

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

at Mississippi State University[®]



Campus Tours

Need assistance with campus tours?
Contact Lindsey Shelton
(lshelton@grad.msstate.edu) or Natalie
Parrott (nparrott@grad.msstate.edu).

November Highlights

3 Minute Thesis Competition winners were announced on November 13th. Click [here](#) to view our 3MT 2020 winners!

Kudos

MSU-Meridian is now home to the only Master of Physician Assistant program offered at a public institution within the state. With medical needs on the rise and strong community support, MSU-Meridian is excited to welcome their first cohort this spring. In a state that is lacking in practitioners, these students will eventually provide much needed relief to the health care system, in both urban and rural areas. Of the 258 students that applied, 20 were offered a seat in the inaugural class. Compared to programs at both the regional and national levels, MSU-Meridian's physician assistant program provides prospective students with a cost-effective option to achieve their degree in just under two and half years.

Opportunities

Graduate School Orientation-Spring 2021 registration opens December 1st. Click [here](#) for more information.

Graduate Assistantship Teaching Workshop registration closes on December 7th for the Spring training. Click [here](#) for more information.

Additional Graduate Student Fellowship Opportunities can be found on our website [here](#).

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Graduate School,

On behalf of the Graduate School, I would like to thank and commend all of the faculty, staff and students for their exceptional efforts and collaborative spirit in enabling Mississippi State University to host on-campus and distance educational opportunities this fall semester under the most extreme and challenging conditions in living memory. In spite of the challenges, the university experienced record enrollment, much due to the significant increase in graduate student enrollment across almost every academic unit that offers a graduate program. Also, congratulations to the 273 fall graduates who will receive their diplomas following Commencement exercises, including 50 Doctoral, 6 Educational Specialists and 217 Masters students. We wish all every success in their future career endeavors. We are closing out a successful fall semester on a very high note. We reflect on the previous twelve months and give thanks for the many opportunities and blessings we have received. While we have encountered many challenges, said good bye to loved ones, and welcomed new additions into families, we can all be proud of the many accomplishments attained. We hope you had a pleasant Thanksgiving and we wish you all Seasons Greetings for the Christmas Holidays, safe travels and enjoy some quiet and relaxing time with family and friends. See you in 2021!

Best Regards,

Dr. Peter Ryan
Executive Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

2020-2021 GRAGS

Recipients Announced

Each fall, the Graduate School accepts proposals for Graduate Recruitment Assistance Grants (GRAGS). The purpose of these grants is to jump start programs that are looking to increase enrollment. This year, awards ranged from up to \$5,000 to assist with recruitment efforts and up to \$15,000 to be used as fellowship toppers to incentivize outstanding students to choose MSU. This year's recipients include:

Biochemistry, Molecular Biology,
Entomology, and Plant Pathology
Biological Sciences
Business
Chemistry
Classical & Modern Languages and Literature
Counseling, Educational
Psychology, and Foundations
Curriculum, Instruction and
Special Education
Food Science, Nutrition and Health
Promotion
History
Kinesiology
Mathematics and Statistics
Music
Physics and Astronomy
Psychology
Sociology

Poe named National Endowment of the Humanities Internship Recipient

A graduate student in Mississippi State University's English department, Katelyn Poe, garnered a prestigious internship this summer. Poe, a native of Valley Head, AL, earned her bachelor's degree in English in 2019 from MSU.



Katelyn Poe

Created in 1965, the National Endowment for the Humanities—an independent federal agency—is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, providing grants designed to strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges and facilitate research and original scholarship.

Poe plans to complete her master's degree in 2021.

Jackson named 2020 SREB Fellowship Recipient

Alexis Jackson, came to MSU in 2019 from Spanaway, Washington having earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at Washington State University. As a graduate student, Jackson is pursuing a dual master's and doctoral degree with a focus on clinical mental health and counselor education. The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Graduate School sponsor up to four SREB Fellowships per academic year. All Ph.D. granting majors at MSU are eligible to nominate scholars. Awardees receive three years of support including departmental assistantship, annual stipend, full tuition waiver, and participation in the annual scholars conference.



Alexis Jackson

Help us spotlight deserving students, faculty, and staff by contacting Natalie Parrott Coats, nparrott@grad.msstate.edu

Faculty Spotlight:

Communication is important and finding ways to be very intentional in engaging students is critical. The Graduate School is proud to promote examples of excellence among our MSU Faculty, especially during these challenging times.

Dr. Connor Ferguson

"I aim to work alongside each student in their projects – both in the field and in the laboratory or greenhouse as required. In facilitating their research, I am able to give them some insights as to what they are seeing in their results, and ask questions to get them to see the depths of what they are discovering in each project. Admittedly, this is a really helpful avenue for me as well as for the students providing insights and ideas that I never would have thought of myself. It's this kind of advisor-student relationship that is so formative for making scientists out of students from any undergraduate or graduate background –including myself. Learning never stops, even once the degree is earned."



Dr. Connor Ferguson
Plant & Soil Sciences

\$1.7M Adkerson Foundation gift creates online MSU master's accounting programs, minority fellowships; endows NABA chapter

The Richard C. Adkerson Family Foundation addresses two significant issues facing the southeastern United States with a gift to its namesake's alma mater, Mississippi State University.

The more than \$1.7 million gift will strengthen accounting education through accessibility by establishing two online graduate-level degree programs for the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy and bring fellowships to African Americans who enroll full time in the programs. Additionally, the gift endows a student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants for underrepresented undergraduate students to engage with professionals in their soon-to-be career fields of accounting, finance and related business professions.

Deadlines

Spring 2021 Degree Application Deadline Information

- Jan. 4th: Last day to defend thesis/ dissertation for Spring enrollment in GRD 9011
- Jan. 4th-5th: Graduate Teaching Workshop
- Jan. 5th: Spring 2021 Distance Application Deadline
- Jan. 11th- Mar. 26th: Apply online via myState for May graduation; \$50 fee

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela



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