

**Minutes of the Graduate Council
May 5, 2023**

Members in Attendance:

Ali Beskok, Kate Carté, Alan Itkin, Elfi Kraka, Anna Lovatt, Brian Molanphy, Renee McDonald, Anthony Petrosino, Robin Poston, Dinesh Rajan, Gretchen Smith

Members Not in Attendance:

Akihito Kamata, Volkan Otugen, Alexandra E. Pavlakis

Business:

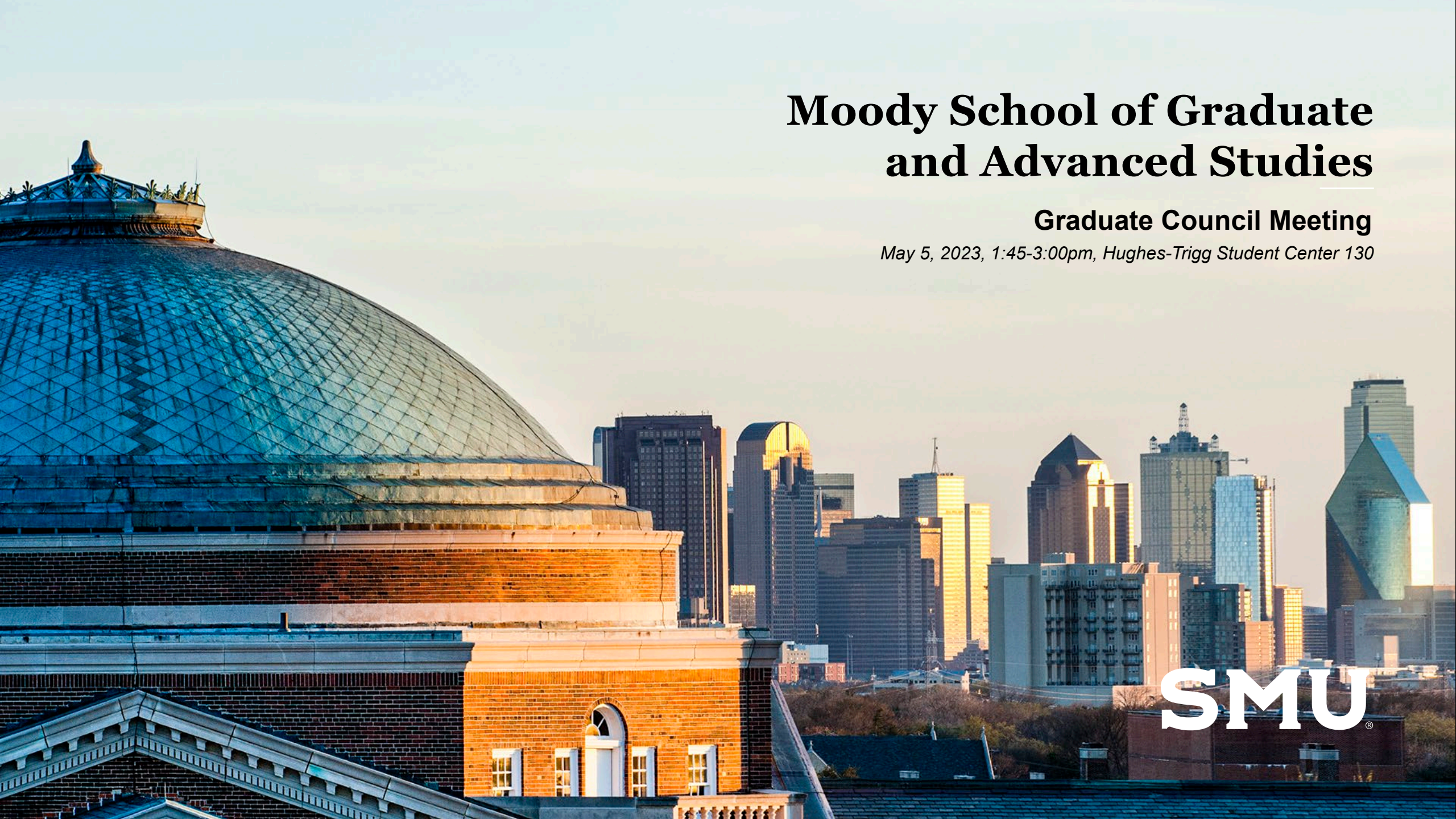
- **Outstanding Graduate Student Instruction Awards:** The meeting began with presentation of Outstanding Graduate Student Instruction Awards to: Meghan Beddingfield, PhD Student in Religious Studies; Arvin Maghsoudlou, PhD Student in Art History; Austin Mullins, PhD Student in Physics. Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success, and Dr. Poston presented the awards.
- **Information Items:** Members of the Graduate Student Advisory Board joined the Council to review informational items: Master's Enrollments, Doctoral Conferrals 2022-2023, Health Center Fee, Honor Code, Orientation, Moody Hall Recognition Wall (see slides 5-16). The recognition wall was originally planned to include one metal disc for each active University PhD, Mustang, and Moody Fellowship. However, this plan is being revised. Dr. Poston solicited recommendations for new ways to honor fellows using the display on the wall.
- **Minutes of the March and April Meetings:** Approval of the minutes of the March 24 and April 10 meetings was moved, seconded, and carried (see slide 18).
- **Council Membership:** Dr. Poston said that Council members would be welcome to stay on the Council for one more year if they wished, but that they could also request to step down. The Council agreed to let Drs. Poston and Itkin know if they intended to step down by email (Dr. Itkin would circulate an email, so that Council members could respond if they intended to step down). The Council discussed scheduling of the meetings and agreed that, if a specific day and time could be selected now, it would be easier for them to schedule other obligations around the Graduate Council meetings. The Council tentatively agreed on the second Wednesday of each month at noon as a time for the meetings.
- **Fulbright Cost Share Agreement:** Dr. Rajan described an agreement whereby international students supported by the Fulbright Program would be offered a tuition discount to study at SMU (see slide

20). The Lyle School is planning to formalize this offer of a 30% tuition discount to Fulbright-supported students and he suggested that other schools and colleges partner to offer the same benefit University-wide. Dr. Rajan said that he would have more information to share soon.

- **Provost R1 Investments:** Dr. Poston went through an outline of the investments made to advance SMU to R1 status by increasing humanities and social science doctoral conferrals and increasing the number of postdocs at SMU (slides 22-23).
- **Graduate Appeals Policy:** Dr. Itkin informed the Council that the Graduate Appeals Policy had been approved by the EPC and would appear in the Graduate Catalog for 2023-24 (slide 25).
- **English Language Proficiency Requirement:** International graduate applicants are required to provide English language proficiency scores unless they have an undergraduate degree from a short list of English-speaking countries. Dr. Itkin explained that there had been complaints about this list. Dr. Itkin shared proposed alternate language and an approach that would remove the list of countries from printed and online policies but retain it for automatic processing (slides 27-30). The Council discussed the proposed change and were in favor of it, with the caveat that the phrase “English-speaking institutions” should be clarified.
- **Moody Faculty Fellowships:** Dr. Itkin described the goals agreed upon with the Moody Foundation for Moody Faculty Fellowships. Funding for this initiative is included in the \$100 million gift from the Moody Foundation. He went through a proposal for how this program would work (slides 32-33). The Council discussed the proposal and agreed that it should be tabled, and that this item should be discussed again in the fall.
- **Developing New PhD Programs:** Dr. Itkin explained that one factor that limits SMU’s ability to move up in the Carnegie Classification rankings is that doctoral conferrals in social sciences are low and that this is due to the fact that SMU only has two social science doctoral programs (slide 35). Dr. Poston has begun to explore the possibility of launching new doctoral programs in social science fields. Dr. Itkin shared a list of fields that are categorized as social sciences by the ACE Carnegie Foundation (slide 36) and said that Dr. Poston was looking for input and ideas for new doctoral programs that would be in one of the fields on the list. The Council discussed possibilities, but also recognized that there are other internal factors that limit the number of doctoral conferrals. Some Council members expressed that the support of current terminal degree programs is inadequate and that there are not enough faculty mentors at SMU.
- **Minimum Wage for Graduate Student Workers:** Dr. Poston explained that a minimum wage for student workers was being discussed and that this would also affect graduate student workers. Dr. Poston said she is not in support of setting a different minimum for graduate student workers than for undergraduate student workers, as it would exclude graduate student workers from certain jobs. She said that she and Dr. Itkin would keep the Council apprised as this initiative developed.
- Meeting adjourned.

**Congratulations, Outstanding
Graduate Student Instruction Award
Winners!**





Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Graduate Council Meeting

May 5, 2023, 1:45-3:00pm, Hughes-Trigg Student Center 130

SMU[®]

Graduate Council

Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences:

- » Kate Carté, Professor of History
- » Elfi Kraka, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry
- » Renee McDonald, Senior Associate Dean for Research & Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology

Lyle School of Engineering:

- » Ali Beskok, The Brown Foundation, Inc. Professor of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- » Volkan Otugen, George R. Brown Chair Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- » Dinesh Rajan, Senior Associate Dean, and Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Meadows School of the Arts:

- » Anna Lovatt, Associate Professor of Art History
- » Brian Molanphy, Professor of Art
- » Gretchen Smith, Associate Professor, Division of Theatre, and Associate Dean for Students

The logo for Southern Methodist University (SMU) is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the bottom right of the letters 'U'. The logo is positioned in the lower right corner of the slide, which features a dark blue background with a faint, stylized architectural drawing of a building.

Graduate Student Advisory Board

Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences Representatives:

- » Jinyu Du (Statistical Science Ph.D. Program)
- » Christina McConville (Chemistry Ph.D. Program)

Lyle School of Engineering Representatives:

- » Jesus Bolivar (Electrical Engineering Ph.D. Program)
- » Han Gao (Electrical Engineering Ph.D. Program)

Meadows School of the Arts Representatives:

- » Dani Ezor (Art History Ph.D. Program)
- » Destiny Perez (Arts Management M.A./M.B.A. Program)

Simmons School of Education and Human Development Representatives:

- » Tryna Knox (Education Ph.D. Program)
- » Claire Trotter (Education/Applied Physiology Ph.D. Program)

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Informational Items

1. Master's Enrollments
2. Doctoral Conferrals 2022-2023
3. Health Center Fee
4. Honor Code
5. Orientation
6. Moody Hall Recognition Wall

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Master's Enrollments



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Doctoral Conferrals 2022-23



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Doctoral Conferrals 2022-23

Graduate School Comparison 2021 vs 2024 Doctoral Graduates (In Progress)

Carnegie Category	Actual Carnegie 2021 <small>(Sum 19, Fall 19, Spr 20)</small>	In Progress Carnegie 2024 <small>(Sum 22, Fall 22, Spr 23)</small>	Increase from Previous Carnegie Year
Humanities (5 Programs)	12	27	15
Social Sciences (2 Programs)	3	6	3
STEM (21 Programs)	60	62	2
Other (7 Programs)	25	47	22
Total	100	142	42

Health Center Fee



-
- » To ensure that graduate students continue to have access to the best available healthcare services, SMU is implementing a stepped increase in the Health Center fee for the next three years, pending final approval of each fiscal year's budget.
 - » The Health Center Fee for all graduate students will increase by \$25 to \$75 per semester for the 2023-24 academic year; the fee will increase to \$110 per semester in 2024-25 and to \$140 per semester in 2025-26, aligning the fee with what undergraduate students will pay for access to the same services.
 - » The fee is mandatory for all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in on-campus degree programs and is separate from any mandatory insurance costs.

Honor Code



Honor Code

- » Currently there is one honor code, published in the [Student Handbook](#), for undergraduates and graduate students with some exceptions: “Schools of Law, Theology, Business, or Education of Southern Methodist University” (according to Student Handbook)
- » Membership of the Honor Council (“hearing panel” = 4 students + 1 faculty member):
 - » Five first-year students
 - » Six sophomore students
 - » Seven junior students
 - » Eight senior students
 - » One graduate student from a school under the council’s jurisdiction
 - » Five members nominated by the Faculty Senate and appointed by the Provost
- » Student Affairs has agreed to revise policies to create a separate Honor Council for graduate students

Orientation



Orientation

- » We will continue to offer our virtual orientation for incoming graduate students on Canvas
- » The orientation includes videos with information from offices that support graduate students as well as quizzes
- » We also hold live student and faculty panels as webinars and then record them and put them up on Canvas
- » We will also be holding a “resource fair” with tabling, snacks, etc., in Moody Hall
- » The resource fair is tentatively planned for the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 18
- » We will notify our department contacts so that if they are having other events for students that day, they can plan to include some time at the resource fair

Moody Hall Recognition Wall



Moody Hall Recognition Wall



Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of the March 24 and April 14 Meetings
2. Council Membership
3. Fulbright Cost Share Agreement
4. Provost R1 Investments (Doctoral Students and Postdocs)
5. Graduate Appeals Policy
6. English Language Proficiency Exam Requirement
7. Moody Faculty Fellowships
8. Developing New PhD Programs
9. Minimum Wage for Graduate Student Workers
10. Other Items

Minutes of the March and April Meetings



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Council Membership



Fulbright Cost Share Agreement



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Provost R1 Investments



Provost R1 Investments

Proposals for additional doctoral student support for the Road to R1

Funding Initiative	Description	Amount Proposed
Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowship	Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships are intended to support PhD students in the humanities and social sciences who have performed well in the early stages of their programs and demonstrated strong potential to complete their degrees. They are also intended to expand the pool of funding for humanities and social science PhD programs and to increase the size of those programs and the number of PhD degrees they confer and encourage graduation in R1 year of record.	\$595,000
Provost's Research Grant Enhancement Awards	Faculty in social science and humanities departments who secure grant research funding will be eligible to apply for a Provost's Research Grant Enhancement Award.	\$70,000
Provost's Discretionary Doctoral Fellowships	Provost's Discretionary Doctoral Fellowships provide faculty in social science and humanities departments the ability to recruit the best and brightest students possible to join SMU with the support of their college/schools' Dean's Office.	\$105,000
Provost's Summer Research Grant Awards	Provost's Summer Research Grant Awards accelerate degree completion for PhD students in humanities and social sciences by supporting their dissertation research during the summer. Provost's Summer Research Grant Award provides up to \$5,000 per student for summer research support.	\$30,000
		\$800,000

Additional possibilities

Provost's Liberal Studies Scholarship	Provost's Liberal Studies Scholarships provide tuition scholarships of \$15,000/yr for incoming Doctor of Liberal Studies students who commit to pursue their studies full time and complete the degree within three years. Scholarship funds will be used to staff additional classes needed to increase cohort size.	\$60,000
Provost's Religious Studies COVID Delay Return Fund	Provost's Religious Studies COVID Delay Return Funds provide stipends of \$20,000/yr and \$4,000/yr for health insurance for up to three years for current Doctor of Religious Studies students who were derailed by COVID in making progress toward their degree completion. These funds allow them to return to full time study in the program and complete their degrees.	\$48,000

Provost R1 Investments

Proposals for additional postdoctoral scholar support for the Road to R1

Funding Initiative	Description	# of Postdoc Positions	Amount Proposed
Provost's Science & Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowship Program	Provost's Science & Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended to support post-doctoral candidates in Science and Engineering fields as measured by the ACE Carnegie Foundation. They are intended to expand the pool of funding for science and engineering research programs and to increase the number of science and engineering postdocs on the SMU campus, with special consideration for their being employed at SMU in the ACE Carnegie R1 year of record.	12	\$840,000
Provost's Science & Engineering Research Grant Enhancement Awards	Provost's Science & Engineering Research Grant Enhancement Awards are intended to reward research productive faculty who secure new external funding and support post-doctoral candidates in science and engineering fields as measured by the ACE Carnegie Foundation. They are intended to expand the pool of funding for science and engineering research programs and to increase the number of science and engineering postdocs on the SMU campus, with special consideration for their being employed at SMU in the ACE Carnegie R1 year of record.	3	\$210,000 \$1,050,000

Graduate Appeals Policy



Graduate Appeals Policy

- » The graduate grade appeal policy has been approved by the EPC!
- » The final draft of the policy is available here:
<https://smu.box.com/s/m1tsdalpefeqd2a8qelsv6km7i9e2xpu>

English Proficiency Requirement



English Proficiency Requirement

Current policy (varies slightly from school to school):

» Applicants who do not speak English as their native language are required to supply scores on the TOEFL English language proficiency test or the IELTS English competency test. The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 80, and the minimum IELTS score is 6.5, unless specified otherwise by a program or department. This requirement is waived for students who have received undergraduate degrees from an English-language institution located in the **United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa only. SMU's ETS code is 6660.**

English Proficiency Requirement

Vanderbilt Policy (no approved country list, but dedicated graduate application processing):

TOEFL and IELTS

Applicants whose native language is not English must present the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with the application. This requirement may be waived if you have earned a degree from an English-speaking institution. Please contact your program of interest to confirm.

- You may access information regarding the TOEFL including registration and sample tests, at ets.org/toefl.
- The Vanderbilt Institution Code for TOEFL is **1871**.
- The minimum acceptable score on the paper-based TOEFL is **570**, and for the Internet-based test, **88**. Many programs, however, require a considerably higher level of proficiency.
- The TOEFL IBT, TOEFL Home Edition, and TOEFL Essentials (8-9.5 band range) tests are also accepted.

English Proficiency Requirement

UT Austin Policy:



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EXPLORE APPLY AFFORD ENROLL

Home > Apply > Qualifying Countries

Qualifying Countries

- American Samoa
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada (except Quebec)
- Dominica
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Grand Cayman
- Guyana
- India
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Liberia
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Singapore
- Trinidad/Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United Kingdom
- U.S. Pacific Trust

Why isn't my country listed?

For purposes of the [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL\)](#) or [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#) requirement, international applicants are exempt only if they are from a country where English is the sole official language and the primary conversational language of the country. In some countries, English is but one of the officially recognized languages or it is not the primary language used to communicate outside of the classroom.

English Proficiency Requirement

» Proposed revised language:

Applicants who do not speak English as their native language are required to supply scores on the TOEFL English language proficiency test, the IELTS English competency test, or the [Duolingo English Test](#). The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 80, the minimum IELTS score is 6.5 and the minimum Duolingo Score is 110, unless specified otherwise by a program or department. **SMU's ETS code is 6660.** This requirement may be waived for students who include in their application a transcript that clearly indicates that they have earned a degree from an English-speaking institution.

- » We can waive the requirement for students with degrees from an internal country list
- » Other applicants will have an unmet checklist item in Slate for “Language Proficiency Exam,” if they have not submitted scores
- » When they click on that unmet checklist item, it will give them instructions for submitting a request for a waiver of the requirement
- » Schools that meet criteria for a waiver can be added to the automatic waiver list in Slate

Moody Faculty Fellowships



Moody Faculty Fellowships

- » We are planning to have our first class of Faculty Fellows in 2024-2025.
- » This is one of the programs proposed to the Moody Foundation in the gift agreement
- » Moody Faculty Fellowships “will support outstanding faculty, including visiting faculty, and reward and encourage mentoring of graduate students and the conduct of research.”
- » They are also intended to contribute to strategic goals, such as increasing conferrals of doctorates to support the Road to R1 and the Strategic Plan.
- » A subcommittee met this week to develop proposals for the Council’s review and vote

Moody Faculty Fellowships

» Six fellows total:

- » Four PhD mentors
- » Two non-PhD mentor

» Nominations will be received from department chairs, supported by the school/college dean's office, including:

- » Letter of nomination
- » Mentorship statement from nominee
- » CV
- » Additional letters of support from past nominees/colleagues
- » Proposal from nominee for how they would use the award (later changes to the plan require re-approval)

» PhD mentor faculty fellows receive:

- » \$35,000 award to support a mentee or mentees' success in the program
- » Could be stipend and health insurance (only for ABD student), research support, technology purchases, etc. to help student advance in the program
- » May be renewed for a second year pending satisfactory progress of the mentee

» Non-PhD mentor faculty fellows receive:

- » \$2,500 to support graduate students' professional development
- » Could be travel for conference presentations, visiting archives, opportunities to exhibit artistic work, job interview travel, technology purchases

» All faculty fellows receive:

- » \$1,000 honorarium
- » Plaque

- 33 » Recognition at an awards ceremony

Developing New PhD Programs



Developing New PhD Programs

- » The number of doctoral conferrals in the social sciences is a separate factor that counts towards an institution's Carnegie Classification
- » According to models run by Peter Moore, increasing the number of social science doctoral conferrals would help SMU advance significantly in the Carnegie rankings
- » Currently only two of SMU's doctoral programs are classified as social sciences
- » We are already increasing funding for our two social science doctoral programs (Anthropology PhD, Economics PhD)
- » Given that those two programs have limited capacity, it will be helpful to explore other ways to increase social science doctoral conferrals

Developing New PhD Programs

Social science fields (according to the Carnegie Classification):

22.0000	Legal Studies, General.	45.0299	Anthropology, Other.
30.0501	Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.	45.0301	Archeology.
30.1101	Gerontology.	45.0401	Criminology.
30.2001	International/Global Studies.	45.0501	Demography and Population Studies.
30.2502	Contemplative Studies/Inquiry.	45.0502	Applied Demography.
30.2801	Dispute Resolution.	45.0601	Economics, General.
30.4601	History and Political Science.	45.0602	Applied Economics.
30.4701	Linguistics and Anthropology.	45.0603	Econometrics and Quantitative Economics.
30.5101	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.	45.0604	Development Economics and International Development.
42.0101	Psychology, General.	45.0605	International Economics.
42.2701	Cognitive Psychology and Psycholinguistics.	45.0699	Economics, Other.
42.2702	Comparative Psychology.	45.0701	Geography.
42.2703	Developmental and Child Psychology.	45.0702	Geographic Information Science and Cartography.
42.2704	Experimental Psychology.	45.0799	Geography, Other.
42.2705	Personality Psychology.	45.0901	International Relations and Affairs.
42.2707	Social Psychology.	45.0902	National Security Policy Studies.
42.2802	Community Psychology.	45.0999	International Relations and National Security Studies, Other.
42.2804	Industrial and Organizational Psychology.	45.1001	Political Science and Government, General.
42.2806	Educational Psychology.	45.1002	American Government and Politics (United States).
42.2808	Environmental Psychology.	45.1004	Political Economy.
45.0101	Social Sciences, General.	45.1099	Political Science and Government, Other.
45.0102	Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods.	45.1101	Sociology.
45.0199	Social Sciences, Other.	45.1102	Applied/Public Sociology.
45.0201	Anthropology.	45.1103	Rural Sociology.
45.0202	Physical and Biological Anthropology.	45.1201	Urban Studies/Affairs.
45.0203	Medical Anthropology.	45.1301	Sociology and Anthropology.
45.0204	Cultural Anthropology.	45.1401	Rural Sociology.
		45.9999	Social Sciences, Other.

Graduate Student Worker Minimum Wage



Other Items

