



## Supporting and Promoting Graduate Student Success

Currently, Stanislaus State has 391 students enrolled in 7 postbaccalaureate credential programs, 40 students enrolled as unclassified postbaccalaureate, and 684 students enrolled in 17 graduate programs (16 master's and 1 doctoral). At the foundation of student success is high quality academic programs and instruction. On top of that foundation, postbaccalaureate credential students are supported from application through completion by the [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Office](#), with information sessions, support in the application process, California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) preparation workshops, and professional networking and development opportunities.

Stanislaus State supports its master's and doctoral graduate students from application through graduation through the following: supporting students in their exploration and application to graduate school; orienting incoming graduate students through the New Graduate Student Welcome Event; providing advising, academic support, mentoring, and professional development opportunities within the graduate programs; and providing academic support and scholarly enrichment programs through the Center for Excellence in Graduate Education.

### Support for Graduate School Exploration and Application:

Through its [Center for Excellence in Graduate Education](#) (CEGE), its new [McNair Scholars Program](#) housed in the Honor's Program, and the [Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program](#) funded through the Chancellor's Office and administered through CEGE, the University supports prospective graduate students with the following: providing resources to explore graduate studies, including graduate school information sessions and workshops, travel funds to visit graduate programs, and opportunities to experience research with a faculty mentor; and guidance and financial assistance to support the graduate school application process, here at Stanislaus State and elsewhere.

### New Graduate Student Welcome Event:

Once admitted to Stanislaus State as a master's or doctoral student, graduate students are invited to the [New Graduate Student Welcome Event](#) hosted by the Center for Excellence in Graduate Education. Students are introduced to all the resources available to graduate students, they meet faculty and other students in their program, and they hear from current graduate students and alumni about their experiences and strategies for success.

### Advising, Academic Support, Mentoring, and Professional Development Opportunities within the Individual Graduate Programs:

The core of the graduate experience exists within the 16 academic programs, where the faculty have cultivated rigorous, supportive, and scholarly program culture reflective of their respective disciplines. Each graduate program has a faculty director or coordinator who receives reassigned time for their responsibilities (varying by size of program), who facilitates outreach and recruitment, with support from the college dean and UEE as appropriate, and supports students in the application process. Once in the program, students receive advising from either the program coordinator/director or another assigned faculty member from the program,

depending on the structure of the program. Faculty within the program provide academic support to students within their courses, and refer students to resources such as CEGE and the Writing Center when additional support is needed. Each program has a culminating experience requirement (thesis, dissertation, project, or comprehensive exam), and each student has a faculty advisor guiding and mentoring students through that research/scholarly process. Additionally, the individual programs foster professional development through a variety of opportunities – through the curriculum with field experiences, internships, and community-based or service learning experiences, and/or through additional professional development and scholarly events and activities. Some examples include: graduate student panel discussions in the MA in History program, with graduating MA students describing their experiences applying for and being accepted to PhD programs; networking events hosted by the Master of Public Administration program and the Master of Business Administration Program, connecting their students with representatives from government agencies and businesses to learn about agency and industry expectations and processes; opportunities for graduate students in the MS in Ecology and Sustainability and in the MA in English programs to serve as teaching associates, where their graduate students are the instructors of record, for compensation, in undergraduate courses in their discipline; and joint scholarly endeavors in the MS in Nursing program, where faculty and students regularly co-present at professional regional and national conferences.

#### [Center for Excellence in Graduate Education:](#)

In addition to the advising, academic support, mentoring, and professional development opportunities provided by faculty in the academic programs, the Center for Excellence in Graduate Education (CEGE) offers a variety of academic support programs and other programs that enrich the graduate culture at Stanislaus State. Academic supports include: writing support programs, including the Drop-in Writing Support Program, the Writing Residency Program (where a cohort of students work in a writing community towards completion of their theses or dissertations), and the Doctoral Application Residency Programs (where a cohort of students work in a writing community towards completion of applications for doctoral programs); and the Quantitative Analysis Support Program, where students receive individualized coaching for statistical and other quantitative analyses related to their thesis or dissertation. Beyond academic support programs, CEGE also offers, in collaboration with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, research-related workshops, and opportunities through their joint Student Engagement in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (SERSCA) Program that enrich the graduate school culture, including Graduate Assistantships (employment opportunities to work alongside faculty on research and scholarly projects), mini-grants to fund research and scholarly endeavors, travel grants to support travel to participate in and present at professional conferences, and the annual [Stanislaus State Student Research Competition](#) that leads into the CSU Statewide Student Research Competition. In addition to these programs, CEGE administers two other programs funded by the Chancellor's Office – the Graduate Equity Fellowship program designed to defray the costs of tuition and books, and the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, designed to provide financial assistance for doctoral study, and to increase student success by providing academic support in the form of a faculty mentor. Through its complement of programming, CEGE serves approximately 50 prospective graduate students a year, and 70 graduate students per year. The Center is supported through a half-time faculty director, a half-time administrative support staff, a graduate assistant, a student assistant, and three faculty serving on a part-time basis as CEGE Coaches. Evidence suggests that students benefit from CEGE programming. For example, of the 16 students who received graduate

assistantships (GAs) in 2015-2016, 4 (25%) are currently enrolled in PhD programs, 3 (19%) contributed to the publication of a scholarly work, 9 (56%) contributed to presentations at scholarly conferences, 10 (63%) contributed to strengthened partnerships with off-campus organizations, and 7 (44%) contributed to revised curricular materials used in Stan State courses.

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