

GRAD IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2025



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

**Graduate
School**

Message from the Dean

MARY FARMER-KAISER, PH.D.

Welcome to a new academic year! Whether you're just beginning your grad journey or returning with goals in sight, I hope this Fall semester brings focus, momentum, and a few moments of surprise joy.

This summer, I learned a word from Professor Emeritus Lynda Frese that has stayed with me: *mudita*. It's a Sanskrit term meaning to take joy in someone else's success—not out of comparison, but out of shared pride and community. I feel that often as I watch grad students defend theses, win awards, and move into their next chapters. It's a joy and a privilege to witness.

Behind the scenes this summer, this joy was felt too as we finalized three major projects, all designed to make grad life at UL Lafayette a little clearer, more supported, and better connected:

- A brand-new **Graduate Assistantship Handbook**, created for both grad students and the supervisors who mentor you. It offers practical guidance, clear expectations, important policies, and tips for navigating the unique dual role of grad student and grad student employee.
- New **guidance on the use of generative AI in graduate education research**—because these tools are evolving fast, and it's essential to engage with them thoughtfully and with disciplinary clarity (and faculty support).
- Updated **guidelines for theses, dissertations, and synthesis project writers**, so you know exactly what to expect when it's time to submit your defended manuscript.

Each of these resources reflects much collaboration, especially the new assistantship handbook. Faculty from across campus shaped it, and we're grateful to the Graduate Council and Associate Dean Paul Leberg for leading the effort. We hope these tools make your path a little smoother.

You'll find links to all three guides in this newsletter, along with additional updates, resources, and events to help you start strong.

Wishing you a semester of discovery, momentum, and maybe even a little *mudita*.

—Dr. MFK

**“The more I help out,
the more successful I
become. But I measure
success in what it has
done for the people
around me. That is the
real accolade.”**

ADAM GRANT

*Give and Take: Why Helping
Others Drives Our Success*





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, support from our editors, and quiet. You provide the focus and progress. Parking is easy. No registration is required.

9/5 - Louisiana Impact Research Summit

Join us on Friday, 9/5 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LITE Center as faculty and grad students deliver brief presentations about their sustainability-related research. Lunch will be provided. [Registering in advance.](#)

9/5 - A2i+ Career Insights: Standing Out in a World Transformed by AI

Join the Accelerate to Industry (A2i+) grad community for career advice blended with an insider's look at Lenovo's Advanced AI Technology Center, a horizontal platform AI group powering company innovation. [Register for the virtual session at 12-1pm CST via NC State by selecting the Career Readiness A2i+ 9/5 program.](#)

9/10 - Money Matters Lunch & Learn: Budgeting

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

9/11 - NCFDD: Overcoming Academic Perfectionism

Join this Zoom webinar presented by NCFDD on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 1–2 p.m. to explore the causes and impacts of academic perfectionism. Learn strategies to recognize when perfectionism is helpful—and harmful—and how to find real satisfaction in every step of the writing process. [Register using your NCFDD institutional membership for the Zoom link.](#)

9/5 - A2i+ Career Insights: Translating Graduate-Level Skills to Industry

Join the A2i grad community for career advice blended with an insider's look at Lenovo's Advanced AI Technology Center, a horizontal platform AI group powering innovation company wide. [Register for this virtual session at 12-1pm CST via NC State by selecting the Career Readiness A2i+ 9/19 program.](#)

9/24 - A2i+ Industry Insights with the Opportunity Machine

Join us the for an A2i+ evening at the Opportunity Machine (Downtown at 314 Jefferson St.) from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Learn from industry professionals about how they got started and what they're looking for from you. Whatever your discipline, come for dinner, networking, and a discussion focused on translating your advanced skills for industry employers. [Advance registration is required.](#)

9/30 - UL Career Fair

The All Majors Career Fair will be held on Tuesday, 9/30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cajundome Convention Center. Meet with local, state, and national employers as well as graduate schools to explore full-time jobs, internships, co-ops, and more. Don't miss the free professional head shot booth and the Career Closet for professional attire!



Downtown Alive!

featuring The Good Dudes



Join the fun at the third annual **Ragin' Cajuns® Downtown Alive!** in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Happening on Friday, **September 9** 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.



GSO News & Deadlines

Funding Deadline:

Friday, September 19th

General Meeting:

September 26th @ 12:30 pm

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

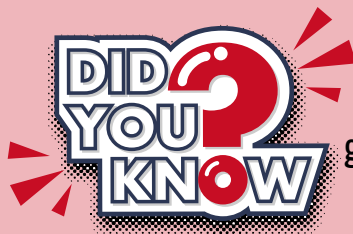
September 24th @ 3 pm

Communications Committee Meeting:

September 23rd @ 2 pm

Funding Committee Meeting:

September 22nd @ 3 pm



If there's no GSO representative, grad students in your department are not eligible for GSO funding!

Current GSO Representative Vacancies:

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Chemistry
- Criminal Justice
- Educational Curriculum & Instruction
- Engineering Technology
- Kinesiology
- Music
- Physics

Talk to your Graduate Coordinator or reach out directly to GSO at gso@louisiana.edu to learn more.



SGA News & Deadlines

Learn More About SGA - Get Involved

Sessions: September 4th @ 6 pm in the Teche Room (Union) & September 10th @ 6 pm in the Evangeline Room (Union)

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

Apply by: September 12th at noon,
Applications are available in the SGA Office (Union)

***Must be able to attend the mandatory candidates meeting on September 17th at 6 pm in the Vermilion 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





Register by October 24

14-DAY WRITING CHALLENGE

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

kickstart your daily writing habit and sign up today!

November 3 - November 16

Looking Ahead to October

Learn more and register at louisiana.edu/graduateschool

10/7 - 3MT Info Session

10/2 & 10/3 - Fall Break

10/8 - Money Matters

10/15 - 3MT Info Session

10/22 - Manuscript Workshop

10/28 - Academic Support Workshop: Writer's Block

10/30 - 3MT Workshop

10/30 - Acadiana Center for the Arts + Grad School Insiders' Salon

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 <https://louisiana.edu/graduateschool/tools-success/ncfdd-membership> to learn more and 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!

Campus Groups

We're excited to announce that Graduate School programming and event registration will now be managed through Campus Groups! Grad students can easily sign on and register using their UL Lafayette credentials via ULink. Through Campus Groups, you can keep track of your events and explore student organizations on campus.

Get involved! Connect with others! Never miss an event again! Plus, this new system will streamline check-in at Grad School Lunch & Learns and other events. No more waiting in line!



The Graduate School, the Division of Research, Innovation, and Community Development, and Academic Affairs **together with Dr. Brian Bolton**, are proud to announce the recipients of **Round 4 of the Sustainable Development Research Awards**, now transitioning to the **Louisiana Impact Awards**.



This round recognizes 11 faculty members and 25 graduate students, along with undergraduate and postdoctoral researchers, for innovative projects across disciplines.

Rounds 3 and 4 awardees will share their work

at the **Louisiana Impact Research Summit on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025**, at the LITE Center. The event is free and open to the public with registration. Lunch is even included!

👉 **Meet the Round 4 winners and register for the Louisiana Impact Research Summit here!**



SGA Wants to know what GRAD students think!

Scan and let your VOICE be HEARD!



2 NEW Grad Programs

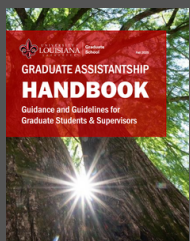
The Louisiana Board of Regents has approved two new grad programs that will be coming soon:

- Applied Computing & Information Sciences, Ph.D.
- Biomedical Science, M.S.

#ULGradGoodNews

Graduate Assistantship Handbook

The Graduate Assistantship Handbook identifies expectations, policies, and resources for both grad students and assistantship supervisors. [Read the handbook here.](#)



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 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!

Grad Education in the News

"What to Do When Career Planning Feels Impossible," Chronicle of Higher Education, 1 August 2025.

"Why Grad Students Can't Afford to Ignore AI," Inside Higher Ed, 28 July 2025.

"Visa Delays Persist, Causing Some Students to Defer to Spring," Inside Higher Ed, 27 August 2025.

Writing Tips & Tools

with Jamie Benner, Ph.D.



The Graduate School's manuscript support team entered this semester on note of success—we published an updated version of the **Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Theses, Dissertations, and Synthesis Projects** adjusted to meet current student needs.

Here are a few resources you can find in the Fall 2025 update:

- Guidance and examples for acknowledging funding sources,
- Guidance and resources on copyright protection,
- Guidance and resources on selecting and using a preferred scholarly name,
- Guidance and resources to support understanding of embargoes,
- Guidance on use and disclosure of generative AI in your scholarship, and
- Clarity on how to list committee members in theses, dissertations, and synthesis projects.

If you're interested in learning more about copyright, scholarly names, or manuscripts in general, I highly recommend perusing our Guidelines.

Perhaps the most significant addition is inclusion of the Graduate School's **guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) in graduate research**. When we say “generative artificial intelligence,” we mean ChatGPT, Gemini, and all other programs that can generate portions of images, video, audio, text, or code. Permissible use requires transparency and disclosure, faculty engagement, and ethical use and awareness.

GAI tools rely on material obtained through methods that blur the lines of authorial consent. They can construct a draft, but that draft will fall victim to set configurations and data biases that the tool lacks the ability to recognize and overcome. Beyond accountability and authorship demands, important considerations involving copyright and intellectual property, data privacy and security, and plagiarism and academic integrity come into play when using GAI.

You are the author. You must accept responsibility for your work and any that tools you use. Read the guidance. Get familiar with academic and research expectations in your discipline. The knowledge will come in handy, and as you stretch your scholarly abilities, you will continue to advance and grow.

Poster Printing? We've got you covered!

Quick Summary: Did you know that the Grad School will cover the cost of printing your conference research poster? In partnership with the Student Government Association and Print & Ship, the Graduate School is making poster printing easier for grad students. Print & Ship is located on campus and is now home to the Grad School's poster printer. As funding permits, you can print one research poster—for presentation at an academic conference or research event—per semester. To use this service, complete the **Graduate School Poster Printing Request Form** and attach your 48"x36" PDF. Allow 3-5 business days for printing and pickup your poster at Print & Ship.





2025 Inn-eaux-vate Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition



Competition Purpose

An opportunity for students to pitch business ideas to a panel of alumni judges.

Pitch Timeline

10/13 - Applications Due
 10/20 - Finalists Announced
 11/20 - Final Pitch (3-5:30 PM at Opportunity Machine)

Awards

1st Place: \$10,000
 2nd Place: \$7,500
 3rd Place: \$5,000
 4th Place: \$2,500
 Finalists: \$1,000

Optional Information Sessions

Located in F.G. Mouton 204:
 9/8 @ 4-4:30PM
 9/15 @ 5:30-6PM
 9/23 @ 11-11:30AM
 10/6 @ 3:30-4PM

Scan below to Apply Now!


 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
 LAFAYETTE
 B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration



Questions? Email josh.bendickson@louisiana.edu



@ULLafayetteGraduateSchool



@ULGradSchool



@ULGradSchool

University of Louisiana
at Lafayette Graduate School



Get Outside Get Involved

Downtown Alive!

Sept. 5 @ 6 PM - Parc Sans Souci

Trivia Night

Sept. 11 @ 6 PM - Moncus Park

September ArtWalk

Sept. 13 @ 5PM - Downtown Lafayette

Dogtoberfest 2025

Sept. 20 @ 11 AM - Adopted Dog Brewing

Language Cafe

Sept. 18 @ 6 PM - Moncus Park

Bayou Vermilionville Festival & Boat Parade

Sept. 27 @ 11:30 - Vermilionville

Louisiana Sugarcane Festival

Sept. 26-28 @ New Iberia, LA

Important Dates and Deadlines

9/8: Deadline to Apply for Candidacy

9/17: Grad Expo at the Alumni House

9/22: Graduate Foreign Language Examinations

9/26: Deadline for Fall 2025 Degree Candidates
(This is the deadline to apply for graduation!)



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