

Graduate Studies Update

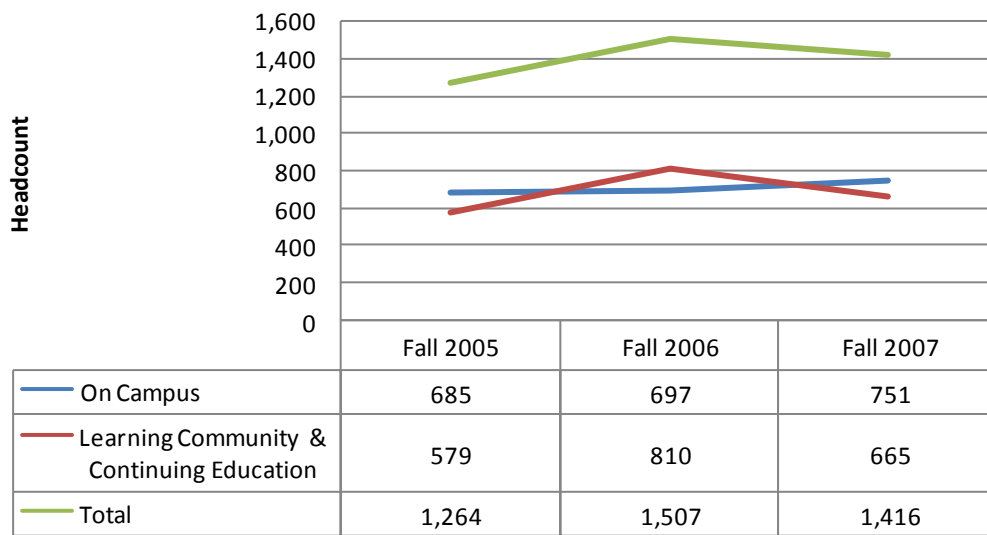
**Happy Holidays
to our readers.**

Fall 2007

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Graduate Studies

Graduate Student Enrollment

**University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Graduate Student Enrollment Trend**



Thanks to everyone involved in keeping healthy graduate student enrollment at UW-L.

This graph has been provided by the UW-L Office of Institutional Research

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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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Spotlight on Graduate Programs

A Look at Student Affairs Administration

Established about 40 years ago, the Student Affairs Administration (SAA) master's degree program has undergone some exciting changes within the past couple of years. Foremost among them is the name change from College Student Development and Administration or CSDA to SAA. In addition UW-L has developed an online option whose primary goal is to reach potential students who already hold a position in a higher education setting and hope to advance in their careers. The first SAA Online cohort started in May '07 with 18 students representing five different states. The majority of these students are enrolled in an ambitious two-year program and plan to graduate in May '09. The Online program went

through the NCA accreditation process in June and we hope to hear the "official" word regarding approval of our program soon.

The faculty work involved in developing the Online program led to the creation of new SAA total program competencies, learning outcomes, and changes to the On-Campus curriculum. The program has eleven faculty members, the majority of whom hold administrative positions on-campus and teach in the SAA program on a part-time (overload) basis. The newest faculty members include Dr. Paula Knudson, Dean of Student Development & Academic Services, and Dr. Bob Hetzel, Vice-Chancellor for Finance & Administration.

The SAA On-Campus program is thriving with the majority of students involved in university service and graduate assistantships across campus. In addition, the newly formed "SAA International Initiative" is planning an educational trip to the UK for SAA students, alumni, student affairs colleagues and friends in January 2009.



For more information about the SAA program, check out the website at www.uwlax.edu/saa.

Checking on the M.B.A. Program

Enrollment in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program has been increasing recently, after the downturn in the economy in early 2002 caused a significant number of layoffs in regional businesses. This fall MBA experienced an 18% growth, which was due to a combination of area economic expansion and an increase in international students.

The UW-L MBA program has long been an attractive degree to international students, and there have been hundreds

of graduates from eastern and western European countries and many Asian countries, including China, Korea, Thailand, India, Japan, Taiwan and Viet Nam. This fall the College of Business Administration entered into new joint MBA agreements with universities in Poland and Taiwan. It is expected that ten to fifteen new Taiwanese students will be joining the program starting fall 2008. The Polish program should result in another ten to fifteen students within the following two years. The MBA program is also engaged in talks with

Beijing Union University to establish a similar program. These programs will include exchanges of the graduate faculty, too.

UW-La Crosse partners with UW-Eau Claire, Oshkosh and Parkside to offer the UW Consortium Internet MBA program. This allows us to also offer interested UW-L MBA students a wide variety of program electives and a core course via the Internet. This has increased the ability of MBA students to tailor the degree to their interests.

<http://www.uwlax.edu/ba/graduate>

Congratulations Fall 2007 Graduates

Congratulations to 241 UW-L graduate students who received their degrees in the commencement on December 16, 2007. We wish them well in their future endeavors.



Graduate Student Grant Awards

The Graduate Council awarded a total of 17 Research, Service and Educational Leadership (RSEL) grants to graduate students. The grants totaled \$18,631; including a \$1,995 grant for a project involving international research for Occupational Therapy students for studying in Scotland. The Office of International Educational provided funds for the latter. RSEL grants recipients included students from the following

programs: Occupational Therapy; Exercise and Sport Science; Masters of Education-Professional Development; Recreation Management; Biology; Microbiology; School Psychology; and Community Health. In addition, 32 students were awarded Professional Travel Grants to present at, or attend, a conference. These grant programs for graduate students are partially funded through Academic Initiative and other student



Future Deadlines (<http://www.uwlax.edu/graduate/deadlines.htm>)

RSEL Grants: February 8, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Abstracts for Celebration of Student Research and Creativity Day: February 11, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Thesis Award Nominations: February 29, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Academic Achievement Award Nominations: February 29, 2008 (College Dean's Offices), March 28, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Professional Travel Grants: March 14 & May 16, 2008 (Office of Graduate Studies)

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

Orientation: This fall the Graduate Student Organization hosted an orientation for new graduate students on August 29, 2007. Approximately 50 graduate students attended the program from a wide variety of disciplines. Chancellor Gow, Interim Provost Colclough, Associate Vice Chancellor Agarwal as well as a number of graduate program directors attended the afternoon meet and greet. The orientation included time for graduate students to get to know each other, information about University Centers and a tour of the Library.

Graduate Student Leaders: This year the GSO leadership is comprised of Co-Chairs Emily Salava and Lauren Cikara

and GSO Student Senators Katie Lynch (fall) and Amanda Thompson (spring). Facebook has served as a way of getting information out to all students and there is currently a link from the Graduate Studies webpage with GSO information.

Other Events: GSO has sponsored two events for graduate students this semester. A Grant Writing information session was presented by Amery Bodelson, UW-L Grant writer. This session was very helpful to all who attended. The other event was a Resume Writing workshop. Karolyn Bald from Career Services presented and Dr. Steve Simpson, Dr. Rob

Dixon and Mr. Mark Gibson participated in working with the graduate students in fine tuning their resumes. Thank you to all who supported these events.

Future Events: GSO is sponsoring a team for Relay for Life in February. If you are interested in participating, please email GSO at gso@uwlax.edu.

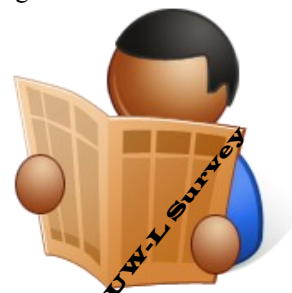
Funding Sought: The GSO, the Office of Graduate Studies and other graduate students requested \$65,000 from the Academic Initiative Oversight Committee primarily to fund RSEL grants for the next school year. The Office of Graduate Studies and the GSO also sought \$9,200 for the Apportionment Committee largely to fund professional travel grants.

Graduate Student Survey

A Student Issues sub committee of the Graduate Council identified issues that pertain to UW-L graduate students such as housing, financial aid, graduate student employment, and safety concerns. Subsequently a survey was sent to all graduate students in April 2007. The survey results showed that over-all graduate students are satisfied with what UW-L offers. The survey informed the graduate council about which UW-L services the graduate

students use and which they do not. For example, the use of Murphy Library was listed as “very frequent” by over 62 percent of respondents and the use of the Academic Advising Center was listed as “seldom or never” by 84 percent of those responding to the survey. The survey also found that the majority of the graduate students felt safe on and off campus. Financial assistance, or the lack thereof, was one of the most frequent comments.

Graduates students asked for more financial aid and more graduate assistantship. A large majority of the graduate students report having to work outside of the university.



Joint Meeting of the Graduate Council & Program Directors

The Office of Graduate Studies hosted a joint information and discussion session with the graduate program directors and the members of the graduate council on November 2nd, 2007.

The session was kicked off by Chancellor Joe Gow who discussed the current status of the Growth, Quality and Access plan. Chancellor Gow talked about the support for the plan from the student senate as well as the faculty senate and pointed out that the current plan does not include any increase to graduate tuition. He also related the progress the university has had in recruiting international students with an increase of 38.7 percent from last year. Program directors and graduate council members also discussed with the chancellor about the limited

resources for graduate studies which continue to erode our ability to recruit high quality students. They also asked the Chancellor to better promote graduate studies at the university and in the community.

Jan Von Ruden, (Registrar's Office) updated on the status of PeopleSoft. The new student information system will provide students, faculty, and staff with access to information related to recruitment and admissions, record and registration, financial aid, student financials, and enhanced self-service capabilities. The project began in May of 2007 and full implementation is to be completed by the fall of 2009. Von Ruden also gave an update on the 2008-2010 Graduate Catalog. The new catalog will be

online by June 16, 2008 and the catalog will not be available in hard copy anymore. A limited number of CD-ROM copies of the catalog will be available.

Bill Doering, (Murphy Library) updated the directors and council members on a new e-thesis program at the library. Currently, students submit two copies of their thesis which are bound and sent to the library for cataloging and permanent archival. The library would like to move toward receiving one of the copies as an electronic PDF file. They would then keep the paper copy in special collections and use the electronic copy for circulation on the UW System Minds @UW server. The server is designated to be a repository for the intellectual content of all UW System institutions.

Did you know that...

- Graduate studies has an Outstanding Thesis Award endowed by Dr. Tom Kuffel, a professor of management at UW-L and Dr. Mary Kuffel, a physician at Gunderson Lutheran and an alumnae UW-L. The first recipients of this award in 2007 were Jonathan Palmer and Jennifer Berling.
- UW-L graduate students submitted 60 thesis in 2006-07 which are cataloged and archived in the Murphy Library.
- The intellectual capital of graduate programs at UW-L is generated in large part due to its graduate faculty including our own faculty and staff, and the affiliates from other public and private institutions in and around La Crosse.