New Graduate Student Orientation

August 10, 2020
Welcome to Rocky Top!

Congratulations on being a part of the Volunteer Family of graduate and professional students. Earning a graduate or professional degree opens the door to opportunities that change lives, and by beginning the pursuit of your degree, you are taking the first steps toward that new life. The process of earning a degree isn’t easy; it will require hard work, dedication, and persistence. Even though this hard work ultimately falls to you, you aren’t in this journey alone and you will be joined by faculty, staff and fellow students who will partner with you and assist you.

As you navigate your academic program, UT has opportunities for recreation, cultural enrichment, sports, and other world-class facilities that can allow you to connect with the campus. The Graduate School and our campus partners provide professional development events during the year, as well. You can visit our website and follow us on social media to learn about events and how to attend.

Fall 2020 will be different for all of us because of the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. The campus administration, staff and faculty have been working all summer to prepare for your arrival and to make our campus as safe as possible. We can’t fully eliminate risk, but if each of us takes responsibility for our own actions, we can mitigate the risk. Visit the university and the Graduate School if you have questions about how to safely navigate the fall semester.

It is normal to feel a bit uncertain and nervous when starting graduate school. Remember – YOU BELONG HERE! You earned the right to enroll and you have the skills and abilities to succeed. Get to know your fellow classmates and your professors because they are your first line of defense in getting through the hard times. Don’t hesitate to ask for help – that is why we are here. We believe in you, and we are here to help.

Wishing you all the best,

Dixie Thompson
Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
New Graduate Student Orientation
The University of Tennessee
August 10, 2020

AGENDA

8:30–9:30 am  Welcome & Introduction
Dixie L. Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School
Austin Boyd, Graduate Student Senate President

Professional Development
Ernest L. Brothers, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

9:40–10:10 am  Breakout Sessions—Block 1
Student Health Insurance, Libraries, Community Engagement, Title IX

10:20–10:50 am  Breakout Sessions—Block 2
Student Conduct, Health & Wellness, Career Development, Teaching

10:50 am  Intermission

11:50–12:20 pm  Breakout Sessions—Block 3
Graduate Student Life, Communicating Your Research, International Education

12:30–1:00pm  Breakout Sessions—Block 4
Ombuds Services, Information Technology, Financial Aid

1:00pm  Closing Remarks
There are many resources and services across campus and throughout Knoxville that can help graduate students succeed. These 30-minute breakout sessions give you the opportunity to meet with representatives from these services and find out what they can offer.

**Graduate Student Life Panel**
Austin Boyd, GSS  
Brenna Butler, Educational Psychology and Counseling  
Timara McCollum, Educational Psychology and Counseling  
Maryrose Weatherton, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Chloe Keeling Sandoval, Physics and Astronomy  
11:50-12:20pm, Block 3

A panel of four returning graduate students will be available to answer questions from the incoming students about graduate school and managing their work/life balance.

**Integrity Matters**
Hannah Samawi, Student Conduct  
10:20-10:50am, Block 2

A Student Conduct staff member will engage Graduate students in a discussion about the meaning of integrity as well as common Student Conduct Code violations. Information on academic misconduct will also be provided, as well as campus resources that can support Graduate students during their academic careers. Students will also be shown where they can access the Code of Conduct and how to report any violations.

**Communicating Your Research**
Sean Hendricks, Graduate School  
Kirsten Benson, Writing Center  
Michelle Brannen, UT Libraries  
11:50-12:20pm, Block 3

Learning how to communicate your research is invaluable in terms of your professional development and can be a important part of your career as a graduate student and beyond. Join us to hear about opportunities in fall 2020 to develop your written, visual, and oral communication skills.

**Thriving at UT - Health and Wellness**
Michele Doraisnivil, Center for Health Education & Wellness  
10:20-10:50pm, Block 2

This presentation will provide an orientation to the services available in the student health center. An overview of campus-wide events will also be included.

**Financing for Graduate School**
Tim Woods, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships  
12:30-1:00pm, Block 4

This session will offer an overview on the main types funding available to graduate students, as well as cover important due dates, opportunities, and details on the rules that govern the various forms of assistance.

**UT Libraries**
Michelle Brannen, UT Libraries  
9:40-10:10pm, Block 1

The UT Libraries offer an array of services, resources, and expertise that can be invaluable to graduate students. In this virtual introduction to the libraries, you’ll learn where to find and how to access resources on the library website; how to connect with experts throughout the library; and the wide array of services the Libraries provides.
Introduction to the Office of Ombuds Services
Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, Office of Ombuds Services
12:30-1:00pm, Block 4

Can you say ombudsperson and make it sound like one word? Do you know what an ombudsperson is, or are you thinking ombuds-what? In this quick introduction, participants will learn about the Office of Ombuds Services and how they can take advantage of its services.

Title IX: An Introduction to Your Rights
Laura Bryant, Office of Title IX
9:40-10:10am, Block 1

This presentation will introduce the Office of Title IX at the University of Tennessee. Participants will understand the federal law, Title IX, the role of the Office of Title IX at UT, our policy on how to access supportive services for oneself or a friend through both on-and-off campus supports, and how to engage in prevention of sexual harassment at UT.

International Education at UT
Scott Cantrell, Center for Global Engagement
11:50-12:20pm, Block 3

For both American and International students, graduate studies provides different opportunities and challenges than your undergraduate experience. The Center for Global Engagement offers programs and support, but you need to be thinking outside the box in order to make the most of your time here. Learn what you can do to enhance your international and intercultural skills while at UT.

Own Your Career: 5 P’s of Professional Development
Kertesha Riley, Center for Career Development
Stephanie Kit, Center for Career Development
10:20-10:50am, Block 2

The career and professional development process is not step-by-step or limited to the end of your graduate program. While the process is life-long, it begins today! This session will walk you through the phases of the professional development process and ways to begin engaging your career as a new graduate student!

Student Health Insurance
John Hildreth, Hildreth Agency
Jaclyn Slack, Hildreth Agency
9:40-10:10am, Block 1

Learn the basics of the insurance plan sponsored by the university and how it can help keep the costs of your medical care to a minimum while you study at UT.

Developing Future Faculty at UT
Melissa Hinten, Teaching and Learning Innovation
Robert Jacobsen, Teaching and Learning Innovation
10:20-10:50am, Block 2

This session will introduce graduate students to professional development opportunities through Teaching and Learning Innovation’s Developing Future Faculty initiatives. Highlighted initiatives include CIRTL (Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning), FUEL (Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning), STEM Lab Teaching Assistant Academy, and the Online Teaching Certificate. The presenters will describe each initiative and then explain to participants how they can get involved in these professional development opportunities.

Emerging Community Engaged Scholars
Javiette Samuel, Office of Diversity and Engagement
9:40-10:10am, Block 1

As the state’s flagship R1 university, community engagement is in our DNA. This presentation is designed to increase participants’ knowledge and enhance their practice of engagement, outreach, and engaged scholarship through active and real-world experiences. Discussions for those interested in research and creative activity that contribute to their discipline while making a positive impact on local, regional, national, or global communities will be facilitated.
**Austin Boyd, GSS President**

Austin is a third-year doctoral student in the Educational Psychology and Counseling (EPC) department’s Evaluation, Statistics, and Methodology (ESM) program. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in psychology with a minor in biology from the University of Virginia in 2018. He currently works as a graduate research assistant in the EPC department under Dr. Louis Rocconi, where they are finishing up a project assessing the relationship between collegiate quality and higher education law school rankings. He has also been a graduate teaching assistant and tutor for ESM courses and is serving as the Graduate Student Senate President for the 2020-2021 academic year. His research interests include psychometric analyses and their use to improve standardized assessments, how network analyses can be used to improve organizational communication and effectiveness, and the role parasocial relationships play in social media celebrity popularity.

**Chloe Keeling Sandoval**

Chloe is a fifth-year PhD candidate in the physics and astronomy department in the astrophysics research group. She completed her Bachelor of Science in physics at the University of Kentucky in 2014. She is currently working as a graduate research assistant in the physics and astronomy department under Eric Lentz and Raph Hix, studying the effects of multi-dimensional simulations of late stage stellar evolution on the subsequent core-collapse supernova explosion. Chloe has previously served as a teaching assistant in the physics department, teaching both introductory physics lab courses and astronomy lab courses. She is currently serving as one of the physics department graduate student senators and is the committee chair for the ad-hoc committee on graduate student mental health and well-being. Her research interests are late stagestellar evolution and core-collapse supernovae simulations utilizing high-performance computing techniques and ‘big’ data management.
**Timara McCollum**
Timara is a second-year student in the ESM program and has served as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Educational Psychology & Counseling Department in Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement and for TRiO Student Support Services. Timara obtained a BA in Sociology with Honors and minor in Social and Economic Justice from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she completed and published an honors thesis on the experiences of first-generation college students at UNC-CH. She holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education from East Carolina University, and has 11 years of teaching experience in NC and TN preschool and elementary classrooms. Timara has a desire to combine data and storytelling to advocate for others in the realms of K-12 education, faith-based organizations, Appalachia, and workplace environments and culture.

**Brenna Butler**
Brenna is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Educational Psychology and Counseling (EPC) department’s Evaluation, Statistics, and Methodology (ESM) program. She completed her Bachelor of Science in psychology with quantitative emphasis from Penn State University in 2017. She currently works as a graduate research assistant in the EPC department under Dr. Jennifer Ann Morrow. Brenna will soon defend her comprehensive exams and is currently working on her dissertation proposal. Her research interests include assessing the needs of international graduate students, psychometrics, and best practices in statistics education.

**Maryrose Weatherton**
Maryrose is a second-year doctoral student in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB). She graduated from Marquette University in 2019 with a BS in Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies. Maryrose has been a graduate teaching assistant in the biology department for the past two semesters, and is also involved on the McClung Museum advisory board, and as the president of the EEB undergraduate mentoring program. She is a discipline-based education researcher in the Schussler lab, studying STEM grad student definitions of success and how grad students leverage social resources to become successful in graduate school.
Ernest L. Brothers
Associate Dean

Ernest Brothers currently serves as an associate dean in the Graduate School and as director of the Office of Graduate Training and Mentorship. He is also the past associate director for diversity enhancement for the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) and an adjunct assistant professor of political science.

ebrother@utk.edu
Sara E. Bradberry
Assistant Dean,
Director of Student Services

Sara currently serves as the assistant dean and director of student services for the Graduate School. She works collaboratively with faculty and staff to ensure quality standards in graduate education, to resolve academic and policy issues facing graduate students, and to provide services that contribute to graduate student retention and success.

sbradberry@utk.edu
Meet the Team

Abby Sherman
Coordinator of Student Services

Sylvia Miller
Graduation Specialist

Julie Harden
Graduation Specialist

Abby Sherman is the Coordinator of Student Services for the Graduate School. Abby has worked in graduate education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for over 5 years. She advises students on thesis and dissertation submissions and is part of the graduate professional development team.

Graduating graduate students with last names starting with A through K should contact Ms. Miller about:
• Graduation Requirements
• Graduation Application
• Admission to Candidacy
• Committee Appointments
• Pass/Fail form

Graduating graduate students with last names starting with L through Z should contact Ms. Harden about:
• Graduation Requirements
• Graduation Application
• Admission to Candidacy
• Committee Appointments
• Pass/Fail form

gradschool@utk.edu • 974-2475
The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) represents the interests of all graduate and professional students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The GSS provides the opinion of the graduate student body to administrators and works towards the betterment of the graduate and professional student experience on campus. In addition, the GSS has partnerships with various organizations and departments on campus to provide valuable programming for graduate and professional students. This includes, but is not limited to Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW), collaborations with the Center for Career Development, GSS Travel Awards which provide funds to graduate and professional students traveling to conferences to present original work, and the GSS Awards Ceremony and Breakfast which recognizes outstanding graduate and professional students as well as the faculty and staff who support them.

The GSS participates in the establishment of policies and regulations relating to the graduate experience and makes recommendations to the appropriate decision-making officers. The voting membership of the GSS consists of representatives from each academic graduate program or department. In addition to internal strategic planning and legislative committees, many GSS Senators serve as representatives on various university-wide committees including the Graduate Council.
New to the Vol Nation? Here are a few things to do to get your time on Rocky Top started right.

Get Your VolCard

Having your VolCard is your key to getting access to UT facilities. This fall, the VolCard office is promoting the VolCard Digital ID, where possible. Right now, this is only available for iPhone users, but if you are an Android user and you haven’t gotten your card yet, you’ll want to contact the VolCard office at volcard@utk.edu or 865-974-3430.

Get Some (Parking) Space

If you plan to be on campus regularly, or occasionally, you’ll need a permit to avoid citations. Parking and Transit Services has information on parking permits for students parking regularly, and these are on sale at any time. If you are only going to park occasionally on campus, you may want to check out their comparison of other options.

Graduate Students Gotta Eat

Graduate students are eligible to sign up for a Vol Dining meal plan, if desired. After you learn more about plans and dining locations, you can head over to MyUTK (myutk.utk.edu) and select “Manage Meal Plan” under the My Services menu. From there you can select the plan that works for you.

Keep the UT Community Safe

For enrollment purposes, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and/or the State of Tennessee mandate newly admitted students meet and submit proof of certain immunization and tuberculosis (TB) requirements. There are updated requirements on the UT coronavirus website. If you are a distance education student, you may not be required to submit immunizations to Student Health Services. If you have any questions about your requirements, visit Student Health Services or contact the Immunization Coordinator at immunizations@utk.edu.

The coronavirus pandemic presents challenges for faculty, staff, and students in fall 2020. Ensuring that everyone stays safe is everyone’s responsibility. Check out the UT coronavirus website for all the latest on how COVID-19 impacts all of us.

Go to the Source

The UT Graduate Catalog is a comprehensive resource for program requirements and university policies. If you have any questions about required courses, examinations, or other requirements for your program, this is the place to go. There is also information on policies such as academic standards, enrollment, assistantships, and more.
The GPSPD team has worked to create a framework for professional development that can help guide graduate and professional students to opportunities that can help them achieve their career goals.

**Professional Socialization & Professionalism**

Learn skills and competencies to become a professional in research and applied settings.

- Learn collaboration across disciplines and creative problems solving to develop projects and effectively lead or contribute to teams.
- Identify and cultivate the transferable skills taught within the graduate career that are expected of a high level, working professional.
- Develop a professional identity.

**Networking & Relationship Building**

Professional opportunities such as internships, grants, and collaborations are often acquired through professional networks.

- Learn to establish and cultivate relationships with professionals and organizations in your field.

**Communication & Presentation Skills**

Writing and speaking to the public and within your field are critical for professional success.

- Learn to develop professional oral and written communications, including public speaking, professional correspondence, presentation development and delivery, visual representation of data.
- Learn when and how to use social media for personal brand development and professional purposes.

**Career Development & Management**

Cultivate the skills to assess opportunities and take strategic risks

- Build awareness of career options in your field and pathways to those careers.
- Learn personal goal setting and implementation.
- Develop relevant skills, experience and competencies toward that career goal.
- Develop a professional identity

**Well-Being & Personal Development**

It is important to understand the demands of graduate life and professional life.

- Learn to manage the competing priorities of personal and professional life.
- Develop attention to work-life harmony, personal goals, and professional productivity.

tiny.utk.edu/GPSPD  
calendar.utk.edu/GPSPD
Center for Career Development
865-974-5435 • career@utk.edu
career.utk.edu

Center for Global Engagement
865-974-3177 • cge@utk.edu
cge.utk.edu

Center for Health Education & Wellness
865-974-5725 • wellness@utk.edu
wellness.utk.edu

Dean of Students
865-974-3179 • dos@utk.edu
dos.utk.edu

Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center
865-974-2611 • writingcenter@utk.edu
writingcenter.utk.edu

Office of Information Technology
865-974-9900 • help@utk.edu
oit.utk.edu

Office of Ombuds Services
865-974-6273 • lisayl@utk.edu
ombuds.utk.edu

Office of Research & Engagement
865-974-3466 • research@utk.edu
research.utk.edu

Office of Title IX
865-974-9600 • titleix@utk.edu
titleix.utk.edu

One Stop Student Services
865-974-1111 • onestop@utk.edu
onestop.utk.edu

Parking & Transit Services
865-974-6031 • parking@utk.edu
parking.utk.edu
**Student Conduct & Community Standards**  
865-974-3171 • studentconduct@utk.edu  
studentconduct.utk.edu

---

**Student Disability Services**  
865-974-6087 • sds@utk.edu  
sds.utk.edu

---

**Student Health Center**  
865-974-3135  
studenthealth.utk.edu

Questions about graduate student health insurance? Contact Yolanda McCaffrey at 865-974-2337 or Sara Dunphy at 974-6147.

---

**Teaching & Learning Innovation**  
865-974-9872 • tli@utk.edu  
teaching.utk.edu

---

**UT Libraries**  
865-974-4351  
lib.utk.edu

You can also email the Research Assistance staff or text questions to 865-940-0821.

---

**UT Police**  
865-974-3114 • utpolice@utk.edu  
utpolice.utk.edu

---

**VolCard Office**  
865-974-3430 • volcard@utk.edu  
volcard.utk.edu

---

**Vol Dining**  
865-974-4111 • utdining@utk.edu  
dining.utk.edu

---

**Graduate Student Organizations**

If you are looking to connect with other graduate students, there are many opportunities for you to get involved with a student organization at UT. Visit VOLink to find groups such as:

- The Multicultural Graduate Student Organization
- OUTGrads
- Latina/o/x Association of Graduate Students
- Women in STEM: Advancing Research, Readiness and Retention

plus many departmental student organizations!

---

**The Graduate School**

The Graduate School is ready and willing to help you with any questions you may have. If we don’t know the answer, we will work with you to find one.

865-974-2475 • gradschool@utk.edu  
gradschool.utk.edu

---

**Follow Us on Social Media**
These community vendors have been great supporters of graduate education over the years and have provided countless gifts and prizes for our events. Even though this year looks a little different, we hope you'll take the time to visit these local businesses and help support them just as they have done for us.

Aubrey’s
Brenz Pizza, Cumberland Avenue
Bush Brothers & Company (Baked Beans)
Chick-fil-A in Bearden
Dollywood
Duck Donuts
Duncan Donuts
Knoxville Ice Bears
Kroger
Hildreth Insurance Agency
Hollywood Wax Museum, Pigeon Forge
Mellow Mushroom
NASCAR Speedpark Smoky Mountains
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Publix
Stefano’s Pizza
Sunspot
The Muse
The 2020 New Graduate Student Orientation is hosted by the Graduate School in affiliation with the Graduate Student Senate and with special assistance from UT Conferences.

A special “thank you” to the 2020 Orientation Planning Committee:

**Dixie L. Thompson**  
Vice Provost and Dean

**Austin Boyd**  
Graduate Student Senate President

**Ally Boyér-Sprouse**  
GRA—Communication/Recruitment

**Sara Bradberry**  
Assistant Dean and Director of Student Services

**Ernest L. Brothers**  
Associate Dean

**Millie Cheatham**  
Coordinator & Office Manager

**Catherine Cox**  
Coordinator & Catalog Editor

**Natalie Hassett**  
GRA—Dean’s Office

**Sean Q. Hendricks**  
Communications Manager

**Shahram Hatefi Hesari**  
Graduate Student Senate Vice President

**Abby Sherman**  
Coordinator of Student Services