

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE  
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
2004-2005

The School of Graduate Studies reports here that graduate student enrollments for the 2004-2005 academic year saw record highs in both total enrollment at 2584 and in doctoral enrollment specifically, with an increase from 539 to 591 students. The number of masters students decreased slightly from 2014 students in 2003-2004 to 1993 students last year. This report will also provide information on initiatives of the Graduate School during last year and where major effort will be placed during the upcoming academic year. Primarily, we intend to continue major efforts to recruit students into USU graduate programs, generate additional support for graduate education, and we continued to strive to make the Graduate School more responsive to the needs of USU's students and faculty.

We have organized this report into three sections. Part one outlines activities and achievements for 2004-2005. Part two provides general information about the mission of the Graduate School and information concerning last year's actions by the Graduate Council. Part three consists of statistics about USU's graduate education system. The appendix to this report contains tabulated data about last year's graduate students.

**I. CHANGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND NEW INITIATIVES**

**A. Changes and Achievements for 2004-2005**

There were several changes in senior personnel of the School of Graduate Studies. At the beginning of the year Dr. Tom Kent left USU and Dr. Laurens Smith replaced him in an interim capacity. Dr. Shelley Lindauer was named as Interim Associate Dean. Pete Morris was hired to replace retired Diana Thimmes as Admissions Officer. KayDawn Israelson replaced Jeannene Nielson who retired in May. In the face of these changes the priorities for the School of Graduate Studies during the 2004-05 academic year continued to focus primarily on aspects of the Graduate School's compact plan. Specifically, we sought to improve graduate recruitment efforts, continued addressing financial issues of graduate students through fellowships, awards, waivers, and tuition remissions, and moved forward on other program matters.

**1. Graduate Student Recruitment**

Dr. Shelley Lindauer made major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2004-2005. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized

visits to a larger number of regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate students, awarded funds to improve unit recruitment efforts to departments, expanded advertising of USU graduate programs, implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students and accumulated a total of over 5500 referrals, ten times more than in any single previous year. New efforts were made to begin tracking students through the recruitment process to analyze the effectiveness of our recruitment strategy. The Graduate School also continued to visit departments to discuss recruitment strategies and provided support for departments to access recruitment training opportunities.

## **2. Graduate Student Funding**

The Graduate School was able to continue financial support of graduate students with a variety of mechanism including new fellowships available through the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA), a COS/COE diversity fellowship, and the largest number of dissertation fellowships. We provided substantial numbers of tuition waivers and remissions, and continued support for Native American students, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly. Data provided later in this report will show that graduate student support for 2004-2005 increased 17% to over \$4.2M.

In addition to funding to support travel by graduate students presenting at professional meetings and conferences offered through the Graduate Student Senate, for the first time the Graduate School offered travel funding for students to advance their scholarly efforts.

## **3. Graduate Council Activities**

Although described in more detail in a later section of this report, the USU Graduate Council act on new acted on new graduate program proposals and a variety of graduate issues.

## **4. Graduate Application Processing and Student Training**

With the university's implementation of elements of Banner, it was necessary that the Graduate School offer an on-line graduate application, which was launched on December 22. To facilitate department access to graduate application information and all applicant materials, the Graduate School established an electronic records keeping software system, eDrawer.

The Graduate School offered a mid-year opportunity for the mandatory training of graduate students employed as graduate teaching assistants. An on-line teacher training workshop was created and offered in December for graduate TAs starting in January.

## II. MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### A. Graduate Council

The Graduate Council reviews and approves the policies and regulations for graduate studies at USU and advises the dean on their application. Listed below are the Graduate Council Members who served in 2004-2005.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Kenneth L. White	Agriculture	2006
Glenn McEvoy	Business	2005
Susan Crowley	Education	2006
Chuck Swenson	Engineering	2005
Mark Zachry	HASS	2006
Todd Crowl	Natural Resources	2006
Richard Cutter	Science	2004
Douglas R. Ramsey	Faculty Senate	2006
John Elsweiler	Library	Ex Off
Thomas Kent	School of Graduate Studies	Ex Off
A. J. Rounds	Graduate Student Senate President	2005
Cory Davidson	Graduate Student Senate Vice President	2005

### A. Major Graduate Council Actions: 2004-2005

A proposal to increase the 12-month base amount for a graduate assistant from the current maximum of \$40,000 to \$60,000 (or a maximum total salary at .50FTE fo \$30,000) was approved (9/8/04).

A proposal to use an "I" grade for ongoing thesis/dissertation research, and a P/F grade once the thesis or dissertation is completed was approved (9/8/04).

A proposal to increase the limit on the nonresident tuition waiver for a master's degree from 36 credits to 40 credits was approved (10/13/04).

A proposal to change the application fee structure to \$55 for both domestic and international students (effective 12/22/04 to accommodate the switch to Banner [electronic] applications) was approved (11/10/04).

A proposal from the Department of Computer Science to offer a specialization in Bioinformatics was approved (2/16/05).

A proposal from the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology to change the name of the Social Problems specialization to Social Problems and Inequality, and the Sociology of Development specialization to Social Change and Development specialization was approved (2/16/05).

A proposal from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to create a one-member supervisory committee (major professor) for students in the Master of Engineering program (plan C, coursework only) was approved (3/23/05).

#### **A. Funding for Graduate Students**

The following funds were made available for student support through the Graduate Dean's office in 2003-2004

\$180,000	Presidential Fellowships
165,000	Research V.P. Fellowships
96,000	University Fellowships
17,137	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships
3,805,799	Out-of-State Tuition Waivers and Doctoral In-state Tuition Remission, and Instate Tuition Scholarships
\$4,263,936	Total

#### **B. Graduate Student Travel**

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) administers funds from the School of Graduate Studies and from the Vice President for Research for travel cost for graduate students who present papers at professional meetings. Master's students are eligible for one \$300 award and doctoral students are eligible for two \$300 awards during their degree programs. Students can receive funding for USU-generated papers presented up to three months after graduation, with appropriate recognition of USU on the paper.

Of the 119 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2004-2005, 116 were approved and traveled, with a total expenditure of \$34,800. There were 11 fewer awards than in 2002-2003.

### **III. ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

#### **A. Applications**

Applications for graduate study at USU during 2004-2005 is difficult to determine exactly because of the recent conversion to Banner reporting systems. Some applicant information was compiled in SIS prior to Banner application processing. However, we will report the data as it currently exists. The total number of Fall 2005 applications when SIS and Banner data are combined was approximately 2700. We do not have data for spring 2005 or summer 2005 which would increase the total for the year above 2700. Total applications for 2003-2004 was 2994. Another way to assess total applications is the application revenue during the course of the year. According to this figure, total 2004-2005 applications was about 1% greater than 2003-2004. Table 2 gives a history of application numbers for recent years.

#### **B. Enrollments**

Total matriculated graduate student enrollment for Fall 2004 was 2,584, 12.7% of all USU students and a 2.0% increase from Fall 2003 (Table 3). The total of matriculated graduate students plus post baccalaureate, nonmatriculated students was 3,914, an increase of 5.7% over last year.

The number of master's students for 2004-05 decreased by 1% from 2014 to 1993 students (Table 4). There was an increase of 52 doctoral students to a total of 591 in Fall 2004; a 9.7% increase from Fall 2003 and a new record high.

#### **C. Degrees Awarded**

Numbers of degree types and their department distribution is unavailable at present because of database accessibility. However, 370 masters and 34 doctoral students attended December commencement. 456 Masters and 30 doctoral students attended spring 2005 commencement.

#### **D. Student Diversity**

American ethnic minority students continue to be a relatively small percentage of USU's matriculated graduate students. The total for the principle minority groups decreased about 4% in 2004-05 (Table 5).

TABLE 1

**Scholarship In-State Tuition Waivers  
2004-05**

<b><u>College</u></b>	<b><u>Resident Semesters</u></b>	<b><u>Nonresident Semesters</u></b>
Agriculture	6	1
Business	10	1
Education	12	5
Engineering	9	5
Family Life	0	0
HASS	9	4
Natural Resources	4	4
Science	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>

TABLE 2

**Graduate Applications for Admission  
to Graduate Study  
1989-90 to 2003-04**

<u>Requested Year of Study</u>	<u>Number</u>
1989-90	(NA, computer failure)
1990-91	2469
1991-92	2667
1992-93	3162
1993-94	2933
1994-95	3203
1995-96	2997
1996-97	3085
1997-98	2586
1998-99	2360
1999-2000	2825
2000-01	3039
2001-02	3183
2002-03	3316
2003-04	2994
2004-05	See text

**TABLE 3**  
**USU FALL QUARTER/SEMESTER ENROLLMENTS, <sup>a</sup> 1994-2004**

Year	Total		Undergraduates			Graduate Students <sup>b</sup>			Matriculated Graduate Students		
	N	% Change	N	Total	Change	N	% Total	% Change	N	% Total	% Change
1994	20,371	10.7	16,032	78.7%	7.5	4,339	21.3%	24.5	2,261	11.1%	3.1
1995	19,861	-2.5	16,197	79.5%	1.0	3,664	18.0%	-15.6	2,289	11.2%	1.2
1996	20,808	4.8	16,703	82.0%	3.1	4,105	20.2%	12.0	2,321	11.4%	1.4
1997	21,234	2.0	17,472	85.8%	4.6	3,762	18.5%	-8.4	2,517	12.4%	8.4
1998	19,322	-9.0	16,507	81.0%	-5.5	2,815	13.8%	-25.2	2,085	10.2%	-17.2
1999	20,865	8.0	17,228	84.6%	4.4	3,637	17.9%	29.2	2,282	11.2%	9.4
2000	21,490	3.0	17,903	87.9%	3.9	3,587	17.6%	-1.4	2,210	10.8%	-3.2
2001	23,001	7.0	19,295	94.7%	7.8	3,706	18.2%	3.3	2,443	12.0%	10.5
2002	22,848	-0.7	19,736	96.9%	2.3	3,112	15.3%	-16.0	2,446	12.0%	0.1
2003	23,474	2.7	19,782	97.1%	0.2	3,692	18.1%	18.6	2,553	12.5%	4.4
2004	23,908	1.8	19,994	98.1%	1.1	3,914	19.2%	6.0	2,584	12.7%	1.2

<sup>a</sup>Total students, budget-related and self-supported.

<sup>b</sup>Matriculated and postbaccalaureate, nonmatriculated students.

Source: 1994-2001, Analysis, Accreditation, & Assessment, USU Fact Books; 2002 & 2003 Enrollment Summary Report

TABLE 4

**USU FALL QUARTER/SEMESTER MATRICULATED  
GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT, BY LEVEL, 1994-2004**

Year	Master's			Doctorate			Total		
	N	Change		N	Change		N	% Change	
		N	%		N	%			
1994	1,771	54	3.1	490	13	2.7	2,261	3.1	
1995	1,791	20	1.1	498	8	1.6	2,289	1.2	
1996	1,862	71	4.0	459	-39	-7.8	2,321	1.4	
1997	2,120	258	13.9	397	-62	-13.5	2,517	8.4	
1998	1,716	-404	-19.1	369	-28	-7.1	2,085	-17.2	
1999	1,914	198	11.5	368	-1	-0.3	2,282	9.4	
2000	1,812	-102	-5.3	398	30	8.2	2,210	-3.2	
2001	2,037	225	12.4	406	8	2.0	2,443	10.5	
2002	1,956	-81	-4.0	490	84	20.7	2,446	0.1	
2003	2,014	58	3.0	539	49	10.0	2,553	4.4	
2004	1,993	-21	-1.0	591	52	9.6	2,584	1.2	
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Change									
1994-2004		243	13.7		526	10.0		292	12.9

Source: 1994-2001, Analysis, Accreditation, & Assessment, USU Fact Books; 2002-2004 Enrollment Summary Report

**TABLE 5**  
**Matriculated Ethnic Minority Graduate Student Enrollments**  
**by Degree Level, Fall Quarter 1993-2004<sup>a</sup>**

Year	Master's						Doctorate						Total					
	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total	% <sup>a</sup>	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total	% <sup>a</sup>	Am Ind	Asian	Black	Hisp	Total	% <sup>a</sup>
1993	3	30	4	18	55	3.2	5	13	2	11	31	6.5	8	43	6	29	86	3.9
1994	4	26	7	19	56	3.2	7	9	1	11	28	5.7	11	35	8	30	84	3.7
1995	7	25	5	13	50	2.8	5	12	3	8	28	5.6	12	37	8	21	78	3.4
1996	9	27	6	17	59	3.2	5	9	3	8	25	5.4	14	36	9	25	84	3.6
1997	14	24	7	28	73	3.4	7	7	3	8	25	6.3	21	31	10	36	98	3.9
1998	7	19	7	16	49	2.9	6	5	1	6	18	4.9	13	24	8	22	67	3.2
1999	5	21	6	13	45	2.4	7	3	4	9	23	6.3	12	24	10	22	68	3.0
2000	6	19	14	16	55	3.0	7	5	3	9	24	6.0	13	24	7	25	79	3.1
2001	11	26	6	24	67	3.3	6	6	2	8	22	5.4	17	32	8	46	89	3.6
2002	5	16	9	18	48	2.5	5	7	3	9	24	4.9	10	23	12	27	72	0.1
2003	8	21	5	20	54	2.7	4	8	3	8	23	4.3	12	29	8	28	77	3.0
2004	4	19	5	19	47	2.4	5	8	3	10	26	4.4	9	27	8	29	73	2.8

<sup>a</sup> Percent of all master's, doctoral, matriculated graduate students.

Source: Office of Planning and Analysis, *USU Fact Books, Enrollment Summary 2004*.