

GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
L A F A Y E T T E

Graduate
School

SEPTEMBER 2024

Message from the Dean

MARY FARMER-KAISER, PH.D.

Welcome to Fall 2024. I'm so glad that you're here!

Creating a place where grad students thrive remains our mission, and we've made significant investments as we prepared for 2024-2025. The University has committed the largest single-year increase in direct support to graduate students in decades (maybe ever). We've boosted minimum stipend levels for assistantships and fellowships, enhanced support for K-12 educators and nursing professionals, and doubled funding for doctoral student research and travel. Employees pursuing grad degrees now can enjoy tuition exemption for our online programs. Most importantly, we've welcomed one of our largest cohorts of new faculty, for they too are an investment in expanding high-quality, accessible graduate education at our University.

This Fall, we are also welcoming our largest class of new doctoral students ever--no doubt a reflection of these investments.

Thriving in grad school requires more than financial resources. It demands inspiration, accountability, and community. Faculty mentors who encourage and guide you through challenges and uncertainty are invaluable. Even the Shopper Shuttle, taking you to Walmart on a Friday afternoon, meets a real need for our many grads. We recognize there's more to be done, and we're committed to continuing our efforts to resource you for success.

Now I need you to fully invest in yourself and each other. This means more than staying on top of your studies. It means actively seeking support and opportunities that will propel you forward. Connect with faculty. Engage with peers. Make use of all the resources designed for your success. Take ownership of your journey and push beyond your comfort zone. You and your future are well worth the investment!

Let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and even more meaningful progress!

Dr. MFK

"Equally critical to our research and academic missions are our graduate students. We call them students, but they are more than that. They are mentors and teachers in the classroom. They are out in the field and in labs doing research. They are examples of professionalism and responsibility."

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE

UL Lafayette President
2024 State of the
University Address





Upcoming Events

Mondays - Wake Up and Write!

Every Monday morning when the University is open, grad students and faculty write, read, and think at the Alumni Center Board Room from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The Grad School provides coffee, breakfast treats, and quiet. You provide the focus and progress. Parking is easy. No registration is required. **NEW THIS YEAR: Take advantage of on-site writing support from our editors during Wake Up and Write!**

9/4 - Part-Time Job & Volunteer Fair

This fair is a great chance for UL Lafayette students to connect with local employers, UL Lafayette departments, and non-profits for part-time, internship, and summer jobs. Brought to you by Career Services, this event will take place in the Student Union Ballroom from 10am-1pm.

9/11 - Money Matters:

Managing Money, Grad School, and Life: Balancing All Your Priorities

Join us for lunch and a Money Matters conversation with Dr. Brian Bolton focused on balancing multiple priorities as a graduate student. Lunch begins at 11:30 am in HLG 315, and the discussion starts at noon. [Advance registration is required.](#)

9/16 - Doctoral Research and Travel Grant Application Open

10/1 - Manuscript Workshop

Join us online from 4-5pm for an intro to what to expect and how to prepare when submitting your defended manuscript to the Grad School for review and final approval. [Register to get the Zoom link.](#)

10/1 - 3MT® Information Session

Get all the details for this year's Three Minute Thesis® Competition in Moody 103 at noon. We'll provide lunch and go over all the basics, including competition rules, tips, and strategies. [Advance registration is required.](#)



Downtown Alive!

featuring The Good Dudes



Join in the fun at the second annual **Ragin' Cajuns® Downtown Alive!** in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Happening on Friday, **September 6th** from **6 - 8:30 PM** at Parc Sans Souci, Downtown Lafayette. Enjoy free music, local food vendors, and beverages at the event—ice chests are not allowed. Don't miss out on Downtown Alive! and Evangeline Maid merch available for purchase.



Support our grad student athletes!

Volleyball @
Earl K.
Long Gym:

9/1 @ 11 am
9/10 @ 6 pm
9/19 @ 6 pm
9/20 @ 6 pm
9/27 @ 6 pm
9/28 @ 1 pm



Soccer @
Home Bank Soccer
& Track Complex

9/1 @ 5 pm
9/15 @ 1 pm
9/22 @ 1 pm
9/26 @ 7 pm



Football @
Cajun Field

9/21 @ TBA



Tennis @
Youngsville
Sports Complex

9/13-9/15 @ TBA

**September
Home Games**



RAGIN' CAJUNS

GSO News & Deadlines

Funding Deadline:

Friday, September 20th

General Meeting:

September 27th @ 12:30

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

September 9th @ 4 pm

Communications Committee Meeting:

September 19th @ 4 pm

Funding Committee Meeting:

September 23rd @ 3 pm



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Writing Lab

The **Writing Lab** supports grad students from all disciplines, no matter where they are in their writing process! Drop by Dupré Library 155A or schedule a virtual session to discuss your writing and take advantage of these additional resources. Whether you're a solid writer looking to put forth your best or a grad student writing in English as a second language, the Writing Lab is a resource designed for you.



Contact Information

writinglab@louisiana.edu

Instagram: @ulwritinglab

Phone: (337) 482-5224

Book a session on their bookings page.



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Graduate Student
Organization

SGA News & Deadlines

Learn More About SGA - Get Involved

Sessions: September 5th @ 5 pm in the Teche Room (Union) & September 10th @ 5:30 pm in the Evangeline Room (Union)

4 Graduate Student Representatives (a President & 3 Senators) Needed!!

Apply by: September 13th at noon,
Applications are available in the SGA Office (Union)

*Must be able to attend the mandatory candidates meeting on September 18th at 5:30 pm in the Louisianne Room (Union)



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Statistical Consulting Center

The **Statistical Consulting Center** offers statistical consulting to UL Lafayette grad students and faculty on research involving statistical methods.

Successful research requires planning. Contact Dr. Whitman and his team as early as possible as you plan and conduct your research. They will listen to your needs and work with you to understand the questions and objectives of your study. They will actively participate and help you formulate your problems in terms of statistical questions. They are ready to help you solve those problems, and work with you until the solutions are reasonable and understandable. They also will discuss with you what can, and cannot, be achieved using modern statistical methods.

Due to time limitations **graduate students receive priority in scheduling.**

Do NOT wait until the last minute to contact the Stats Center.

There could be a backlog later in the semester.

Schedule your initial consultation now!

Contact Information

Dr. Phillip Whitman, Director

204F Maxim Doucet Hall

phillip.whitman@louisiana.edu



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Student Government
Association



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA Lafayette

Register by September 27th

14-DAY WRITING CHALLENGE

- ✓ write for 30 minutes
- ✓ Monday-Friday
- ✓ for 14 days

kickstart your daily writing habit and sign up today!

October 7th - October 20th

Looking Ahead to October

Learn more and register at louisiana.edu/graduateschool

10/1 - Manuscript Workshop

10/1 - 3MT Info Session

10/3 & 10/4 - Fall Break

10/9 - 3MT Info Session

10/10 - Money Matters

10/16 - Manuscript Workshop

10/29 - Money Matters

10/30 - 3MT Workshop

What is?



NCFDD is a professional development, training, and mentoring community that can help you achieve extraordinary writing and research productivity while maintaining a full and healthy life off campus.

Who?

YOU! All graduate students, faculty, postdocs, and staff have access to free membership by virtue of the University's institutional membership.

How?

Visit ncfdd.org/join to activate your account! No need to wait, do it now. Scroll down to select the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and use your University email address.

Programs & Resources Offered

- Monday Motivator
- Core Curriculum Webinars
- Guest Expert Webinars
- Discussion Forum
- Dissertation Success Curriculum
- Accountability Buddy Matches
- 14-Day Writing Challenge
- And More!

Grad School Essentials

Don't Become a Book Zombie!

New to grad school? Don't get lost in the sea of readings! Check out our latest blog for essential tips on reading like a grad student. Learn how to efficiently pinpoint the key argument (thesis) and save time with smart reading strategies from Zachary Shore's Grad School Essentials.





LinkedIn Learning

***Available to all UL Lafayette students for FREE!**

LinkedIn Learning is an online platform offering over 5,000 expert-led courses in business, technology, and creativity. It provides personalized recommendations to help you discover, complete, and track relevant courses.

Here are some starter courses for grad students looking to maximize time, focus, and impact:

Professional Development: Performers, Effective Listening, Time Management, Giving and Receiving Feedback

Microsoft Office: Excel training, Word Essential training, PowerPoint Essential Training

Adobe Products: Outlook Essential training, PivotTables for Beginners, SharePoint Accessibility and Web Design

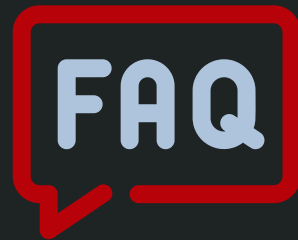
Starting a New Job: Strategies for your first 90 days, Business Etiquette, Connect Meaningfully

Resumes and Job Searching: Rock Your LinkedIn Profile, Writing a Cover Letter, Mastering Common Interview Questions

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging: Inclusive Mindset, Confronting Bias, Communicating with Empathy

Hybrid and Remote Work Skills: How to Stand Out Remotely, Time Management, Enhance Productivity in a Hybrid Work Environment

Virtual Meetings: Zoom Essential Training, Microsoft Teams Quick Tips



CLICK HERE



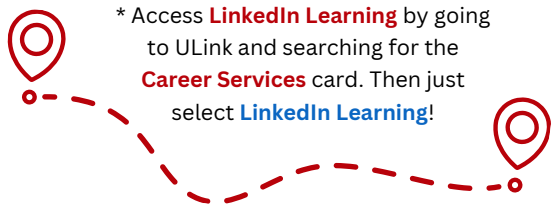
#ULGradGoodNews

**Your stories inspire us,
so don't hold back.**

Hey awesome grad students! As you navigate your grad studies, generating new knowledge and creative works, we want to hear more about the good stuff. Tell us about something cool you did, a recent accomplishment, and what your amazing colleague or mentor did that made you (and them) proud.

**Share the good, and let's
celebrate together!**

Use <https://bit.ly/ULGradGoodNews> to tell us something good!



* Access **LinkedIn Learning** by going to ULink and searching for the **Career Services** card. Then just select **LinkedIn Learning!**



Grad Education in the News

"On the Dissertation: You Don't Have to Write It in Order, Chronicle of Higher Education," 14 February 2024.

"Embassy Closure Forces Bangladeshi Students to Defer U.S.," Enrollment, Inside Higher Ed, 23 August 2024.

"Rethinking Graduate Advising," Inside Higher Ed, 23 August 2024.



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@ULGradSchool



@ULGradSchool



University of Louisiana
at Lafayette Graduate School

Important Dates and Deadlines

- 9/9: Deadline to Apply for Candidacy
- 9/23: Graduate Foreign Language Examinations
- 9/27: Deadline for Fall 2024 Degree Candidates (This is the deadline to apply for graduation!)
- 10/1: Fall Grad Expo from 2-5pm in the Alumni Center
- 10/2: Fall Grad Expo from 9am-1pm in the Alumni Center



Key Resources for Grad Students

Campus Cupboard supplies free, nonperishable items to meet students' temporary food needs. Location: 210 E. St. Mary Blvd

Career Closet provides students with free, gently used professional clothing items for interviews, career fairs, and other professional networking events. Location: 210 E. St. Mary Blvd

Career Services provides services to students in career planning, development, and job-seeking strategies. Location: Agnes Edwards Hall, Room 104

The Counseling and Testing Center offers free counseling, crisis intervention, and short-term psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and groups. Location: Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall

Uwill Student Mental Health & Wellness offers free immediate access to teletherapy. Help is available 24/7/365. Scan the QR code to get started using your UL email.



The Office of Disability Services establishes eligibility and facilitates services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Location: Agnes Edwards Hall, Room 126

Graduate Student Organization and **Student Government Association** advocate for all graduate students and offer funding to help offset the cost of research and travel. Locations: gso.louisiana.edu and sga.louisiana.edu

The Shopper Shuttle runs on Friday afternoons on the hour from 2-7pm from campus to Walmart. Location: Catch the shuttle at the Union or Cajun Village

The Writing Lab offers a writing community for students and faculty with a comfortable space where writers work with other writers. Visit to discuss writing, receive feedback and help, and take advantage of tutoring services. Location: Dupré Library First Floor

October Festivals



October 11 - 13
Girard Park



October 19
1-5 pm
Downtown Lafayette



October
25-26
Vermilionville