GRADUATE SCHOOL

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- Christy M Wyandt - ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, PROFESSOR OF PHARMACEUTICS AND RESEARCH PROFESSOR IN THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

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Overview

The University of Mississippi offers a variety of master's, specialist, and doctoral degree programs. The Office of the Graduate School provides leadership, coordination, and administrative structure to support all graduate programs at the University.

Graduate School Office - Associate Dean Christy Wyandt manages the Graduate School Office in the Graduate House. Among the duties of the office are to receive applications, coordinate their review, communicate with prospective students regarding their admission status, maintain academic records, monitor studentsí progress, process assistantship appointments, advise students, and interpret academic policies established by the Graduate Council.

Graduate Council - The Graduate Council has broad responsibility for advising on all graduate academic policies and activities of the University on its Oxford campus and satellite campus locations (excluding the Medical Center). This includes the consideration of new degree programs, formulation and refinement of graduate regulations, consideration of all graduate and Law courses for approval and decisions on petitions from students who are requesting waivers of campus-wide (as opposed to departmental or school) graduate degree requirements. The faculty representatives on this committee are tenured professorial faculty.

Graduate Faculty - The Graduate Faculty are those faculty members who are approved to teach graduate level courses and direct or co-direct master's and doctoral students. The Graduate School Office maintains a list of members.

Graduate Student Council - The Graduate Student Council at The University of Mississippi addresses the needs and concerns of all graduate students on the Oxford campus. The council officers and senate work with the faculty, administration, and other student organizations to promote higher academic achievement and standards, to facilitate interdepartmental communication among graduate students, and to provide graduate students with more opportunities for social interaction. By collectively addressing common concerns of its membership, the Graduate Student Council strives to eliminate much of the unnecessary stress often associated with graduate student life.

Some of the Graduate Student Council's goals are to offer financial assistance for paper presentations at academic conferences, to compile and disseminate information concerning graduate grants and scholarships outside the university, and to work with the universityís placement office to establish a clearinghouse of information regarding career opportunities in academia and other professions.

Accreditation - The University of Mississippi is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone (404) 679-4501] to award baccalaureate, masterís, specialist, first professional, and doctoral degrees.

The Graduate School, which administers all graduate study at the university, holds membership in the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. Its faculty consists of about 400 members, who are qualified to offer graduate work.

History - The University of Mississippi from 1848, the date of its formal opening, until 1870 conferred the honorary degree of Master of Arts upon certain of its graduates who had attained intellectual distinction. Courses at the graduate level were offered first in 1870. A comprehensive examination as a requirement for the masterís degree also was established that year. A definite program of graduate study with a minimum residence requirement of one academic year was inaugurated in 1890. During the last nine decades, graduate work at The University of Mississippi has been continually developed and expanded. The Graduate School was formally organized in 1927 to coordinate and administer graduate study and research at the university.

Aims and Ends of Graduate Education - The purpose of graduate education at the University was first articulated by the Aims and Ends statement associated with the organization of the Graduate School in 1927. The statement is as follows:

The student who undertakes graduate study should understand at the outset that work of this character implies more than the acquisition of knowledge under competent instruction. He or she should aspire to a degree of knowledge of a given subject in order to make a contribution that is of original and independent value. This does not imply that much of the studentís energies are not still to be applied in the acquisition of facts universally accepted, a process that should continue through life, but in graduate study these facts are to be weighed, coordinated, and supplemented by the student's own contributions.

Graduate Education Learning Outcomes - The Graduate School of the University of Mississippi has master's, specialist, and doctoral degree programs. The general learning outcomes of these degrees are summarized as follows.

A student who completes a master's degree should

- demonstrate a mastery of a body of knowledge in the discipline; the level of the material and/or the extent of mastery must be above that for the baccalaureate degree;

- successfully use the basic methodologies of the discipline;
- retrieve, evaluate, and utilize information relevant to the discipline;
- communicate, both orally and in writing, in a manner and level of proficiency that is standard for the discipline;
- (for thesis master's) conduct research or produce creative work;
- (for non-thesis master's) function as a professional in the discipline.

A student who completes a specialist degree should be able to demonstrate the above competencies and should

- master a body of knowledge beyond that for a master's degree;
- function as a professional in the discipline.

A student who completes a doctoral degree should

- demonstrate broad and advanced knowledge within the discipline;
- successfully use a range of methodologies of the discipline;
- independently perform original research;
- communicate effectively;
- function as a professional in the discipline.