

Graduate Studies Update

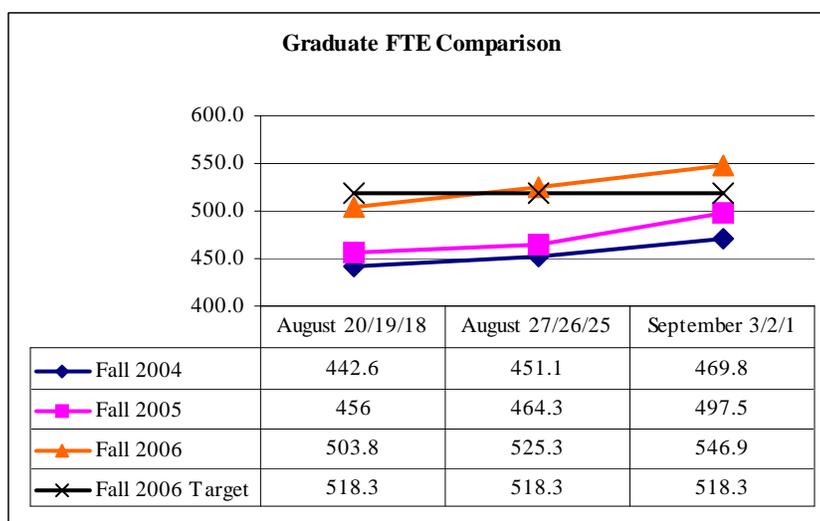
Fall 2006

Graduate Student Enrollment

This fall Graduate Studies FTE increased.

Thank you to everyone for their effort!

This graph has been provided by the Office of Institutional Research.

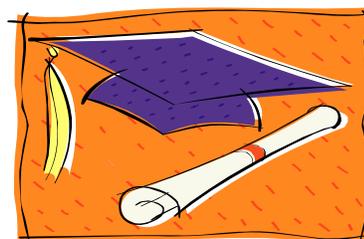


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Congratulations Fall 2006 Graduates!

Congratulations to over 200 UW-L graduate students receiving their Master's degrees in the commencement on December 17, 2006. We wish them luck.



Purpose: An update on the progress of the Action Steps and direction of Graduate Studies at UW-La Crosse.

Top 3 Action Steps

Priority #1

Secure long term allocation of existing Academic Initiative revenue for graduate students

Priority #2

Develop consistent web presence for UW-L graduate programs

Priority #3

Develop a public relations structure for UW-L graduate studies

Note: Suggestions to improve the layout/content of this update are welcome and should be directed to:

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Joint Meeting: Program Directors and Graduate Council

On November 10th, a joint information and discussion session was held with graduate program directors and graduate council.

Lauren Cikara, graduate assistant in the Office of Graduate Studies, shared a brief overview of campus recruitment initiatives. She had met with directors throughout the semester and found that many programs rely on similar initiatives to attract students to UW-L: word of mouth, professional affiliation with national organizations and the web.

Dr. Gary Gilmore, director of MPH, and a member of the Student Issues

committee, shared a list of student concerns, i.e. financial support, housing and safety, that graduate council will be addressing with student input.

Dr. Lisa Graham, College of Business Administration and Dr. Chris Bakkum, College of Liberal Studies, shared information about online additions and enhancements to the MBA program and CSDA program, respectively.

Danny Wan, Office of International Education, presented a summary of the Bologna Accord: A European Educational Reform, highlighting potential impact in accepting students from

Europe as these students will have completed a three-year bachelor's degrees. Considering these degrees as equivalent to American four-year degrees is at the heart of this document. The Council of Graduate Schools has been discussing this with its counterparts in the European Union and many institutions are awaiting a recommendation from this group.

The next joint meeting will be held in Spring 2007.

Graduate Research and Travel Awards

The Graduate Council awarded a total of 20 Graduate Research, Service and Educational grants to students in the Colleges of Liberal Studies, and Science and Health this semester. There were no applicants from the College of Business Administration this semester. The total amount awarded over \$25,000. Grants ranged from \$300 - \$1600 for a wide variety of research projects. Students will have another opportunity to apply for this grant by

the second Friday in February 2007.

In addition, the Office of Graduate Studies awards Professional Travel grants. Students will have two more opportunities to apply for this grant this academic year. The future deadlines are March 15 and May 15, 2007.

This grant program of graduate studies are partially funded through Academic Initiative and other student fees.



Graduate Student Organization

From the time a student enters as a freshmen, they hear the slogan "get involved" over and over! The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) offers a similar opportunity for graduate students to "get involved".

Courtney Salm (biology) is the current GSO President. Together with Vicki Sanchez (CSDA) and Brad Dobbs (MBA) they organized a fall orientation for incoming students. Approximately

50 students attended the one day event. Students were greeted by and heard from Interim Chancellor Liz Hitch, Interim Provost Ron Rada, VJ Agarwal, Director of Graduate Studies and several other faculty and staff members. This event provided a nice opportunity for students to meet other graduate students outside of their discipline. It ended with a celebratory picnic. Thank you to the UW-L Foundation for their grant to make this a successful

event!

The offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer are open for next year. If you are interested in holding a position in GSO, please contact gso@uwlax.edu by January 29, 2007.

If individual graduate programs have a student organization, GSO would like to work with them. Please contact gso@uwlax.edu

ME-PD: Learning Communities

The Master of Education in Professional Development (ME-PD) Learning Community (LC) Program is a 30-credit, two-year program designed for professional educators interested in improving their teaching practice and student learning. The Learning Community Program is offered off-campus in various locations throughout the state in order to best meet the educational needs of working adults. There are currently 652 graduate students enrolled in 22 Learning Communities. A critical component of the program is the connection of weekend coursework to classroom application.

The curriculum is integrated and spiraled over four semesters and facilitated by a team of professional educators. The spiraled nature of the curriculum represents best practice in terms of professional development and research related to adult learning theory. The major curricular strands are integrated

to foster meaningful connections and are designed for concepts, theories, and practices to be revisited at a deeper level throughout the two-years. A journal article documenting the process and findings of an action research study and a professional development plan portfolio are the culminating projects of this program.

Some highlights of the past semester include completing the revisions of an entirely new 30-credit curriculum and beginning the process of obtaining university approval. Program leaders have been engaged in continuous improvement efforts by utilizing the Baldrige National Quality Program and Education Criteria for Performance Excellence.

LC vision: A leader in educational transformation.

LC mission: The Learning Community Program empowers educators to transform their professional and personal lives as they become agents of change and improve PK-16 student learning.

Learning outcomes: Every UW-L ME-PD Learning Community graduate student will...

1. Improve content and pedagogical knowledge.
2. Experience professional and personal transformation.
3. Conduct action research.
4. Utilize authentic assessment.
5. Exhibit teacher leadership.
6. Improve PK-16 student learning.
7. Support PK-16 student development and self efficacy.

UW-L hosts Learning Community Symposium

The Master of Education-Professional Development (ME-PD) Learning Community (LC) Program held its 8th Annual November Conference on the UW-L campus on November 11th and 12th. This conference is an annual event in which all LC graduate students and faculty from around the state of Wisconsin come together for a weekend of shared learning. The theme for the weekend November was *Schooling for a Democratic Society and Culture*. Keynote speakers included Deborah Meier and Gloria Billings, two nationally renowned educational leaders. Both key-

notes explored the idea of school as a training ground for democratic life and engaged participants to thoughtfully examine their own beliefs about the purpose of education and their role as a professional educator.

In addition to keynote presentations, the Learning Community graduate students attended semester-alike breakout sessions, job-alike breakout sessions, and an action research fair. The action research fair was hosted by the 168 fourth semester ME-PD Learning Community graduate students. The action

research fair provided these soon-to-be graduates the opportunity to share their action research through formal presentations, roundtable discussions, and poster presentations not only to the other LC graduate students in the program, but also to other education professionals from both UW-L and local districts who attended the symposium.

10th Annual Celebration of Student Research & Creativity

The 10th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creativity will be held on Friday March 23, 2007.

Recipients of the RSEL grants in 2005-2006 are expected to present their work at this event. More inform

-ation will be sent to all recipients and advisors early spring semester.