduate students** and **193 new international graduate students** in Fall 2020. This total includes certificate (223 new), master's (1,879 new), professional doctorate (205 new), JD (128 new), MD (267 new), and PhD programs (178 new). See a complete [list of graduate programs](#).

## INCLUDING JD & MD



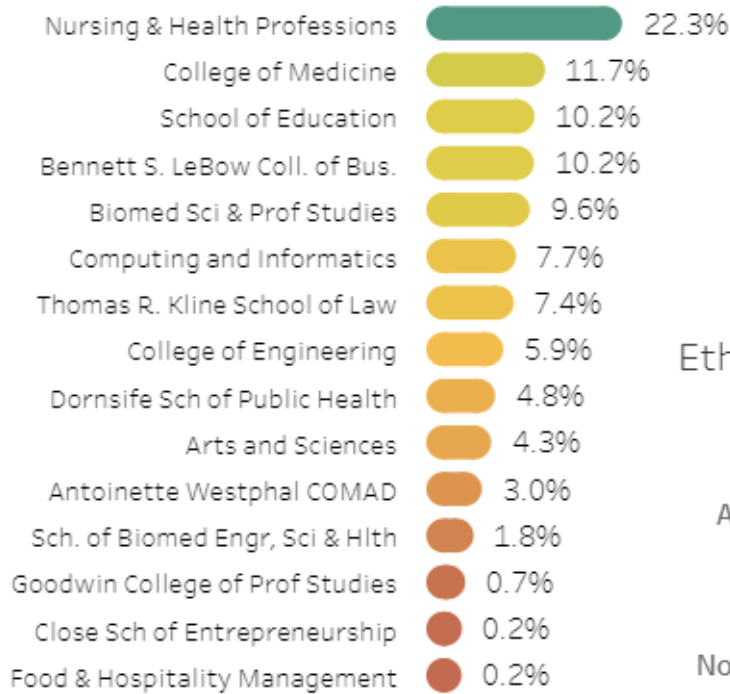
## WITHOUT JD & MD



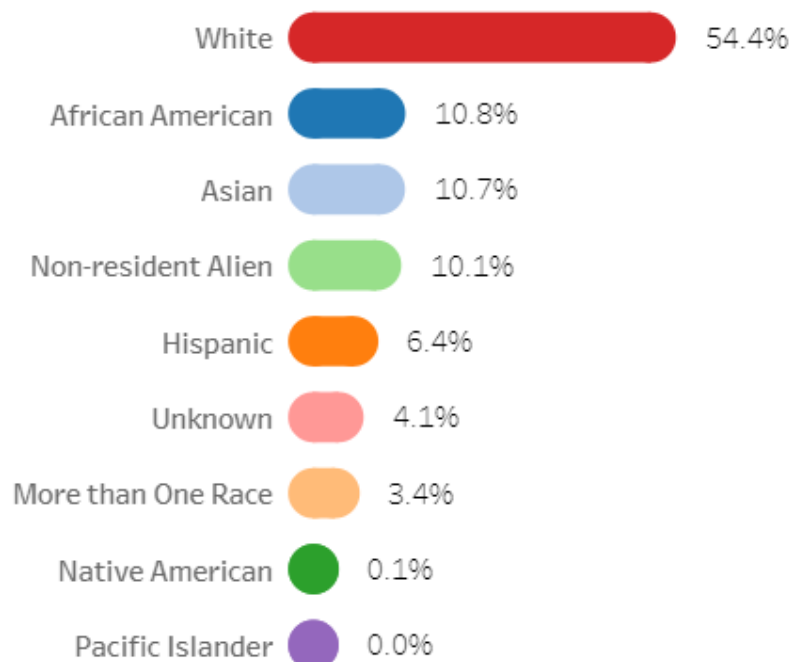
# GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SUMMARY 2020-2021

## INCLUDING JD & MD

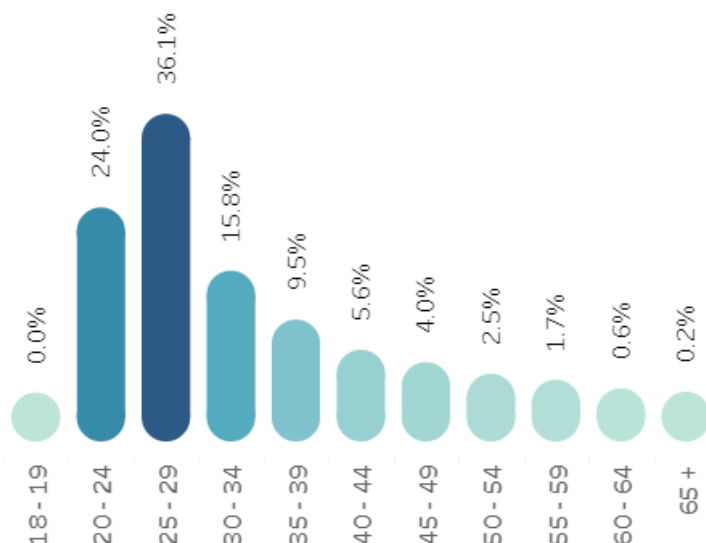
### College/school



### Ethnicity/race



### Age distribution



### Average age

31

### Number of Records





**MASTER'S  
PROGRAMS  
ONLY**

# Graduate Key Facts

First-time, master's degree-seeking students

## Admission Stats

Select Year  
2020  
Select Coll..  
(All)

Applicants  
**7,821**  
Acceptance rate  
**59.2%**

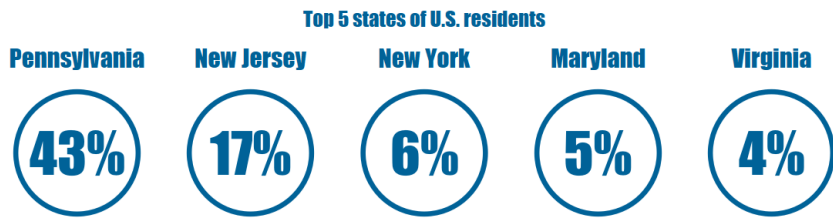
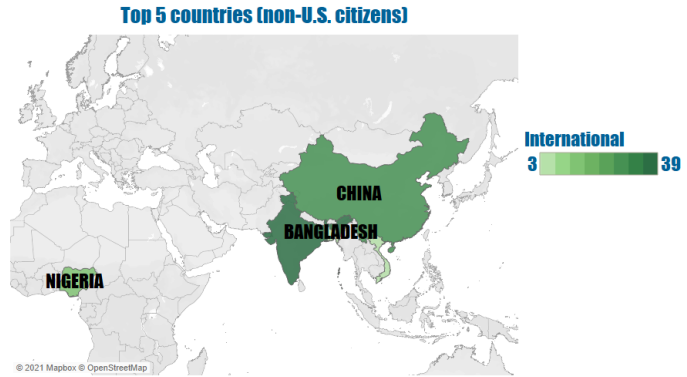
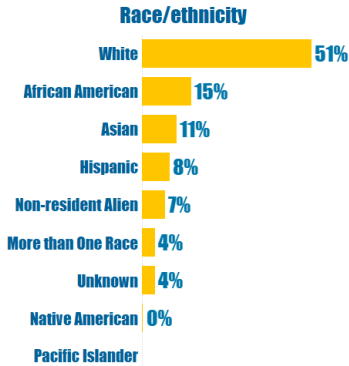
Enrolled  
**1,879**  
Yield rate  
**40.6%**

## Demographics

Gender  
Female **70%**  
Male **30%**

% on-campus  
**45%**

% international  
**9%**



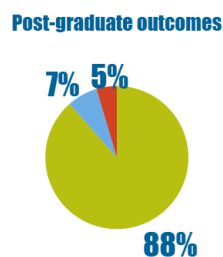
## Retention/graduation rates

One-year retained or graduated  
(face-to-face)  
**91.1%**

One-year retained or graduated  
(online)  
**75.2%**

## One-year-out outcomes

Master's (and above) recipients, as self-reported 9-12 months after graduation



Average annual salary  
(of those working FT)  
**\$79,832**

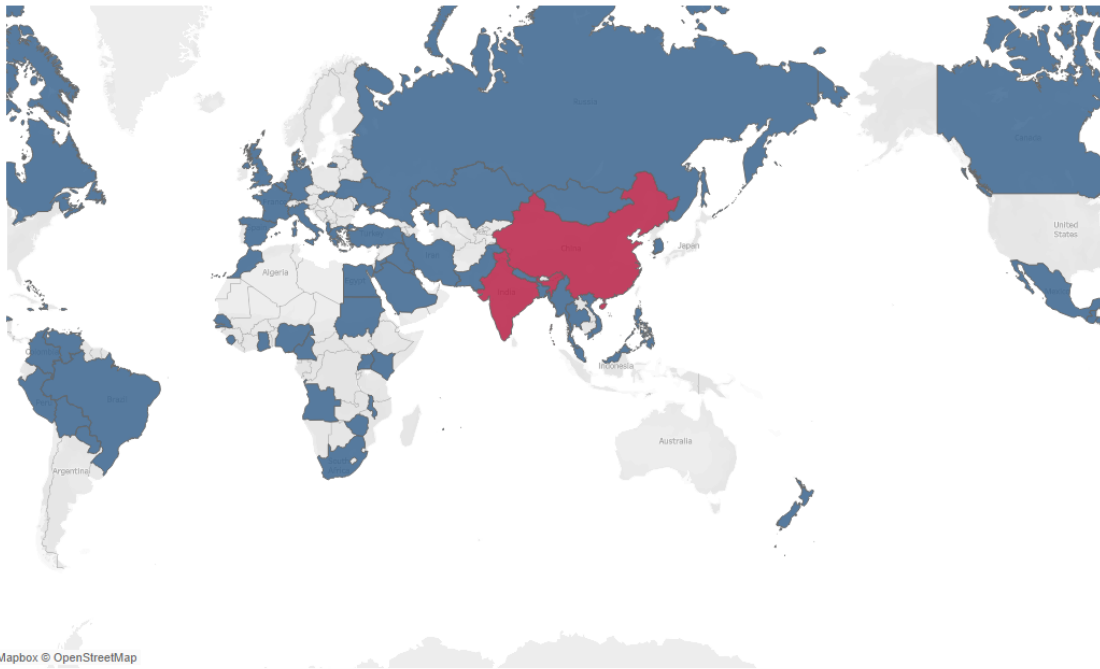
Employed  
Graduate school  
No work or school

# GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SUMMARY 2020-2021

Where are international students coming from?



Fall 2020



Undergraduate/graduate  
 Graduate  
 Undergraduate

Continent  
 All

Degree category  
 All

Degree  
 All

College  
 All

Major  
 Multiple values

Full-time/part-time status  
 Full-time

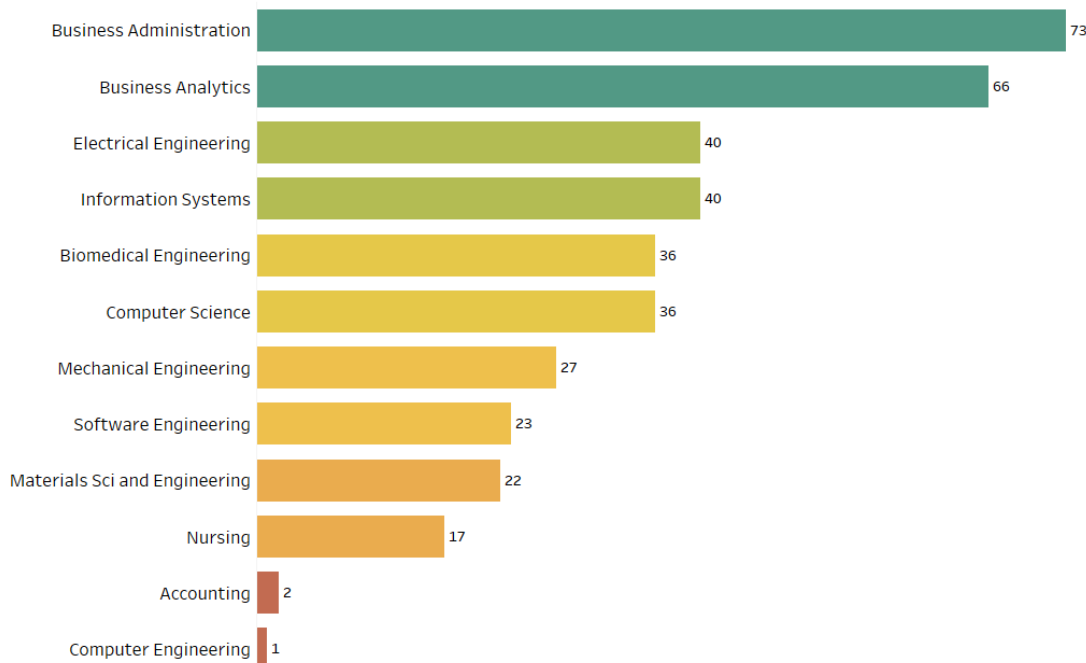
Face-to-face/Online  
 Face-to-face

Fall Year  
 2020

Number of Records  
 1 245

## International enrollment by major

Fall 2020 - Top 15 majors for Graduate, All, All students



Undergraduate/graduate  
 Graduate  
 Undergraduate

Degree category  
 All

Full-time/part-time status  
 All

Face-to-face/Online  
 All

Fall Year  
 2020

Top N majors  
 (enter a value to modify list size)  
 15

Number of Students  
 1 73

Tableau is Drexel's platform for visualizing data and analysis to support decision-making. If you are a Drexel employee (faculty or staff) with a need to access administrative data resources, you may request a free license to access Tableau by [contacting](#) anyone in the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. Currently all academic department heads, Deans, and many administrative leaders and offices have licenses to use Tableau. [Click here to read Drexel Tableau Quick Guide](#)

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (UCGA)



The [University Council on Graduate Affairs \(UCGA\)](#) consists of graduate leadership from each of Drexel's Colleges, Schools and administrative partners. The mission of the UCGA is to address common challenges in graduate education and the graduate student experience at Drexel University. As an entity of the Graduate College, the UCGA is committed to the advancement of graduate education and ensuring graduate student success. The UCGA maintains effective channels of communication within the graduate community, ensures that all academic units are represented in the policy making process and provides support for new graduate programs and initiatives.

## 2020-2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Chair: Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele**, Graduate College & Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

**Murugan Anandarajan**, LeBow College of Business

**Stephanie Brooks**, College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Natalie Chernets**, Graduate College, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

**Kapil Dandekar**, College of Engineering

**Kimberly David-Chung**, Drexel University Online, Student Life, Graduate College

**Karen DeVose**, College of Computing and Informatics

**Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili**, College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Michelle Dolinski**, College of Arts and Sciences

**Brian Ellis**, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

**Melissa Englund**, College of Computing and Informatics

**Nadine Ezzat**, Drexel University Online

**William Fenton**, College of Engineering

**Alonzo Flowers**, School of Education

**Aroutis Foster**, School of Education

**Kea Glenn**, International Students and Scholars Services

**Beth Haas**, Kline School of Law

**Sarah Haley**, LeBow College of Business

**Michael Harrington**, Drexel University Online

**Joseph Hawk**, Assessment and Accreditation

**Stephanie Johnson**, Kline School of Law

**Niki Kelley**, LeBow College of Business

**David Kim**, Graduate College

**Andres Kriete**, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

**Michele Kutzler**, College of Medicine

**Tsz Kwok**, Graduate College

**Sherry Levin**, College of Engineering

**Jade Lo**, LeBow College of Business

**Brenna Martin**, College of Computing and Informatics

**Annette Molyneux**, Counseling and Health

**Angela Montgomery**, Graduate Admissions, Enrollment Management and Student Success

**Kymberlee Montgomery**, College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Phi Nguyen**, Dornsife School of Public Health

**Alis Panzera**, College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Melissa Richman**, Graduate College & Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

**Kristin Risi**, LeBow College of Business

**Debra Ruben**, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

**Michael Ryan**, Graduate College, College of Engineering

**Giuseppe Salomone**, University Registrar

**Maria Schultheis**, Office of Research and Innovation

**Michael Shelmet**, Drexel University Information Technology

**Ali Shokoufandeh**, College of Computing and Informatics

**Jed Shumsky**, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

**James Stimpson**, Dornsife School of Public Health

**Sandra Strang**, Graduate College

**Stephanie Sutcliffe**, Drexel University Online

**Mladenka Tomasevic**, International Students and Scholars Services

**Gina Waters**, Close School of Entrepreneurship

**Rebecca Weidensaul**, Enrollment Management and Student Success

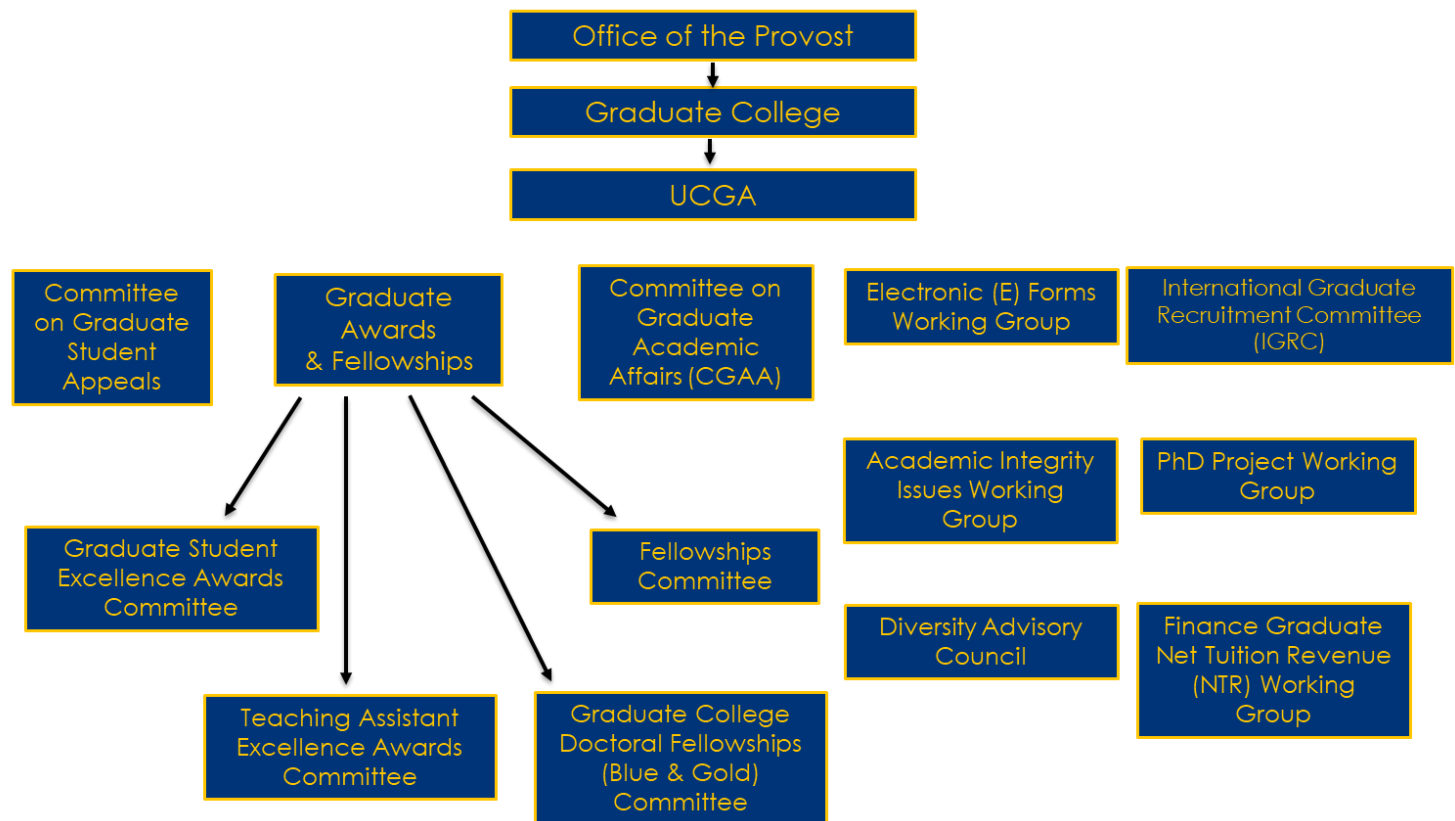
**Anne Converse Willkomm**, Graduate College, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

**Katie Zamulinsky**, Student Life

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (UCGA)

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE UCGA

The UCGA consists of several smaller committees and working groups to address a variety of challenges and opportunities for the graduate community at Drexel.



## 2020-2021 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2020, the UCGA also served as the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee (EPS) for Graduate, Online and Medical/Clinical Students assisting with operational planning, implementation, and supporting the Return Oversight Committee (ROC) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Revised several graduate policies and procedures to allow our students more flexibility as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic: Recommended an adjustment to the graduate transfer credit policy to allow for graduates of “Pass” or “P” with program approval, assisted in the implementation of the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading option during COVID-19, reviewed the first drafts of a general doctoral student handbook, and helped revise guidance regarding the graduate incomplete (INC) grades policy and contract process. Also assisted in the implementation of Course Program of Study (CPoS).
- Continued to pilot the electronic (E) doctoral forms process to track degree progression and milestones, collecting feedback from key stakeholders in multiple colleges and schools and aligning the process and language with the general doctoral student handbook.
- Continued the activities of the graduate [Diversity Advisory Council](#) to address issues of institutional racism and inequality within the graduate community at Drexel, reporting to the University’s [Anti-Racism Task Force](#) (ARTF).
- Provided recommendations and resources to graduate student instructors (TAs/TFs, RCFs) and faculty and professional staff to enhance the online and remote teaching and learning environments.



# COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (CGAA)

The Committee on Graduate Academic Affairs (CGAA) is a sub-committee of the University Council on Graduate Affairs (UCGA) made up of faculty representatives of the Colleges and Schools which offer graduate programs, as well as relevant ex officio members from the Graduate College, Office of the University Registrar, General Counsel, and others. The committee serves as the principal advisory body to the Dean of the Graduate College and the UCGA regarding graduate education. It is generally concerned with the policies and issues related to graduate academic affairs, such as graduate academic requirements and standards, and review of current policies and practices, making formal recommendations to the UCGA. An important goal of CGAA is to continue to address academic issues as they are raised and streamline academic policies/procedures. In an effort to streamline committee work, the group began to utilize Microsoft Teams to house shared committee documents and communications. Monthly meetings are used for strategic committee work on broader issues related to policy and academic programs.



**Michele A. Kutzler, PhD**

*Chair, Committee on Graduate Academic Affairs of the UCGA*

*Associate Dean for Faculty*

*Professor of Medicine & Microbiology and Immunology*

*College of Medicine*

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## 2020-2021 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:** Michele Kutzler, College of Medicine

Murugan Anandarajan, LeBow College of Business

Kapil Dandekar, College of Engineering

Michelle Dolinski, College of Arts and Sciences

Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Theresa Fay-Hillier, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Aroutis Foster, School of Education

Beth Haas, Kline School of Law

Andres Kriete, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

Melissa Richman, Graduate College, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies,  
College of Medicine

Damian Salas, Close School of Entrepreneurship

Ali Shokoufandeh, College of Computing and Informatics

Jed Shumsky, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

James Stimpson, Dornsife School of Public Health

Gina Waters, Close School of Entrepreneurship

Michael Wagner, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

Anne Converse Willkomm, Graduate College, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

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# COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (CGAA)

## 2020-2021 Accomplishments

### Revised Time to Degree Completion Policy & Process

The CGAA reviews the graduation status or plan for degree completion for all PhD students 6 years and beyond in training. The Graduate College identifies graduate students in this category by College/School and sends a letter to leadership asking for information on the status of each student. The committee reviews the summary of an updated academic plan of study or description of outstanding requirements, the proposed timeline to complete degree requirements, any specific needs of the student to help them complete their program requirements, and any recommendations on how the Graduate College can best assist in oversight for students in this stage of degree completion. See [Time to Completion/Length of Study Policy](#)

In the academic year 2020-2021, the CGAA reviewed and made recommendations for a total **36 time to degree completion appeals**. Of this number, 8 were Masters students, 25 were PhD students and 3 were Doctorate of Education (EdD) students. As predicted, many students were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and requested extension to complete their academic requirements.

### Creation of Additional Support for Students Requiring Increased Time to Degree Completion

College/School Associate Deans and faculty advisors made the following recommendations for additional resources to assist this population. The following workshops were identified and have been or will be offered by the Graduate College:

- **PhD Re-Orientation– For critical points of doctoral study**
- **Technical/Academic Writing & Library Resources**
- **Work/Life Balance**
- **Health & Wellness Workshop Series, including mental health**
- **Managing Mentor/Mentee Relationship, having difficult discussions**
- **Goal Setting & Finding Motivation**

### Revised Academic Standing & Time to Completion Communications

The CGAA members were concerned about the stress that comes with letters sent from Graduate College “warning letter” or “exceeded letter” to students recognizing the challenges graduate students are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to make every effort to minimize disruptions to student educational and research missions. The CGAA agrees with the importance of the letters serving as a check in at the Graduate College level to ensure that advisors and students are moving towards degree completion. The Graduate College has created a list of academic and student support services for students and includes this in the letter: the [Academic Assistance and Support page](#) on the Graduate College website. “You may also find the [Resources page](#) helpful.” “Please note that time for degree completion may affect visa status. International student should contact [International Students and Scholars Services \(ISSS\)](#) at [iss@drexel.edu](mailto:iss@drexel.edu) or 215.895.2502.”

*Continued on next page...*

# COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (CGAA)

## 2020-2021 Accomplishments (Continued)

### Guidance on Responding to Academic Interruptions Due to COVID-19

The CGAA contributed to a guidance document in response to a student demand/concern about the need for a year pause for time to degree completion policies. The CGAA considered accommodation to Leave of Absence (currently this does not stop the clock; and/or to make clear that there is an appeal process that will consider COVID-19 implications to student timelines) to account for the need for extensions for students during COVID-19 pandemic related to degree completion. The CGAA recognizes that there is no planned change in timeline requirements/policy for requesting extensions; direct students to policy; process for appeal; and for financial implications- students must work within their program to communicate financial impact. The GAA recognizes the need for programs to review student status across their program to evaluate the effect of delays on individual student impact and projects completion to create a list of potential students impacted to proactively prepare for the delay, and the financial implications of the delay. It is up to programs to set admission goals for 2021 start to account for financial implications associated with delayed students, not in the purview of the CGAA. Through discussion with CGAA members, it was clear many programs completed an internal analysis.

### Doctoral Student Handbook

The CGAA created a Doctoral Student Handbook which have been reviewed by CGAA, UCGA, and by the Diversity Advisory Council (DAC). Feedback by the DAC was presented to the CGAA by 2 PhD student representatives. Implementation of the doctoral handbook will begin in fall 2021. It was determined that 10 of our 37 PhD programs do not have a handbook, thus, the CGAA recommended the best practice that every doctoral graduate program have a program specific handbook, and in cases that they do not have one, they will link to the Graduate College Doctoral Student Handbook created by the CGAA.

*In July 2021, the CGAA began to create a template for a Masters Graduate Handbook.*

### Feedback on the Electronic Doctoral Forms or E-Forms Process

The CGAA provided the E-Forms Working Group with feedback related to the newly proposed electronic process and reviewed related policies and procedures, and the lack thereof, such as a clear definition of the supervising/co-supervising professor, committee make-up, qualifying or candidacy exam, related milestones, an appeals policy for each step of the process, etc. These policies, which will be included in the Doctoral Student Handbook, will be aligned with the E-Forms Process. The E-Forms process may require additional revision or clarification of existing policies listed on the Provost's website.

### Graduate College Academic Policy Review

A subcommittee of the CGAA has started to review graduate academic policies and have identified 3 policies to review in more detail (Academic Standing, Time to Completion, and Vacation Policies). It was noted that the work of the CGAA to review policies as an annual "check in" should be aligned with the Provost's Office so that the work not be duplicative and that the CGAA is not the "gatekeepers" of policies, but to assist the Graduate College in making recommendations when policies need updating.

### Review Transfer Credit Policy to Consider Allowing Grades of Pass or "P"

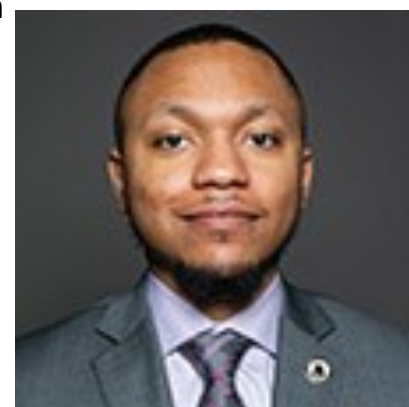
As a response to COVID-19, many universities have offered students the ability of completing a courses in non-standard grade modes. The CGAA recommending revising the [Graduate Transfer Credit Policy](#) suggesting the following: All transfer credit must have a grade of B (3.00) or better *except* if a course was taken during an academic term affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in which the student opted in for "Pass/No Pass" grading option, and a grade of "P" was given. Then, the course/grade can be considered for transfer credit *with Graduate College and program approval*. Still, the program may stipulate that the course must be retaken for the appropriate letter grade, such as to meet accreditation or other academic requirements. This recommendation has been made to the UCGA to elevate in future policy discussions.

## DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)

The Graduate College formed the **Diversity Advisory Council (DAC)** in spring 2020 to address issues of institutional racism, unconscious bias and racial inequalities within the Drexel community, raise awareness of these issues, implement action items, and support our Black community members. The council liaises with the University's [Anti-Racism Task Force \(ARTF\)](#). The DAC is co-chaired by [Alonzo M. Flowers III](#), PhD, Diversity Liaison for the Graduate College and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies in the College of Medicine and Associate Professor and Program Director of the PhD Program in the School of Education and [Matthew Shirley](#), PhD student in Biomedical Engineering in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, NSF Graduate Research Fellow and President of the Drexel Black Graduate Student Union (DBGSU). *Effective September 1, 2021, Dr. Flowers will begin his role as Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Graduate College.*



Alonzo Flowers III, PhD



Matthew Shirley

The Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) spent their inaugural year developing a call to action and key objectives. The DAC's call to action reads:

*"The Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) at Drexel University prioritizes equity at all levels within the Graduate College and will assist in evaluating and supporting the implementation of the Strategic Priority 2: Foster Diversity and Inclusion identified in the Graduate College strategic plan to achieve and sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion. The DAC will identify measures to ensure continued and persistent work toward equity and make recommendations to the Graduate College, with the intention of implementation. [Additionally, the DAC will hold accountable the Graduate College for their implementation of the Strategic Priority 2.]"*

Together, as a university-wide community, the DAC is committed to self-assessing and strengthening our own cultural competence by creating a climate that celebrates diversity and inclusion within the Graduate College. In addition, the objectives of the DAC should be designed to serve as a vehicle to help move the Graduate College from its current state regarding equity, inclusion, and diversity toward a more equitable environment for all members of the community. These objectives include:

-Elevate important issues related to diversity, inclusion, and equity to Graduate College

***Continued on next page...***



# DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)

- Provide consultation and leadership on current and new initiatives including climate surveys, discussions, cross-cultural awareness and learning opportunities for students, staff, and faculty with the Graduate College
- Continue to address different forms of diversity within the scope of program development and other Graduate College initiatives
- Ensure diversity reflects the inclusion of emerging majority groups that have been historically excluded from the conversations and spaces
- Advise on the best approaches to attracting and retaining historically marginalized groups and ensure equity among the student body
- Recommend approaches to ensure that ongoing efforts around diversity, inclusion, and equity are well-coordinated with the Graduate College
- Recommend that the Graduate College provides levels of transparency regarding data concerning diversity and inclusion initiatives (public data)

This year, the DAC also worked on developing the membership guidelines for the committee. The council is fundamental to establishing an inclusive community of scholars where differences of ideas and backgrounds are respected, welcomed, and valued. As such we worked on the following measurable tasks:

- DAC Membership Policy
- Graduate College Strategic Plan
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework DEI Evaluation
- PhD Handbook Review/Discussion
- Diversity Commitment Statement

## 2020-2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Faculty Chair:** Alonzo M. Flowers, School of Education

**Student Chair:** Matthew A. Shirley, PhD Student, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

Aaron Fafarman, College of Engineering

William Fenton, College of Engineering

Amelia Green, College of Arts and Sciences

Monet Harbison, Office of Research and Innovation

Stephanie Johnson, Kline School of Law

Md Rasheduzzaman, PhD Student, College of Engineering

Thant Soe, PhD Student, College of Engineering

Ebony White, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Anne Converse Willkomm, Graduate College, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

*The Graduate College welcomes any graduate students, faculty or professional staff members who wishes to participate on the council to contact us at [graduatecollege@drexel.edu](mailto:graduatecollege@drexel.edu).*

# PHD PROJECT WORKING GROUP

In Fall 2019, the GSA Executive Board communicated to the Graduate College and the Senate Committee on Student Life the following:

*“Securing a living wage for all doctoral student workers is GSA’s highest priority this year. The living wage in Philadelphia is estimated to be \$26,290 per year, but 77% of surveyed doctoral students reported earning less than this amount.*

*We want to ensure that teaching, research, and graduate fellowship appointments to full-time doctoral students at Drexel University are not shorter than twelve months and include a minimum stipend of \$26,290 per year. We hope to have your support when we bring this issue to the attention of each academic department.”*

The Graduate College formed the PhD Project Working Group which consists of graduate leadership from the Graduate College, Colleges and Schools, Enrollment Management and Student Success, Office of Research and Innovation, Office of Planning and Institutional Research, Office of Budget and Financial Planning, and other key stakeholders.

The working group has been actively addressing the following in collaboration with the Colleges and Schools:

The need for University Guidelines and definition of Graduate Student Role

A need for consistent nomenclature for all PhD students in University systems.

Consistent hiring practices for all PhD students.

Evaluation of current stipend levels in comparison to local and national trends.

Appointment in Banner are consistent in duration with appointment letter.

A need to evaluate current PhD remission and tuition policies.

## 2020-2021 WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Christine Chacko, Office of Research and Innovation

Anna Chrukwicz, LeBow College of Business

Michelle Dolinski, College of Arts and Sciences

David Kim, Graduate College

Tsz Kwok, Graduate College

Brian Lorigan, Office of Budget and Financial Planning

George Matuch, Office of Budget and Financial Planning

Angela Montgomery, Graduate Admissions, Enrollment Management and Student Success

Melissa Richman, Graduate College, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

Aleister Saunders, Office of Research and Innovation

Maria Schultheis, Office of Research and Innovation

Sandra Strang, Graduate College

Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, Graduate College, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

Christopher Weyent, College of Engineering

# GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION 2020-2021

The Graduate College offers a series of [Graduate Student Orientation and Onboarding](#) programs each fall, as well as in subsequent quarters of entry, to welcome new, incoming graduate students studying in quarter programs, both on campus and online. The goal of these programs is to introduce students to the Graduate College's resources and services and provide students with a high-level overview of graduate studies at Drexel, academic and student support services, campus resources, facilities and graduate policies and procedures, in addition to their own college, school, and department orientation programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all orientation programs in 2020-2021 were hosted **virtually**. *Special thanks to Events & Visitor Relations within EMSS for working with us to set up the Brazen events this year!*

## Virtual Graduate Student Welcome & Resource Fair Sessions via Brazen Technology

### Fall 2020

#### Monday, September 14 A.M. Session

Registered: 41    Attended: 33 (80%)  
Completed Interactions: 25

#### Monday, September 14 P.M. Session

Registered: 42    Attended: 27 (67%)  
Completed Interactions: 11

#### Wednesday, September 16 A.M. Session

Registered: 29    Attended: 17 (59%)  
Completed Interactions: 13

#### Wednesday, September 16 P.M. Session

Registered: 37    Attended: 23 (62%)  
Completed Interactions: 16

### Winter 2021

#### Tuesday, January 5 Session

Attended: 39    Completed Interactions: 33

#### Wednesday, January 6 Session

Attended: 27    Completed Interactions: 32

## Participating Offices & Departments:

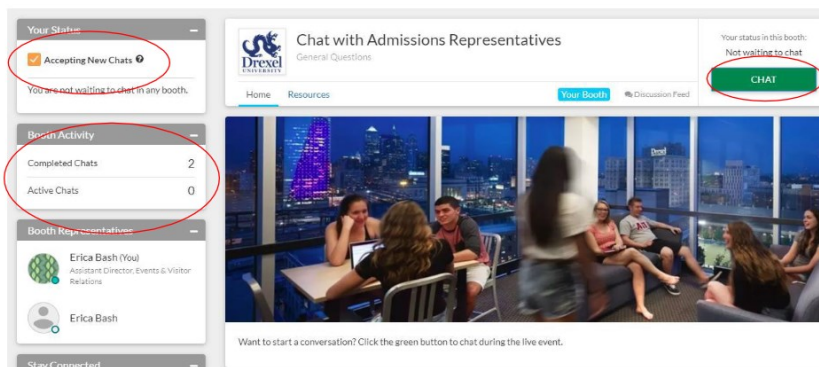
Drexel Central / Financial Aid  
Drexel University Online  
Student Conduct  
Health Insurance and Immunizations  
ISSS  
Counseling and Health  
Recreation Center

Information Technology & Instructional Technology Group (ITG)  
Steinbright Career Development Center  
Center for Learning and Academic Success Services  
Drexel Libraries  
Office of Global Engagement  
Public Safety & Transportation  
Off-Campus Housing  
Drexel Writing Center  
English Language Center  
UREP: Fellowships  
Office of Equality and Diversity  
Disability Resources  
Business Services (Parking, DragonCard)  
Campus Engagement  
GSA  
IGSA  
Drexel Black Graduate Student Union (DBGSU)  
Drexel Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (DGSWE)

## Online Orientation via Blackboard Learn

In addition to on campus programs, the Graduate College continued running its online asynchronous graduate student orientation resource via Blackboard Learn for a second year which is updated quarterly for new, incoming graduate students both on-campus and online. The orientation covers University-level resources, information about student services, and compliance dates and deadlines.

From Fall 2020 to Spring 2021, 2,300 new graduate students were enrolled in the orientation, 1,615 students engaged with the orientation resource. In addition, 72 students completed the survey. Overall, students were very satisfied with the online resources and strongly agree that they would refer back to it throughout their first year. The Graduate College will launch orientation information for Fall 2021 soon.



# TEACHING ASSISTANT ORIENTATION & INITIATIVES 2020-2021

Each year, the Graduate College offers [training and onboarding for all new graduate student Teaching Assistants \(TAs\)/Teaching Fellows \(TFs\)](#), in addition to ongoing professional development and training opportunities throughout the year.

Course instructor, Valerie Klein, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor in the School of Education and Chair of the 2020-2021 Teaching Assistant Excellence Awards Committee, conducted the TA Orientation and TA Prep Course (GRAD T580) virtually in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning under the direction of Johanna Inman.

This year's orientation program included presentations from the Teaching and Learning Center, former Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics, Dr. Teck-Kah Lim, Office of Equality and Diversity, Student Conduct, Center for the Advancement of STEM Teaching and Learning Excellence (CASTLE), and a panel of experienced TAs.

In addition to required sessions, the Graduate College and Center for Teaching and Learning offered the general graduate population a series of professional development workshops centered around topics in teaching and learning, including:

- ♦ *“Why Aren’t Undergrads As Interested In This Stuff As I Am?”*
- ♦ *“Remote Teaching Strategies to Keep Students Engaged”*
- ♦ *“How To Grade Effectively Without Losing Sleep (or Your Mind)”*



Valerie Klein, PhD



Johanna Inman



## Additional Professional Development Opportunities

This winter and spring, TAs were also invited to weekly virtual check-ins and ongoing professional development workshops and trainings hosted by the Graduate College, Dr. Klein and campus partners to continue engagement. Both new and continuing TAs were invited to participate, as well as graduate student Remote Course Facilitators (RCFs). During these informal sessions, graduate student instructors learned to utilize remote teaching and learning tools as a result of the transition to fully remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# THE REMOTE COURSE FACILITATOR (RCF) PROGRAM

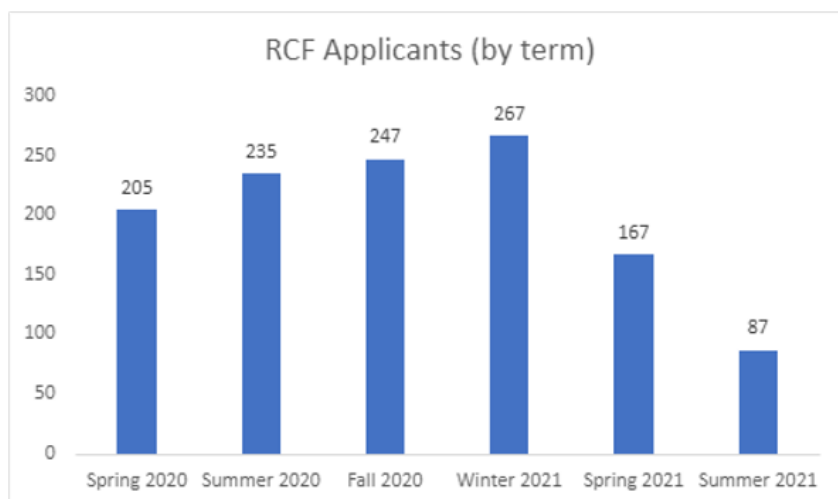
The Remote Course Facilitator (RCF) program was established by the Graduate College in spring 2020, with support from the Office of the Provost and Remote Teaching Task Force, to help support faculty in the transition to fully remote teaching during COVID-19. RCFs support the technical and administrative aspects of teaching in a fully remote or hybrid format and help support the remote teaching and learning environment in which active engagement is critical for a successful student experience.

Further, the RCF program offered graduate students an additional opportunity to remain engaged with Drexel's academic community while working and learning remotely, network with faculty members and peers, obtain valuable skills and experience in remote teaching and learning tools and technologies, and to earn a monetary award for their service.

RCFs also engaged in virtual check-ins and professional development workshops and trainings hosted by the Graduate College, in partnership with the Remote Teaching Task Force and other campus partners. These sessions provide a space for RCFs to ask questions, share experiences, troubleshoot any issues, and learn more about remote teaching and learning technologies.

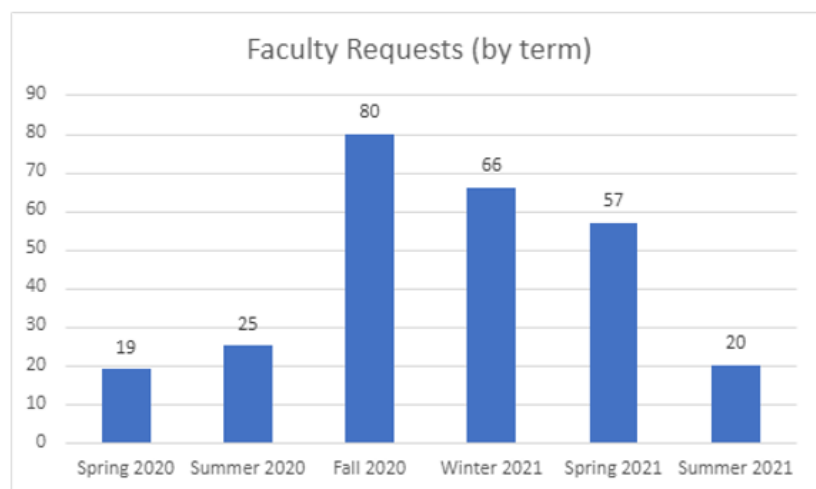
The RCF program, **which has supported more than 450 courses**, has been a huge success in meeting the needs of instructors and students navigating the pivot to remote teaching and learning and will continue to support the Drexel community in the hybrid/Hyflex model. *See our [faculty resources guide!](#)*

## RCF Program By The Numbers



⇒ The Graduate College was overwhelmed by the number of graduate students interested in serving as RCFs. Unfortunately, there was not enough demand to match all who applied.

⇒ Graduate student applicants were matched by their eligibility, availability, and specific skills, tools and technologies which they indicated varying levels of expertise in, including Blackboard Learn and related applications, Zoom, etc.



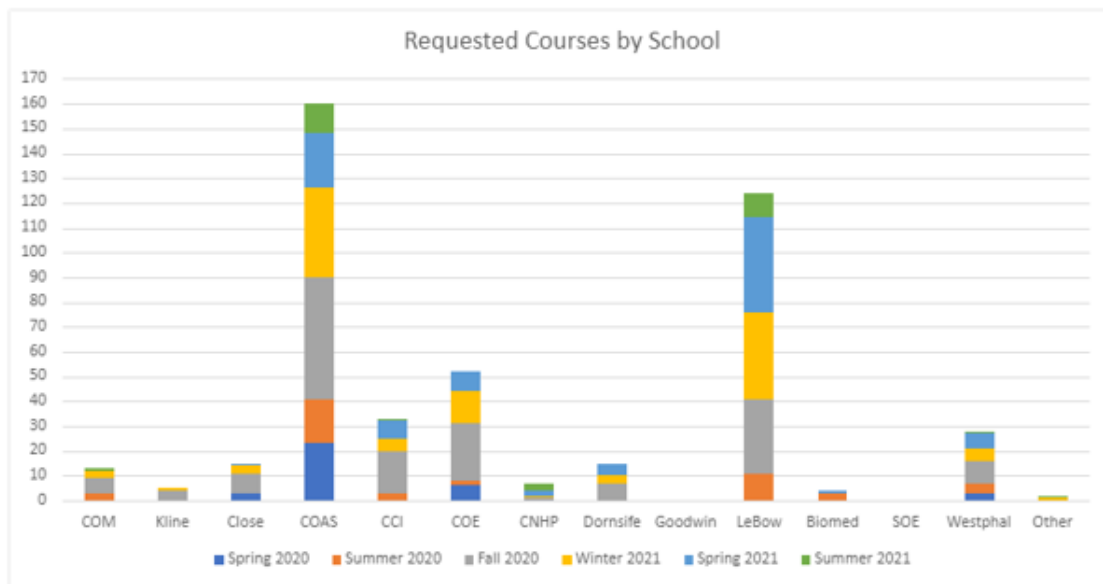
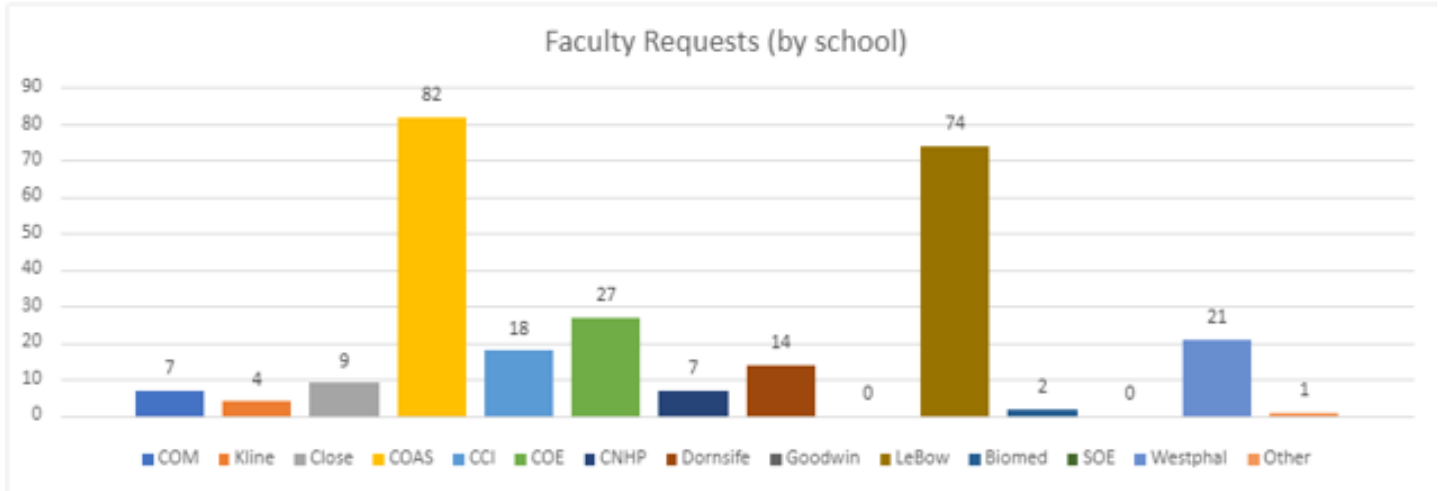
⇒ Faculty members consistently requested the same RCFs once a successful relationship was established. Communication and setting clear expectations is key to a successful relationship.

⇒ The RCF program provided valuable insight into the needs of instructors and students alike which was backed by survey data collected by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research and Remote Teaching Task Force in fall 2020.

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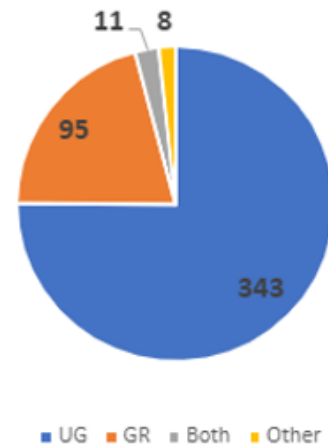
# THE REMOTE COURSE FACILITATOR (RCF) PROGRAM

## RCF Program By The Numbers (Continued)



- ⇒ The College of Arts and Sciences and LeBow College of Business are two of the top colleges/schools utilizing the RCF program. The Graduate College established a partnership with the LeBow College of Business through Alan Hecht, Director of Instructional Technical Services, to manage RCF and faculty relations. The Graduate College is hoping to establish a similar role in other colleges/schools which utilize the program.
- ⇒ The RCF program has supported more than 450 courses and seminars.
- ⇒ The RCF program also ran a pilot in winter 2021 to support fully online (ONL) courses, but the tasks RCFs were most often asked to complete fell outside of the range of the RCF program. There are also several existing resources at the University, such as the Instructional Design and Multimedia Services (IDMS) at Drexel University Online (DUO), Instructional Technology Group (ITG), and Peer2Peer Faculty Support Network which offer similar support for fully online courses, as well as for FTF courses.

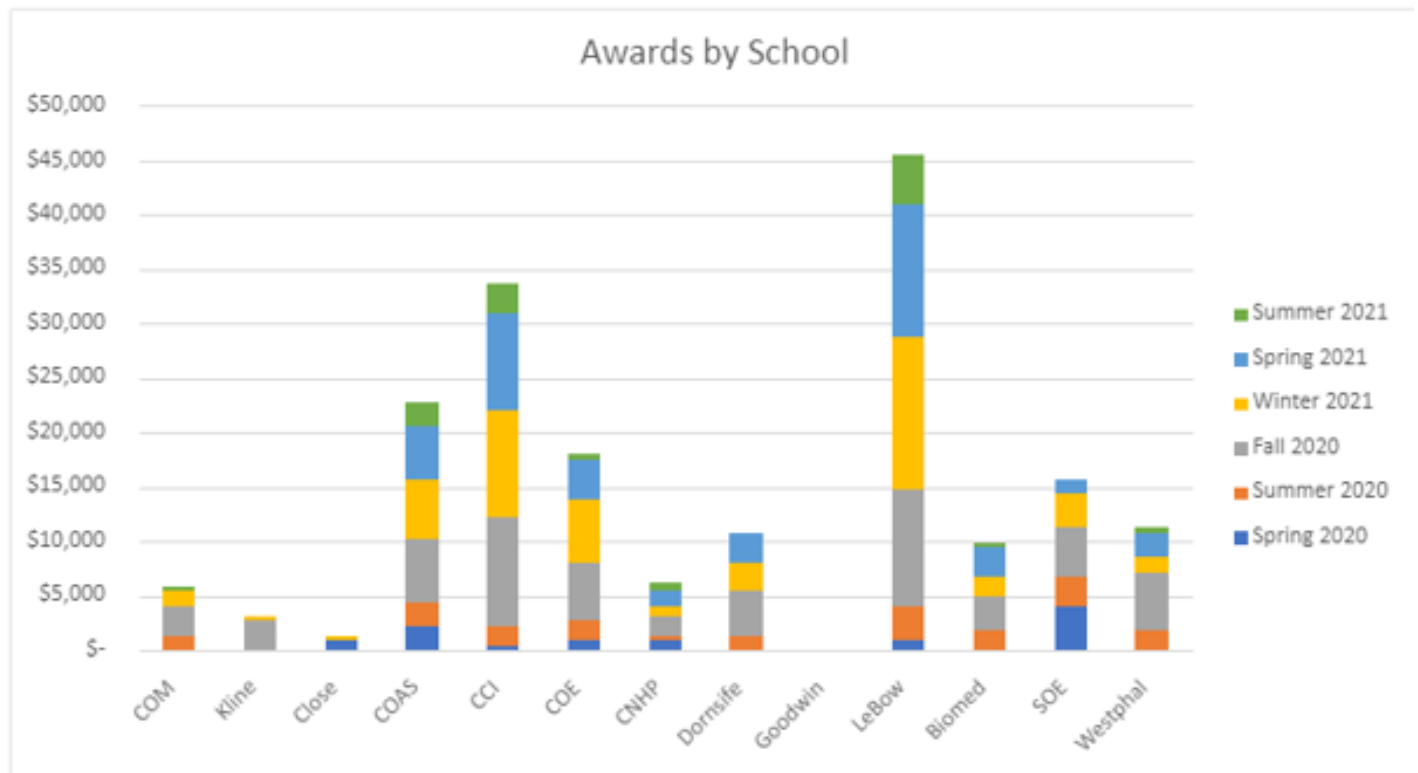
### Types of Courses Supported



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# THE REMOTE COURSE FACILITATOR (RCF) PROGRAM

## RCF Program By The Numbers (Continued)



⇒ RCFs are provided a \$450 award per term of service as an RCF funded by the Office of the Provost. The above chart provides an overview of the award spend by RCFs matched within a particular college/school. It does not reflect the award spend by course within the colleges/schools utilizing the RCF program, although there is some correlation given that RCFs are typically matched within the same college/school of enrollment, but not always.

⇒ The total award spend to date is around **\$184,000**.

## RCF Program Feedback

Each term, the Graduate College surveyed both graduate student RCFs and instructors. The graph below reflects the survey data from the winter and spring terms.

### Faculty (33 Total Respondents)

**97%** of respondents were **satisfied** with the RCF program experience and **agree** that they would recommend the RCF program to other faculty.

### Graduate Student RCFs (53 Total Respondents)

**89%** of respondents were **satisfied** with their overall experience serving as an RCF.

**92%** of respondents feel they had a **positive impact** on the remote learning environment.

**91%** of respondents would **agree** to serve as an RCF again.

*"Thanks to the support of my course facilitator, I am able to focus my energy on teaching. Since we first started collaborating in the spring term [2020], [my RCF] and I have become true partners. We are a dynamic duo! In my course reviews, many students mention how smooth the flow of the curriculum is thanks to [my RCF] and our partnership. The RCF program is an invaluable resource and has made the transition to remote teaching a positive experience."*

**Read the RCF [article in DrexelNow!](#)**

# SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Introducing SupportLinc for Graduate Students

In addition to the [existing resources available to graduate students on campus and online](#), the Graduate College, in partnership with Human Resources, [announced the addition of SupportLinc](#), a 24/7 confidential and professional service for support, guidance, counseling, and resources, is now available to all graduate students and their families and household members at no cost. SupportLinc is designed to help individuals address the challenges that life, school, work, and relationships can bring. Students can access confidential, 24/7 counseling with a licensed professional in person or virtually. In-person and virtual counseling for short-term issues are available for up to six sessions per person, per issue, per year.



## What can SupportLinc help with?

**SHORT-TERM COUNSELING:** Receive in-person or virtual counseling sessions with a licensed clinician to address issues such as depression, stress, relationship problems, grief, substance abuse, anxiety or other emotional health concerns.

**DEPENDENT/ELDER CARE REFERRALS:** SupportLinc provides participants with an experienced team of specialists who offer guidance and referrals for all stages of life, such as child-care, elder care, back-up care, adoption, summer camps and education. Each participant receives personalized attention and consultation on all aspects. During each step, the referrals are reviewed for detail, scope, and applicability to the original request. All referrals are provided to the participant within two business days.

**RETIREMENT COACH:** Receive consultation and guidance from a licensed clinician experienced in transitioning to retirement, as well as referrals to resources for adjusting to retirement. We want to ensure that your emotional needs are met through this life transition.

**CONCIERGE EXPERT REFERRALS:** SupportLinc's knowledgeable specialists provide referrals to resources that help address a wide range of services such as travel, car rental, vacation planning, pet care, home repair and housing needs. Whatever need arises, SupportLinc's work/life specialists are there to help.

**FINANCIAL SERVICES:** SupportLinc provides expert financial planning and consultation through a network of licensed financial counselors providing brief telephonic consultations (30 minutes) for a variety of issues, such as debt reduction, home buying, budgeting, foreclosure prevention, bankruptcy prevention, financial goal setting, estate/financial planning, identity theft recovery and credit report review. There will be a fee for service if participants choose to move forward with a financial planner.

**LEGAL SERVICES:** The SupportLinc program provides free 30-minute telephonic or face-to-face consultation with a local attorney.

**WEB PORTAL:** The SupportLinc web portal provides access to thousands of articles, tip sheets and videos covering a wide array of health, well-being and work-life balance topics. The site also contains child and elder care search engines, reference libraries, legal and financial resources, self-improvement programs and educational training modules.

**MOBILE APP:** The SupportLinc eConnect® mobile app allows you to talk or chat directly with a SupportLinc counselor or schedule a time for SupportLinc to call you. Textcoach®, also known as 'text therapy,' is part of the SupportLinc program as well.

**NAVIGATOR:** SupportLinc's new Evidence-Based Digital Assessment provides a resource to help those who may be experiencing a mental health concern and will navigate them through the EAP process and deliver a personalized risk-analysis with recommendations for a call to action.

**ANIMO:** SupportLinc's personalized digital resource strengthens mental health and overall well-being through a dynamic series of self-directed modules, which can be accessed 24/7, 365 days a year, on your own time at your own pace.

All requests for information or assistance through the SupportLinc program are free of charge and completely confidential. You can contact SupportLinc anytime, around-the-clock, 365 days a year.

## How do I access SupportLinc?

Connect with a live SupportLinc representative by calling their 24/7 helpline at **1.888.881.5462**. Log in to the [SupportLinc web-site](#) (username "drexel") under the Web Access section of the homepage. To download the **SupportLinc eConnect® mobile app**, scan the QR code or visit the Apple/iTunes or Google Play app store. (The mobile username is "drexel.") To learn more about SupportLinc, watch this brief [orientation video](#).



# GRADUATE COLLEGE DOCTORAL FELLOWS 2020-2021

Each year, the Graduate College offers a limited number of [Doctoral Fellowships](#) designed to encourage the recruitment of highly qualified students for all of Drexel's doctoral programs. Fellowships are awarded in two tiers. Gold Fellows receive a sum of \$10,000 distributed over two years\* in addition to the stipends offered to them by their program. Blue Fellows receive a sum of \$4,000 distributed over two years\* in addition to the stipends offered to them by their program. (\*Over four years for LeBow)

In 2020, the Graduate College received 51 nominations and selected [1 Gold-Level Fellow and 10 Blue-Level Fellows](#):

Fellow	College/School	Program	Faculty Supervisor
Patrick Smith (Gold)	Dornsife School of Public Health	Community Health and Prevention	Allison Groves
Claire Trainor	College of Arts and Sciences	Psychology	Stephanie Manasse
Elizabeth Espinal	College of Arts and Sciences	Psychology	Evangelia Chryssikou
Melissa Jenkins	LeBow College of Business	Finance	Naveen Daniel
Jesse Starger	College of Engineering	Chemical and Biological Engineering	Maureen Tang
Kathleen Ward	Dornsife School of Public Health	Community Health and Prevention	Alexis Roth
Madison Miller	LeBow College of Business	Management	Mary Mawritz
Bengucan Gunen	Dornsife School of Public Health	Community Health and Prevention	Ann Klassen
Luis Grande Branger	College of Arts and Sciences	Communication, Culture and Media	Ronald Bishop
Grace Ann Goetcheus	College of Arts and Sciences	Environmental Science	Edward Daeschler
Anya Prateek Pant	College of Arts and Sciences	Mathematics	Xiaoming Song

## 2020 REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:** Caroline Schauer, College of Engineering

Ann Klassen, PhD, Professor, Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health

Michael Lane, PhD, Associate Professor, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

Kari Lenhart, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Jocelyn Sessa, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science, College of Arts and Sciences

Rosina Weber, College of Computing and Informatics

## 2021 REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:** Anne Converse Willkomm, Graduate College, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

Edward Kim, PhD, Associate Professor, Computer Sciences, College of Computing and Informatics

Ann Klassen, PhD, Professor, Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health

Michael Lane, PhD, Associate Professor, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

Kari Lenhart, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Jocelyn Sessa, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science, College of Arts and Sciences

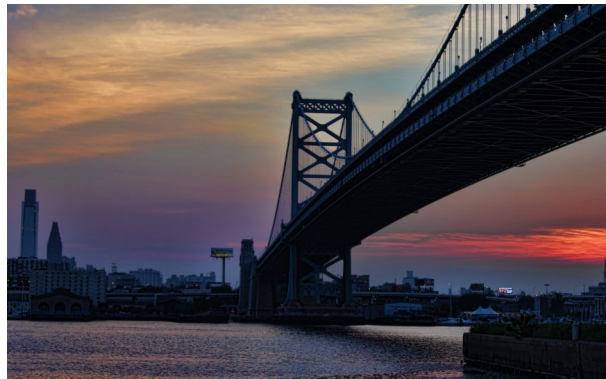
John MacLaren Walsh, PhD, Professor, Associate Department Head for Graduate Affairs and Research, Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering

**The [2021-2022 fellows](#) were also recently announced. The Graduate College is planning to have an in-person reception this fall inviting both cohorts of fellows!**



# BRIDGE TO DOCTORATE (BTD) PROGRAM

The [Bridge to the Doctorate \(BTD\) Graduate Fellowship](#) is an initiative committed to engaging students from underrepresented minority (URM) populations in graduate study within the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It is designed to establish a bridge to the terminal degree – the PhD. Support for BTD is made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation and helps to mitigate the financial challenges often associated with the pursuit of graduate study\*.



***\*As of June 29, 2021 Drexel University's Bridge to the Doctorate Graduate Fellowship program has been granted a one-year no cost extension through July 31, 2022 to allow for completion of program efforts affected by COVID-19 pandemic conditions.***

Drexel's BTD Program integrates faculty research mentorship, academic coaching, a support network of professional staff and faculty dedicated to meeting the student's developmental needs [academic, professional and personal] with opportunities to participate in conferences, workshops and seminars to prepare students for active membership in the scientific community. Drexel's BTD has a program faculty mentor in place who serves/advises BTD fellows on matters that include, but are not limited to academic, administrative, developmental and/or social concerns. BTD fellows also engage with doctoral alumni on a regular basis to receive mentorship.

Monthly BTD Steering Committee meetings are chaired by Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education and Dean of the Graduate College, Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD, to discuss professional development programming, performance outcomes, and student and/or administrative concerns including but not limited to recruitment, retention, funding, etc.

## 2020-2021 BTD STEERING COMMITTEE

**Anne Converse Willkomm, MFA**; Assistant Dean, Graduate College, Assistant Clinical Professor and Department Head, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

**Stephen Cox, MS**; Co-PI and Project Director, Greater Philadelphia Region Louis Stokes Alliance For Minority Participation

**Veniece Keene, MS**; Project Coordinator/Senior Research Specialist, Philadelphia AMP

**Melissa Richman, MEd**; Executive Director of Online and Graduate Financial Services and Planning, Graduate College, Director of Administrative Services, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine

**Marisol Rodriguez Mergenthal, MBA**; Director, Drexel-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation/Bridge to the Doctorate, Enrollment Management & Student Success

**Michael Ryan, PhD**; Director of Academic Support Graduate Pipeline Programs, Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering & Associate Teaching Professor, College of Engineering

**Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, PhD**; Chief Strategy Officer, Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education Dean, Graduate College, Founding Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences & Professional Studies, Professor of Pharmacology & Physiology, College of Medicine

**Rebecca Weidensaul, PhD**; Assistant Vice President for Inter-College Advising & Center for Learning and Academic Success Services (CLASS, Enrollment Management & Student Success

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# BRIDGE TO DOCTORATE (BTD) PROGRAM

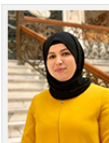
Drexel's BTD Fellowship Program engages with fellows regularly through individual consultations, as well as cohort meetings throughout each academic term. Workshops, seminars and/or discussions facilitated in collaboration with BTD often employ inquiry-based dialogue between fellows and facilitators. The interactive nature of information-sharing stimulates active learning of new techniques, approaches and perspectives.

## BTD Fellow participation throughout 2020-2021 included:

- ◆ BTD Discussion Regarding the State of Race and Diversity at Drexel with VP & Chief Diversity Officer, Kim Gholston (Summer 2020)
- ◆ Minority Fellows Panel Discussion hosted by Center for Scholar Development at Drexel (Summer 2020)
- ◆ Current BTD Fellows Participate as Judging Panelists for 2020 STAR Undergraduate Summer Research Showcase (Summer 2020)
- ◆ Three-Minute Doctoral Research Presentations by BTD Cohort Fellows in Collaboration with Drexel Libraries (Summer 2020)
- ◆ Meeting with Drexel-BTD PhD Alumnus, Ryan Rebozo, PhD; Director of Conservation Science at the Pine-lands Preservation Alliance (Fall 2020)
- ◆ A Discussion about Mentorship w/ Natalie Chernets, PhD: What is Mentorship? What Roles Can Mentors Fulfill? How Do You Connect with Mentors? (Winter 2021)
- ◆ Primer on Effective Seminar Presentations with Patrick Loll, PhD (Winter 2021)
- ◆ Pursuing the Potential of Transformational Service Learning Presented by Drexel-BTD Alum (Winter 2021)
- ◆ Tools You Can Use: Navigating the Scholarly Communication Landscape with Scopus (Spring 2021)
- ◆ Meeting with Drexel-BTD PhD Alumnus, David Delaine, PhD; Assistant Prof. The Ohio State University, Engineering Education (Spring 2021)
- ◆ NIH Training Series: Becoming a Resilient Scientist (Winter/Spring 2021) *More on pg. 30*
- ◆ NSF STEM Fellowships Bootcamp hosted by Villanova University (2020-2021)

Visit the [BTD program website](#) for a list of current fellows.

## CURRENT COHORT



### AICHA BENDIA

My name is Aicha Bendia, I was born and raised in Morocco, Africa. I formerly attended Bronx Community College then completed a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at the City University of New York. Shortly thereafter, I was awarded the National Science Foundation's Bridge to the Doctorate Graduate Fellowship. I began my doctoral studies at Drexel University in September 2017 and am currently working with Irwin Chaiken, PhD in the area of biochemistry. Most recently, I was awarded the Southern Region Educational Board (SREB) Scholar Fellowship.

I was engaged in research throughout my undergraduate career at CUNY and also had the chance to participate in research activities internationally in China. Throughout my academic career, I have had the opportunity to present at numerous conferences including the Young Researcher Conference-Alliance for Diversity in Science and Engineering, the Annual Philadelphia Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) Research Symposium and Mentoring Conference, the Philadelphia Organic Chemists' Club and the American Chemical Society National Meeting & Expo.

I plan to complete my doctoral studies in 2022 and aspire to a post-doctoral appointment in industry before returning to academia.



### LUIS RAMOS PERALTA

My name is Luis Ramos Peralta from Glen Burnie, MD. I graduated from the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) in 2018 and enrolled at Drexel University as a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering in the Fall of that same year.

Throughout my undergraduate career, I participated as a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) intern at Cornell University in the

# RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) COURSE

In partnership with the [Office of Research](#), the Graduate College offers *An Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR): A Short Course for Investigators*, which introduces graduate students to major ethical and policy issues in research.

The course is typically offered in the winter quarter.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an overview of key elements of research methods and ethics ensuring Drexel students have a solid foundation of these elements in compliance with federal funding agencies. Topics covered through the course include data fabrication, data falsification and plagiarism, responsible authorship, publication and mentorship practices, conflicts of interest, data management, and the use of human and animal subjects in research.

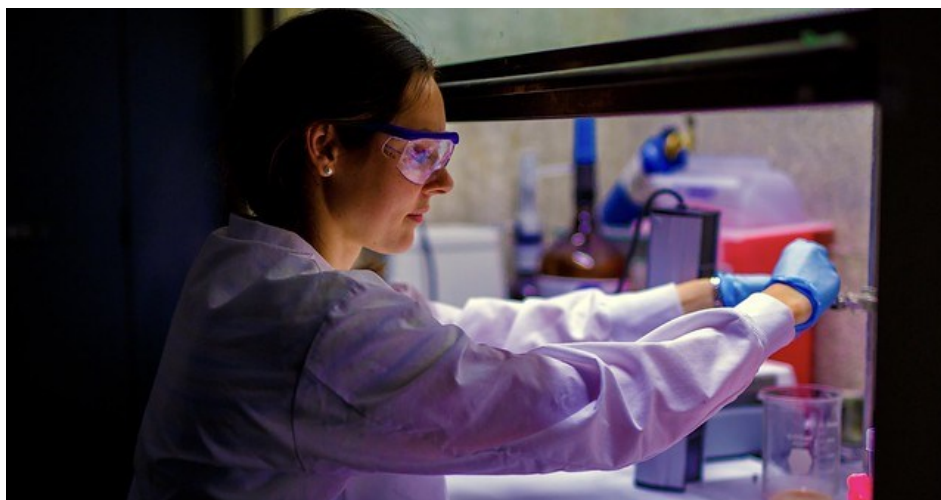
## COURSE REGISTRATION

Graduate students who are required to take the course, including those who are participating in NIH grants, will be registered by the Graduate College via request from the graduate academic advisor. The course is a one-credit non-billable course and meets face-to-face ONLY. Grading is Pass/Fail. The course is offered twice per year in the winter and summer quarters. Quarter programs only.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit the [course website](#) and download the course syllabus

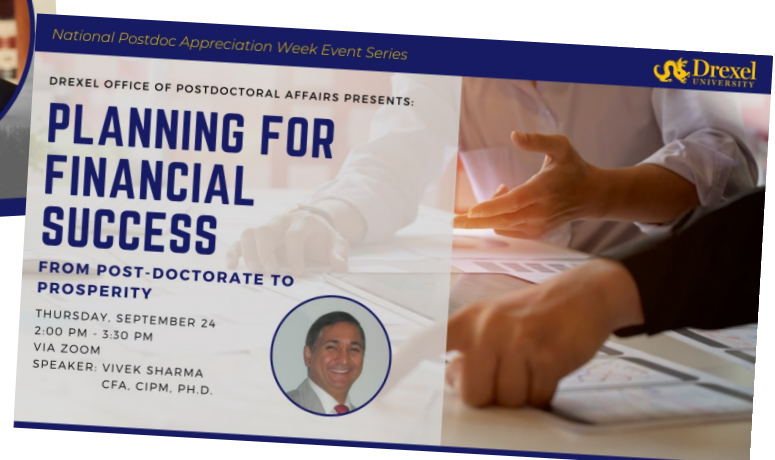
Questions? Contact the Course Director, Dr. Natalie Chernets at [natalie.chernets@drexel.edu](mailto:natalie.chernets@drexel.edu)



# POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## 2020-2021 Highlights

- Natalie Chernets, PhD, Director of the [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Professional Development](#), was nominated and selected to serve on the Postdoctoral Section of the National Steering Committee for the Group on [Graduate Research, Education, and Training \(GREAT\)](#) by the American Association for Medical Colleges. This service helps Drexel University engage in the national conversation on postdoc needs and bring best practices to serve Drexel postdocs.
- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs spearheaded the first Virtual National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) and established the first virtual NPAW steering committee in collaboration with National Postdoc Association. Drexel University hosted three virtual events for the postdoctoral community: "Green Card for Scientific Researchers" by Brian Getson, US Immigration Lawyer, "Health Insurance 101 for Postdocs" by Steve Johnson, Area Vice President, Student and Scholar Services at Gallagher, "Planning for Financial Success by Vivek Sharma, CFA, CIPM, PhD. The events were open to Drexel Postdocs and postdocs at other institutions and drew **over 350 participants across the three events**. Additionally, Drexel Postdocs were invited to engage in over 35 virtual events hosted during NPAW
- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs launched the "Postdoc Society," a Microsoft Team to foster a community of Postdocs at Drexel University. The Postdoc Society is a community-wide discussion board with the sole purpose of creating a space for Drexel postdocs to communicate and connect with other postdocs. During these times of turbulence—where physical, face-to-face meetings are rare, we believe that an informal, online hub will remind those developing their research in solitude of the many active members that make up Drexel's postdoc community.
- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs facilitated seven Postdoc Academy Learning Sessions for Drexel Postdocs based on the course "Succeeding as a Postdoc" by the Postdoc Academy. The Postdoc Academy is a digital professional development program designed specifically for postdocs.



Continued on next page...



# POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## 2020-2021 Highlights (Continued)

- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) would like to congratulate **2021 Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows**:

**Pricila Mullachery, PhD, MPH** (Mentor: Usama Bilal, PhD, MPH, MD)

Urban Health Collaborative

Dornsife School of Public Health

Project: "The relationship between state-level Medicaid policies and access to treatment for substance use disorders"

**Karolina Bryl, PhD, R-DMT/DMP, CMA, RMST/E** (Mentor: Joke Bradt, PhD)

Creative Arts Therapies

College of Nursing and Health Professions

Project: " COVID-19, social isolation, and schizophrenia: A mixed methods feasibility study on the effects of telehealth dance/movement therapy to promote activation in chronic schizophrenia"

*Also, the OPA would like to congratulate 2020 Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, **Xuehang Wang, PhD**, for starting the position of Assistant Professor at Technische Universiteit Delft in the Netherlands!*

- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs partnered with the Graduate College to facilitate [NIH Becoming a Resilient Scientist program](#) for postdocs and graduate students at Drexel University. The program offered small group discussion around six topics:

Unit 1: An Introduction to Resilience and Wellness 1/26

Unit 2: Exploring Our Self-Talk: Cognitive Distortions and Imposter Fears 2/15

Unit 3: Emotions and Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace 3/8

Unit 4: Self-Advocacy and Assertiveness 3/30

Unit 5: Developing Feedback Resilience 4/20

Unit 6: Managing Up to Maximize Mentoring Relationships 5/10



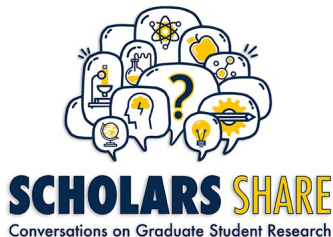
### Drexel's Small Group Workshop Facilitators:

- **Natalie Chernets, PhD**, Director of Postdoctoral Affairs & Professional Development, Associate Director, MD/PhD Program, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, Drexel University College of Medicine
- **Marisol Rodriguez Mergenthal, MBA**, Director, Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-AMP)
- **Michael Bouchard, PhD**, Director of the Division of Biomedical Science Programs in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies & Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology in the College of Medicine
- **Rebecca Signore, MA**, Director, Center for Learning and Academic Success Services

OPA & the Graduate College also promoted [NIH's The Mental Health and Well-Being of Researchers series](#).



# SCHOLARS SHARE PROGRAM 2020-2021



Founded in 2012, [Scholars Share: Conversations on Graduate Student Research](#) features current graduate students, recent graduates or postdocs, sharing an overview of their graduate re-

search and student experience, touching on research methods, challenges, successes, opportunities and the broader implications of their work to a general audience. The presentations are then followed by Q&A and discussion led by a faculty or professional staff moderator. More than 150 students have joined the Scholars Share presenter's club over the past nine years! This year, due to COVID-19, all of the programs were held in virtual format. Here were this year's participants:

## [October 2020](#)

### **VIRGINIA CAPONERA**

PhD Candidate in Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Sciences  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **LENA CHAMPLIN**

PhD Candidate in Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Sciences  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **SAURAJYOTI KAR**

PhD Candidate in Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

Faculty Moderator:

### **MICHAEL RYAN, PH.D.**

Director of Academic Support, Graduate Pipeline Programs  
Graduate College  
Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering  
Associate Teaching Professor, College of Engineering

## [November 2020](#)

### **JEANNE MCPHEE**

PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **STEVE EARTH**

PhD Candidate in Computer Science  
College of Computing and Informatics

### **LUIS REBOLLAR TERCERO**

PhD Candidate in Chemical Engineering  
College of Engineering

Faculty Moderator:

### **TSZ KWOK, EDD**

Associate Director, Graduate College  
Adjunct Faculty, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

## [December 2020](#)

### **HAMED YASSAGHI**

PhD Candidate in Architectural Engineering  
College of Engineering

### **BENOIT BECHADE**

PhD Candidate in Biology  
College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Moderator:

### **ANNE CONVERSE WILLKOMM, MFA**

Assistant Dean, Graduate College  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Goodwin College of Professional Studies

## [January 2021](#)

### **REBECCA CROCHIERE**

PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **HANNAH SPECE**

PhD Candidate in Biomedical Engineering  
College of Engineering

Faculty Moderator:

### **RAJVEER SINGH, PHD, EIT**

Research Scientist/Associate  
Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

## [February 2021](#)

### **KATHERINE FIOCCA**

PhD Candidate in Biology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **REEMA SHUBAILY**

PhD Candidate in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

Faculty Moderator:

### **JOSEPH H. HANCOCK, II, PHD**

Professor & Program Director, MS Online Retail and Merchandising  
Advisor, Undergraduate Retail Minor  
Westphal College of Media Arts & Design  
Drexel University Online

# FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES 2020-2021

Each year, the Graduate College hosts the a [Financial Literacy Series](#), featuring a variety of industry experts, for graduate students and postdocs to assist with personal financial management and wellness. This year's series took place virtually, but still yielded some of our highest attendance numbers yet!

## FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES

For Graduate Students & Postdocs

### FINANCIAL HACKS

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

*With Beth Manley, SHRM-CP, PHR, CEPP, Adult Financial Education Manager @ Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union*

In this webinar, we explore a variety of tips and tricks to jumpstart your financial wellness in multiple areas. Topics will include: Benchmarking retirement savings at various ages, jumpstarting your savings if they're not where they need to be, saving and spending hacks to supercharge your debt elimination, and recommended ratios for budgets and large purchases so you can avoid excessive debt. [VIEW THE RECORDING](#)



**FRANKLIN MINT  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
*The Credit Union of Choice!®*

### THE TAX TALK

**Friday, February 19, 2021**

*With Michael Clancy, MBA, CFP, CLU, Director of Financial Planning, College of Medicine And special guest, Melissa Richman, MS, Executive Director of Online and Graduate Financial Services and Planning*

**Description: Our most highly anticipated and well attended workshop annually! Taxes** - You can't avoid them so you might as well understand them. This workshop intends to give you a basic understanding of how federal taxes are calculated as well as how every financial decision you make from choosing employee benefits, home purchases to marriage and investing impacts your taxes. You will also have a better understanding of how taxes interplay with student loan repayments. This session is intended for those students about to enter the workforce as well as alumni well into their careers. Includes information about [Form 1098-T](#) for graduate students with qualifying assistantships and fellowships. [VIEW THE RECORDING](#)



### BEGINNER INVESTING: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, RETIREMENT PLANNING, ETC.

**Thursday, June 3, 2021**

*With Michael Clancy, MBA, CFP, CLU, Director of Financial Planning, College of Medicine*

**Description:** Stocks, bonds, and funds OH MY! Learn the basics of investing, employee benefits and how to start planning for retirement. This session is geared toward graduating students who are headed for the workforce (now or in the future)! [VIEW THE RECORDING](#)

BEGINNER INVESTING: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, RETIREMENT PLANNING, ETC.  
WITH MICHAEL CLANCY, MBA, CFP, CLU, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL PLANNING  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021  
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. ET  
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

*Graphic design by Izzy Heal*

# WELLNESS WEEKDAYS WORKSHOP SERIES 2020-2021

In light of rising concerns surrounding mental health and wellbeing of graduate students, and in response to the added challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate College launched the Wellness Weekdays workshop series covering a wide range of health and wellness topics for graduate students, postdocs, and a general audience. Focused on practice, the purpose of these workshops is to help graduate students and postdocs take a step back, reflect on their overall health and wellbeing, learn something new, decrease stress, develop healthy habits, and be more effective in their academic and professional pursuits. It also provides an opportunity for the graduate community to engage with one another outside of their academic programs.

## FALL 2020—[Mindfulness Mini Series](#)

### **Painted Meditation: Arts-Based Mindfulness Practice**

With Michele D. Rattigan, MA, ATR-BC, NCC, LPC  
Clinical Associate Professor, Creative Arts Therapies Department  
& Art Therapy and Counseling Program, College of Nursing and Health Professions



### **Everyday Mindfulness for Graduate Students**

With Jackie Murphy, MSN, RN, CPN, CNE, Assistant Clinical Professor, Complementary and Integrative Health, College of Nursing and Health Professions

## WINTER & SPRING 2021—[Wellness Weekdays Workshops Series](#)

### **Tasteful Tuesday: Pizza Making & Culinary Workshop**

With Rosemary Trout, DHSc, Assistant Clinical Professor and Program Director of Culinary Arts and Food Science  
& Chef Rich Pepino, Executive Chef of the Food and Hospitality Management Program  
College of Nursing and Health Professions



### **Warm-Up Wednesday: Yoga for Anxiety**

With Monica Fauble, Drexel's Human Resources Wellness Administrator and licensed acupuncturist and yoga instructor

### **Tasteful Tuesday: The MIND-ful Diet to Boost Brain Power**

With Heather Krick, MS, RDN, CSOWM, LDN, CBC, PhD student in Health Sciences, Cynthia Klobodu, MPH, PhD student in Nutrition Sciences, & Dahlia Stott, BS, PhD student in Nutrition Sciences  
Under the mentorship of Jonathan Deutsch, PhD, CHE, CRC, Professor in the Department of Food and Hospitality Management and Nutrition Sciences & Director of the Drexel Food Core Lab & Brandy-Joe Milliron, PhD, Associate Professor in the Nutrition Sciences Department & Co-Chair of the College of Nursing and Health Professions Academic Affairs Committee

### **Mindfulness Friday: Loving Yourself Isn't Selfish: An Introduction to Self-Compassion**

With Michele D. Rattigan, MA, ATR-BC, NCC, LPC, Clinical Associate Professor in the Creative Arts Therapies Department and Art Therapy and Counseling Program, College of Nursing and Health Professions

### **Warm-Up Wednesday: Empowered by Posture**

With Steven Westbrook, Coordinator of Fitness and Wellness Programming, Drexel Recreation Center

*Special thanks to Nadine Ezzat and Drexel University Online's Marketing & Communications team for assisting with graphic design and email communications for this series!*

Have an idea for a future workshop? Let us know at [graduatecollege@drexel.edu](mailto:graduatecollege@drexel.edu)!

# PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2020-2021

In addition to Scholars Share, the Financial Literacy Series, Wellness Weekdays, and support for graduate student instructors, such as TA/TFs, the Graduate College also partners with University offices, student support services, resources, and student organizations to offer regular personal and professional development workshops.

## [NIH Resilience Training Program](#) for Graduate Students & Postdocs—Winter & Spring 2021

*More information about this series is covered on p. 27.*



### **Using ORCID to Manage Your Scholarly Identity**

Thursday, February 11, 2021

*With Janice Masud-Paul, LDN, RD, MLIS, MPH, Librarian, Health Sciences*



### **Working Through Social Identities Towards Empathy and Inclusion**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

*With Patience Ajoff-Foster, MS, CDP, Executive Director for Diversity and Inclusive Culture*



### **COVID-19 and Structure Racism: The Impact on People of Color in Academic Medicine**

Thursday, March 4, 2021

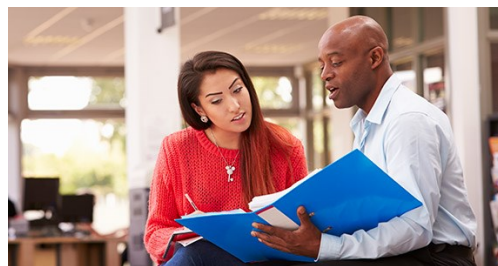
*With Rita Guevara, MD, Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine & Annette Gadegbeku, MD, Assistant Dean of Community Health, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Associate Professor, Department of*

*Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, College of Medicine*

### **Problem Solving with Mentors: How and When to Ask for Help—A Panel Discussion**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

*With Kirk Heilbrun, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Psychology, Drexel Ombudsperson, Anne Converse Willkomm, MFA, Assistant Dean of the Graduate College and Assistant Clinical Professor and Department Head in the Goodwin College of Professional Studies, Mari-sol Rodriguez-Mergenthal, MBA, Director, Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-AMP), Bridge to the Doctorate, Student Life, Enrollment Management and Student Success, & Lindsay Kenney, J.D., Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Equal Opportunity & Title IX Investigator, Office of Equality and Diversity*



In addition to the above, the Graduate College works closely with the [Steinbright Career Development Center](#) to offer support for career assessment and counseling, job search skills, career fair and interview preparation, resume and Curriculum Vitae (CV) critique, LinkedIn profile review, salary negotiations, professional networking strategies, and more!

We also partner with Steinbright to offer a co-curricular professional development course, [Foundations of Career Management](#), for graduate students in the winter and spring quarters.



# VIRTUAL DREXEL EMERGING GRADUATE SCHOLARS CONFERENCE 2021

The [Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars \(DEGS\) Conference](#), a free, student-run, University-wide conference and proud Drexel tradition, provides opportunities for graduate students to showcase their research at any level to those outside of their academic discipline, engage with peers, postdocs, alumni, faculty and professional staff from across the University, and compete for monetary awards. The conference is sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, Graduate College, and Office of Research and Innovation with support from Student Life, Alumni Relations and Drexel University Online.



This year's conference took place April 26-27 in a fully virtual format for the second year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Nearly 50 graduate students** presented their work virtually in both synchronous and asynchronous formats over the two-day period (**13** Three Minute Thesis competitors, **19** oral presentations via Zoom and **15** virtual poster presentations via Padlet). Nearly 20 Drexel faculty, professional staff, alumni, and postdoctoral fellows volunteered their time to serve as judges in support of our graduate student presenters. **More than 200 people registered and nearly 150 participated** in the two-day virtual event. Survey data suggested that attendees enjoyed many aspects of the virtual conference which we will plan to incorporate in the future once we return to campus. *Visit our website to [view recordings!](#)*

This year's keynote speaker, Joseph Amon, PhD, MSPH, Director of the Office of Global Health and clinical professor in the department of Community Health and Prevention at the Dornsife School of Public Health, shared his personal journey, as well as approaches for how we need to come together as a community to address global health challenges. You can view a recording of the keynote on the [Graduate College website](#). We hope you will join us next year as we return to an in-person and/or hybrid format!

## Special thanks to the 2021 conference planning committee:

*Chair: Md Rasheduzzaman, Vice President of Academic Affairs, GSA*

*Divya Kamireddi, Academic Chair, GSA*

*Luis Rebollar Tercero, President, GSA*

*Amy Honnig, Vice President of Operations, GSA*

*Devon Carrow, Vice President of Communications, GSA*

*Danessa Chisholm, Vice President of Finance, GSA*

*Sandra Strang, Director of Communications and Events, Graduate College*

*Natalie Chernets, Director of Postdoctoral Affairs & Professional Development*

*Anne Converse Willkomm, Assistant Dean, Graduate College, Assistant Clinical Professor & Department Head, Goodwin College of Professional Studies*

*Kimberly David-Chung, Assistant Vice President, Virtual Student Experience, Drexel University Online, Student Life and Graduate College*

*Tsz Kwok, Associate Director, Graduate College, Adjunct Faculty, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design*

*David Kim, Administrative Coordinator, Graduate College*

*Reina Lopez, Manager, Events and Conferences, Drexel University Online*

*Michelle Layone, Coordinator, Events and Conferences, Drexel University Online*

*Melissa Richman, Executive Director of Online and Graduate Financial Services and Planning, Graduate College*

*Emily Geschke, Executive Director, Student Life, Campus Engagement, Enrollment Management, and Student Success*

*Jennifer Tifone, Assistant Director, Finance and Administration, Enrollment Management & Student Success*





# VIRTUAL DREXEL EMERGING GRADUATE SCHOLARS CONFERENCE 2021

## President's Award for Best Three Minute Thesis (3MT®)

*Presented by President John A. Fry*

### Farhana Nusrat

PhD Program, Department of Marketing, LeBow College of Business

*Love at First Touch: How Using A Computer Dating Website versus Mobile App Influences Consumer Preferences in Online Dating*



## Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) People's Choice Award

*Presented by Keynote Speaker, Joseph Amon, PhD, MSPH, Director of the Office of Global Health and Clinical Professor, Department of Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health*

### Nishita Dsouza

PhD Program, Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health

*Exploration of the multidimensionality of livability: a formative analysis of a newly created statewide composite measure in Connecticut*

## Provost's Award for Best Oral Research Presentation

*Presented by Paul E. Jensen, PhD, Executive Vice President and Nina Henderson Provost*

### Elizabeth Lampe

PhD Program, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

*Associations between Fear of Weight Gain and Maladaptive Exercise in Binge-Spectrum Eating Disorders*

## Second Place Oral Research Presentation

*Presented by Aleister Saunders, PhD, Executive Vice Provost for Research and Innovation*

### Tyler Andres-Bray

PhD Program, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

*Using Camera Traps to Observe Tool Use Behaviors of Unhabituated Chimpanzees in Cameroon*

## Third Place Oral Research Presentation

*Presented by Emily C. Geschke, MA, Executive Director of Student Life*

### Ryan Andris

PhD Program, Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

*Integrating high capacity transition metal oxides with conductive carbon to form 2D layered cathodes for improved Li-ion batteries*

*Continued on next page...*

[View the 2021 Conference Awards Presentation](#)



# **VIRUTAL DREXEL EMERGING GRADUATE SCHOLARS CONFERENCE 2021**

## **Fourth Place Oral Research Presentation (TIE)**

*Presented by Melissa G. Richman, MEd, Executive Director of Online and Graduate Financial Services and Planning, Graduate College*

### **Angela Mastrianni**

PhD Program, Information Science, College of Computing and Informatics

*Increasing Awareness of Critical Events through Interactive Alerts in Medical Emergencies*

### **Jessica Ann Weaver**

PhD Program, Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

*Co-Continuous Polymer Networks with Tailorable Chemistries and Morphologies*

## **Dean's Award for Best Research Poster Presentation**

*Presented by Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD, Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education & Dean of the Graduate College*

### **London Thompson**

EdD Program, Educational Leadership and Management, School of Education

*Supporting Black Male Student-athletes: Best Practices for Advisors*

## **Second Place for Research Poster Presentation**

*Presented by Anne Converse Willkomm, MFA, Assistant Dean, Graduate College, Assistant Clinical Professor and Department Head of Graduate Studies, Goodwin College of Professional Studies*

### **Rghad Balkhyoor**

PhD Program, Digital Media, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

*Transitional Housing: A Holistic Solution for Refugee Resettlement*

## **Third Place for Research Poster Presentation**

*Presented by Bridget Bello-McFadden, MA, International Student Advisor, International Students and Scholars Services*

### **Turea Hutson & Tajma A. Cameron**

PhD Program, Education Leadership & Policy, School of Education

*Creative Solutions for Dealing with the Traumatic Effects of Food Insecurity and Limited Mental Health Resources on Minoritized Students During COVID-19 School Closures*

## **Fourth Place Research Poster Presentation**

*Presented by Tsz Kwok, EdD, Associate Director, Graduate College, Adjunct Faculty, Westphal College of Media Arts & Design*

### **Meredith Parrado**

DHSc Program, Health Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions

*Are Accredited States More Prepared for Public Health Emergencies Than Non-Accredited States?*

# RETREAT FOR GRADUATE AND ONLINE EDUCATION

The Graduate College welcomed faculty and professional staff who work with graduate and online student populations to an inaugural virtual University-wide **Retreat on Graduate & Online Education**. The theme of the retreat, which took place on **Wednesday May 19 and Thursday, May 20, 2021**, was **Focus on Forward Thinking**. The goal is to offer a retreat like this twice per academic year.

University-wide Retreat on Graduate & Online Education  
**Focus on Forward Thinking**



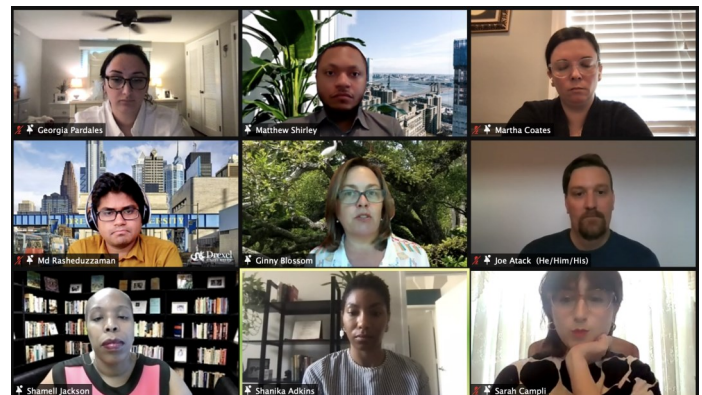
The retreat provides an opportunity for participants to engage with external guest speakers, graduate leadership, faculty and professional staff facilitators, and a panel of current graduate students. By coming together as a community to share resources and ideas and engage in important discussions, we can develop action plans to enhance the student experience and better support one another in our roles.

## Retreat Goals/Outcomes:

1. Come together as a graduate community
2. Define who Drexel is in graduate and online education and where we need and want to go
3. Exposure to available data and pathways to access data
4. Develop a shared vision and goals
5. Discuss and share resources, ideas and models for future development and implementation

## Retreat Format:

- A series of virtual presentations on current issues and topics in higher education
- Virtual breakout rooms for guided small group discussion and resource sharing
- A debrief session for retreat Q&A and action/implementation planning
- A digital repository to be populated with all session recordings, presentations, materials, resources, articles, and to engaging in ongoing chat and Q&A (via Microsoft Teams)
- A follow-up retreat session in the fall to review progress, outcomes and for additional action/implementation planning (TBA)



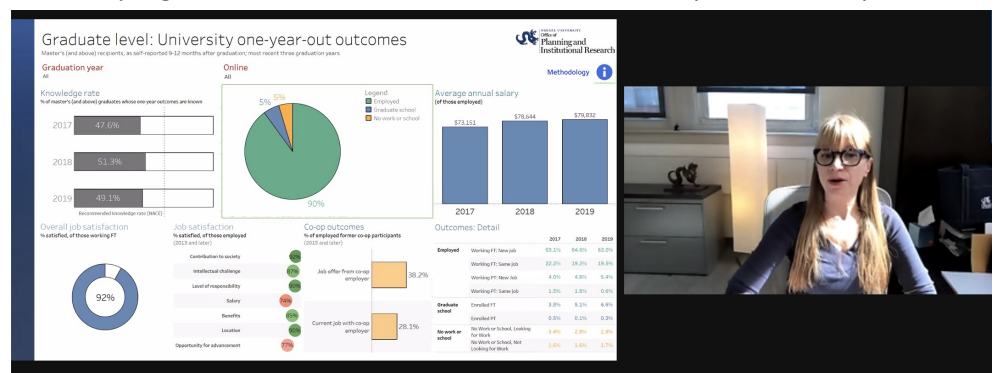
Graduate Student Panelists

## Registration & Attendance:

Registered: **175**  
 Attended: **168**  
 Registered, Did Not Attend: **42**  
 Did Not Register, Attended: **34**

## Session Attendees:

Plenary: The State of Graduate and Online Education at Drexel: **114**  
 Innovation That Work: The Nuts & Bolts of Online Student Engagement: **92**  
 Incorporating Rigor & Reproducibility into Scientific Training and Institutional Culture: **27**  
 Graduate Student Panel: **84**  
 Higher Ed in the New Learning Economy: The Latest Trends in Professional & Adult Education: **72**  
 Building the Model for Wellness: **18**  
 Debrief: **62**  
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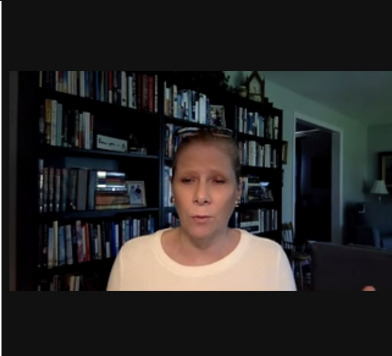


Plenary Presentation—Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele

# RETREAT FOR GRADUATE AND ONLINE EDUCATION



## Key Takeaways from the Inaugural Retreat:

- ⇒ More education and training needed for faculty on accessibility tools (Ally) and HyFlex course tools and best practices (Zoom, recording, etc.).
- ⇒ Communicating with faculty, and all internal populations, is challenging – We receive way too many emails.
- ⇒ There is inconsistency in the experience of our graduate students when it comes to the quality of course materials, use of technology and creativity, rigor, and in one-on-one faculty and peer mentor support from their own program/department, they want more of this.
- ⇒ Students want us to build DE&I into course content, syllabi, and discussion, and they want their faculty and peers to look like them.
- ⇒ Students want to engage with faculty who have experience in their field and can help students network and gain hands-on experience.
- ⇒ Students want to hear directly from their faculty/advisors about academic and professional development opportunities, academic support services, events, student organizations, awards, fellowships, etc. More so than from general U-wide resources (Graduate College).
- ⇒ Students want more support for mental health and well-being, especially PhD students who want an individual development plan (IDP) for after graduation, a lot of uncertainty, causes high anxiety.
- ⇒ Higher Ed in the New Learning Economy speaker was very engaging and informative, want to continue this discussion and focus on creating more agile curricula.
- ⇒ Be mindful of faculty and professional staff workload- We keep adding on but not taking off responsibilities, always doing more with less, work smarter (collaborate across units) not harder (working in silos).

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>P L E N A R Y :</b></p> <p style="color: white; font-size: 0.9em;">Support and professional development programming for Graduate/online Students through the Graduate College</p>	<p><b>Graduate Research</b></p> <p><b>NIH Resilience Training Workshops</b> (in collaboration with Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Professional Development) – a series of 6 workshops paired with small group meetings and discussion.</p> <p><b>Responsible Conduct of Research Course</b> (in collaboration with the Office of Research and Innovation) – introduces students to major ethical and policy issues in research.</p> <p><b>Scholars Share Series</b> (in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association) – monthly sessions provide a venue for graduate students to share their research with students and faculty.</p> <p><b>Drexel Graduate Emerging Scholars Conference (DEGS)</b> (in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association) – 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference where students present research in oral or poster presentations and participate in the 3-Minute Thesis Challenge.</p> <p><b>Building Connections to Scholarship: What is in the new edition of APA</b> provides a quick overview of the differences between the 6th and 7th edition of the APA style manual. Drexel's expert librarians will also highlight free APA resources including the APA website and APA blog.</p>	
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We encourage the Drexel community to [join the retreat Teams site](#) to continue these discussions, watch session recordings, view presentations, materials and resources which were shared, and for a copy of the full retreat agenda with a list of presenters.

PhD Time for Completion

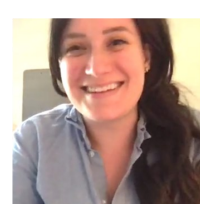
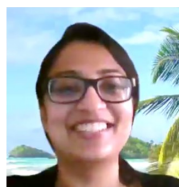
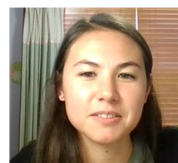
We will be scheduling a fall retreat in October. Dates TBA! We hope you will join us.



# GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

## OVERVIEW

The [Graduate Student Association \(GSA\)](#) is both the governing body and planning board for graduate students enrolled in face-to-face quarter programs, in addition to the [recognized graduate student organizations](#) registered with [Campus Engagement within Student Life](#). The GSA also advocates for and serves all graduate students across the University, including online and semester programs, collaborating with the Graduate College and campus partners to enhance the graduate student experience.



The Executive Board Members of the GSA are nominated and elected by graduate students annually in the spring and serve from July 1 - June 30 (fiscal year). In collaboration with the Graduate College, Campus Engagement within Student Life, and various academic and student services units, the GSA and recognized graduate student organizations host hundreds of programs and events to meet the many interests of the graduate student population at Drexel and bring together students, postdocs, alumni, faculty and professional staff across academic disciplines and organizations. From research symposiums, academic panels, interdisciplinary workshops, and writing boot camps, to ski trips, white water rafting, intramural sports and happy hours, there is something for everyone in our vibrant Drexel graduate student community.

## 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

### President

Luis Rebollar  
PhD Program in Chemical Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Vice President of Operations

Amy Honnig  
PhD Program in Chemical Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Vice President of Academic Affairs

Md Rasheduzzaman  
PhD Program in Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Vice President of Student Life

Saurajyoti Kar,  
PhD Program in Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Vice President of Finance

Danesha Chisholm

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Program  
LeBow College of Business

### Vice President of Communications

Devon Carrow  
Master's in Health Care Administration Program,  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

### Academic Chair

Divya Kamireddi  
PhD Program in Materials Science and Engineering  
College of Engineering

**Office:** Main Building, Room 010, Lower Level

**Email:** dsogsa@drexel.edu



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
**Graduate Student  
Association**



# GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE



## OVERVIEW

The [International Graduate Student Association \(IGSA\)](#) advocates for the interests and addresses the concerns of Drexel's international graduate students. As one of the most dynamic and active graduate student organizations, the IGSA augments graduate student life at Drexel for international students and collaborates across the University to offer the following support services:

- Webinars for new, incoming international students about life in the United States and at Drexel, packing information, banking recommendations, electronics advice, immigration, health insurance and more
- Welcome programs for new international students
- Shopping trips before classes start to local stores for furniture, electronics and other important supplies
- Cultural and informational tours of the Philadelphia and Drexel areas
- Group visits to Philadelphia attractions including the zoo and aquarium
- Academic and professional workshops valuable for international students related to financial management, English writing, software and technology, career exploration and other professional development
- Multicultural receptions and dinners throughout the year for holidays across many cultural backgrounds
- Community events during Drexel breaks including Thanksgiving and winter
- Hiking, shopping, amusement park and recreational trips throughout the year

## 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

### President

Zhouquan (Harry) Fu  
PhD Program in Mechanical Engineering  
College of Engineering

MS Program in Fashion Design  
Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

### Vice President

Weixiang Yu  
PhD Program in Physics  
College of Arts and Sciences

### Co-Event Coordinator, Co-Director of Social and Cultural Events

Puneet Sihag  
MS Program in Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

### Treasurer

Sumeet Suryawanshi  
MS Program in Engineering Management  
College of Engineering

### Co-Event Coordinator, Co-Director of Academic Events

Pascua Sonia  
PhD Program in Information Science  
College of Computing and Informatics

### Co-Director of Social Media and Public Relations

Akanksha Bhatnagar  
PhD Program in Biology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### Co-Event Coordinator, Co-Director of Academic Events

Paige Sturup  
MA Program in Dance/Movement Therapy  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

### Co-Director of Social Media and Public Relations

Mohamed Ghayeb  
MS Program in Marketing  
LeBow College of Business

### Event Coordinator, Director of Civic and Personal Development Events

Bledar Noka  
MS Program in Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

### Co-Event Coordinator, Co-Director of Social and Cultural Events

Yi (Eva) Liu

Email: [dsoigsa@drexel.edu](mailto:dsoigsa@drexel.edu)

# GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

## 2020-2021 RECOGNIZED GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA)  
Chemical and Biological Engineering Graduate Student Association (CBEGSA)  
Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA)  
College of Computing and Informatics Doctoral Student Association (CCIDSA)  
Communication, Culture and Media Association of Doctoral Students (CCMADS)  
Drexel Biomedical Graduate Association (DBGA)  
Drexel Black Graduate Student Union (DBGSU)  
Drexel Career Cornerstone Group  
Drexel Chinese Graduate Christian Fellowship  
Drexel Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (DGWISE)  
Drexel Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Graduate Forum (DIG)  
Drexel Preconception Peer Educators  
Drexel University Library and Archives Student Association (DULASA)  
Graduate Resource Association of Nutrition and Dietetics (GRAND)  
Health Management and Policy Club (HMP Club)  
International Graduate Students Association (IGSA)  
Materials Research Society (MRS)  
Maternal and Child Health Student Organization at Drexel University  
Minorities and Women in Physics Society  
Persian Students Association  
Physics Graduate Student Association (PGSA)  
PRAGATHI - The Indian Graduate Student Association  
Public Health Doctoral Students Advisory Group  
School of Education Graduate Students Organization  
Science, Technology & Society Collective  
Student Government Organization of the School of Public Health (SGOSPH)  
Wilbur W. Oaks Physician Assistant Student Society

*A complete list of student organizations, including officer and contact information, websites, etc. can be found in [DragonLink](#). For more information about Drexel's student organizations, visit the [Student Life website](#) or [contact Student Life](#). Information on student organization leadership development can be found on [BOLD's DragonLink page](#).*



# TECK-KAH LIM TRAVEL SUBSIDY AWARD 2020-2021

The Graduate College and Graduate Student Association (GSA) offer a limited number of [Teck-Kah Lim Graduate Student Domestic Travel Subsidy Awards](#) annually to encourage graduate student participation in academic meetings and conferences held within the United States and territories. These awards not only strengthen the academic and professional skills of our students, preparing them to be leaders in their fields, but also increase the awareness of the exceptional graduate work happening at Drexel.

The Teck-Kah Lim Travel Award Fund was created in 2016 in honor of Teck-Kah Lim, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Physics and former Associate Vice Provost of Graduate Studies to expand conference travel opportunities for Drexel's graduate students. Dr. Lim has also provided a generous gift fund for this award which is typically matched each year by the Executive Board of the GSA.

**Due to COVID-19, the subsidy award was only able to support students invited to present virtually, such that it covered their registration fees, if applicable.** In 2020-2021, **16** graduate students received awards ranging from \$65—\$350 per student for a total of nearly **\$3,000**. This is a much smaller amount than is typically spent, which is closer to \$35-40K annually. **The [2021-2022 application](#) is now open and once again welcomes application for travel!**

## 2020-2021 RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHTS

Four students were invited to present at the Entomological Society of America's (ESA) Entomology 2020 meeting. [Entomology 2020](#) was the ESA's first fully virtual meeting. Nearly 3,200 entomologists participated for two weeks of on-demand presentations and posters; livestream plenary and symposia; networking video chats; an online exhibit hall; robust student competition; our arthro-pedometer step challenge; and a demonstration video library filled with instructional videos including cooking and origami.

### Benoit Bechade

PhD Program in Biology  
College of Arts and Sciences

*"I received more than a hundred views on my online talk and poster. In addition, I won the **second place at the SysEB, Symbionts session competition, which included more than a dozen of participants**. Finally, I notably talked with a researcher at Providence University who would propose to use some of the methodologies he developed to analyze my study model (i.e. measure the metabolism of turtle ants)."*

### Virginia Caponera

PhD Program in Environmental Science  
College of Arts and Sciences

### Melissa Carpenter

PhD in Environmental Sciences  
College of Arts and Sciences

### Katherine Fiocca

PhD Program in Biology  
College of Arts and Sciences

Favorite Like Facebook Tweet Email

Type: SysEB, Poster  
Category: Poster  
Poster: SysEB

**Exploration of symbiont metabolic potentials in the Antillean turtle ant (*Cephalotes varians*) gut**

Presenting Author(s)  
Benoit Bechade  
Philadelphia, PA

Co-Author(s)  
Yi Hu

108 Views

Adult behavior and nutrition, but not body size, are related to reproductive physiology in a Neotropical paper wasp



Katherine (Katie) Fiocca  
PhD Candidate  
O'Donnell Lab  
Department of Biology, Drexel University  
kaf363@drexel.edu



@FioccaKatie

2020  
ENTOMOLOGY  
VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING



# GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2020-2021

Each year, the Graduate College recognizes graduate students across Drexel's Colleges and Schools for mentorship, scholarship, civic engagement, research, dissertation, facilitation, and teaching through the [Graduate Student Excellence Awards and Teaching Assistant Excellence Awards](#). Here are [this year's awardees](#):

## OUTSTANDING MENTORSHIP AWARDS

### Rebecca Crochiere

PhD Program in Clinical Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### Angela Mastrianni

PhD Program in Information Science  
College of Computing and Informatics

### Caroline Voyles

PhD Program in Community Health and Prevention  
Dornsife School of Public Health

## DREXEL COMMON GOOD AWARDS

### Mi Thant Mon Soe – Scholarship

PhD Program in Mechanical Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Shayna Zanker – Civic Engagement

MS Program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies  
College of Medicine

### Kayla Burley – Community Building

Doctor of Public Health Program in Health Management & Policy  
Dornsife School of Public Health

## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Mohammad Balapour - Post-Candidacy

PhD Program in Civil Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Brian Hosler - Pre-Candidacy

PhD Program in Electrical Engineering  
College of Engineering

### Hadiya Bynoe-Seabron - Master's

MS Program in Interior Architecture and Design  
Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

### Karla Roberts – Most Original & Creative Work

MS Program in Interior Architecture and Design  
Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

### Biao Han

PhD Program in Biomedical Engineering  
School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

## TECK-KAH LIM AWARD

### Victoria Grunberg

PhD Program in Clinical Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

## REMOTE COURSE FACILITATOR AWARDS

### Alia Ammar

PhD Program in Educational Leadership and Learning Technologies  
School of Education

### Lakita Costner

EdD Program in Educational Leadership and Management  
School of Education

### Clarissa Lacson

PhD Program in Creative Arts Therapies  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

### Shreekant Malviya

MS Program in Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

### Adrienne Pesce

PhD Program in Chemistry  
College of Arts and Sciences

*Continued on next page...*



# GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2020-2021

## TEACHING ASSISTANT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### **Cameron Bale**

PhD Program in Business Administration  
LeBow College of Business

### **Karissa Barbarevech**

PhD Program in Biomedical Engineering  
School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health  
Systems

### **Yuyue Chen**

PhD Program in Business Administration  
LeBow College of Business

### **Bryce Hina**

PhD Program in Biomedical Engineering  
School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health  
Systems

### **Virginia Orozco**

PhD Program in Biomedical Engineering  
School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health  
Systems

### **Majd Oteibi**

Doctor of Health Sciences Program  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

### **Greg Schwenk**

PhD Program in Chemistry  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Mi Thant Mon Soe**

PhD Program in Mechanical Engineering  
College of Engineering

### **Navy Spiecker**

MS Program in Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Hamed Yassaghi**

PhD Program in Architectural Engineering  
College of Engineering

## CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

### **Evan Arena**

PhD Program in Physics  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Meghan Barrett**

PhD Program in Biological Sciences  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Jae Young Choi**

PhD Program in Business Administration  
LeBow College of Business

### **Dominick Macaluso**

PhD Program in Mathematics  
College of Arts and Sciences





# VIRTUAL DOCTORAL STUDENT CELEBRATION & COMMENCEMENT 2021

The 2021 Virtual Doctoral Student Celebration, which took place virtually via Zoom web conferencing technology, invited all of the doctoral degree recipients (DBA, DCFT, DHSc, DPT, DNP, DrPH, EdD, PhD) of the Class of 2021, deans, faculty, professional staff, family, friends and guests to come together to celebrate!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's celebration took place virtually via Zoom on June 11. Watch the recording on the [Graduate College website](#).

## 2021 DISTINGUISHED STUDENT SPEAKER

**KIMBERLY MORRISON, MSN, RN, PCCN, NE-BC**

Doctor of Nursing Practice Candidate '21  
College of Nursing and Health Professions

Kimberly is the current Nurse Manager of the ICU at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York. She is an advanced level certified nurse executive through the American Nurses' Credentialing Center and progressive care certified nurse through the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

*Hear her remarks on the [Graduate College website](#).*

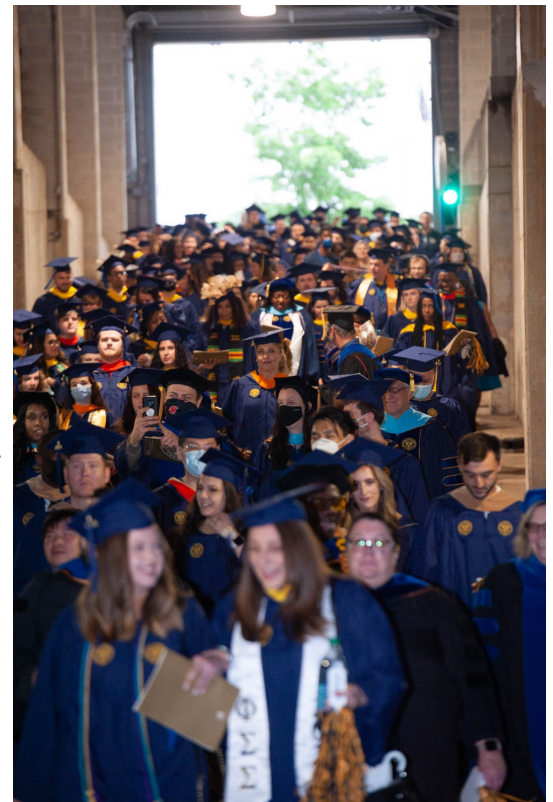


## THE CLASS OF 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

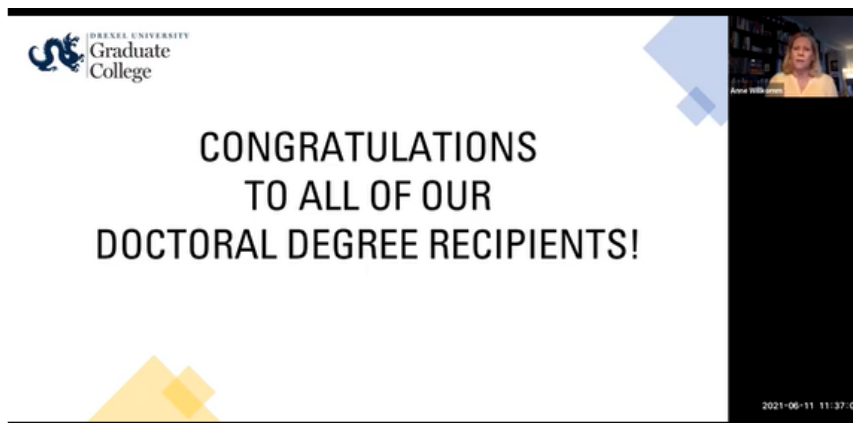
*Includes fall, winter and spring quarter graduates:*

- ⇒ **1,932** Total Degree Recipients
- ⇒ **211** PhD and Doctoral Degree Recipients
- ⇒ **1,515** Master's Degree Recipients
- ⇒ **206** Certificates Awarded

Visit the [Commencement website](#) for a recap! Class of 2020 and 2021 graduates were honored at an in-person University-wide Commencement ceremony at Citizens Bank Ballpark the evening of Friday, June 11, a long-awaited celebration!



**Congratulations to the  
Class of 2020 & 2021!  
#ForeverDragons**



## LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on the 2020-2021 Academic Year, it is difficult not to focus on the incredible challenges we have faced and continue to face as a society. We are reminded of A.J. Drexel's words—*"The world is going to change, and therefore, the University must change with it."* And yet, these challenges have provided us with unique opportunities to rethink the way we teach, learn, work, conduct research, communicate, and connect with one another. We also acknowledge the growth we have experienced as individuals, as a University, and as a society. We are lifelong learners, ever-navigating our own "new normal."



The Graduate College would like to recognize and thank our graduate student and postdoc leaders, deans, associate deans, and faculty and professional staff advisors who help us support nearly 8,000 graduate students, both on campus and online. We are proud to work with a small, but highly motivated team of individuals in the Graduate College, but we could not do what we do without our academic and campus partners.

As we look ahead to a new academic year, ***we are excited to welcome students back to campus as we fully reopen for the fall term!*** We have a series of [virtual and in-person orientation programs](#) and events planned to welcome both new and returning students, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to visit our [office](#) and [lounge](#) spaces. We encourage you to take advantage of all that is available to you, both on campus and online/virtually!

We also remain vigilant as we understand that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact daily life. As things continue to change and evolve, we encourage you to refer to and following the guidance of the Return Oversight Committee via [Drexel's Response to Coronavirus website](#), as well as local and national officials.

The truth is, we don't know exactly what this year will look like, but we are certain that we will continue to support and develop programs and initiatives that enhance the graduate student and scholar experience, preparing our students and postdocs for the new world of work. We will design policies and procedures that put students first and advocate for the needs of graduate students and postdocs University-wide. We will practice and promote health and safety, diversity, equity and inclusion, and research and scholarship.

Best wishes for the 2021-2022 Academic Year! We look forward to seeing you on campus and sharing a cup of coffee *very soon*.

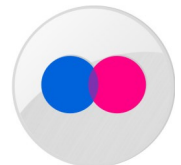
-The Graduate College Team







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