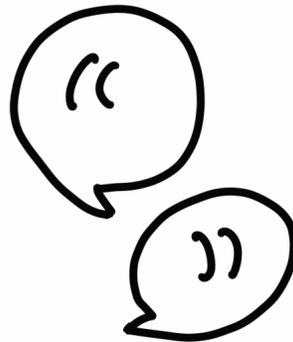




Oregon State University
Graduate School

Grad Success News for Faculty and Staff

WINTER 2021



Community Conversations

College of Public Health and Human Sciences shines at admitted graduate student visit day

A well-executed campus visit can make the difference for yielding your most promising graduate students. At OSU, campus visits vary widely, from simple phone or Zoom calls to multi-day events. Amanda Armington from the College of Public Health and Human Sciences provides a glimpse into their annual Admitted Graduate Student Visit Day as an example of what a well-planned visit can look like.

Q. What's the goal of the CPHHS Admitted Graduate Student Visit Day?

Our goal is to showcase our college and graduate programs to newly admitted CPHHS graduate students and provide an opportunity for them to

make connections with current students, staff, faculty, and other admitted students, in the hopes that they will choose to matriculate.

Q. How is a typical visit day structured?

Our event typically runs from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the first Friday of spring term. We provide coffee and a light breakfast, a full luncheon, and a reception at the end of the day. The event begins with a welcome from the dean and other leadership team members. Throughout the day, sessions include student support services (with representatives from the library, graduate school, career development center, and financial aid), a current graduate student panel, program-specific breakout meetings, a distinguished alum or faculty lecture, and a luncheon where students get to know faculty, current students, and other admitted students from their program. Finally, the admitted students are invited to join our annual CPHHS Graduate Poster Session and Reception, typically held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., which is hosted by the CPHHS Research Office. We do not provide any funds for admitted students to travel. We typically have 30 to 35 admitted students join us each year.

Q. Are there opportunities within your college-wide event for students to get more tailored information and/or to make connections by degree type, research interests, and/or affinity groups?

Yes! The day is planned so that each admitted student can make connections in their degree program and discipline with faculty, staff, current students, and other admitted students. The luncheon and the Graduate Student Poster Session and Reception seem to be the events where they make the most connections.

Q. How do you know if your visit day has been successful?

Each year, we do a follow up survey with participants to get their feedback. We ask how useful each session was, whether the event was influential in their decision of whether to attend OSU, and if they plan to matriculate.

From these data, we know the event is successful. We also get great ideas to tweak and improve the event each year.

Q. Given COVID-related travel and campus gathering restrictions, how will your event change this year?

Last year, COVID had just hit and we canceled our 2020 event. This year, we are planning a fully virtual event that will take place the week of March 29th. We are going to replicate each of our typical sessions virtually, with the exception of the luncheon and the poster session/reception. Each day that week, we will offer 1-2 sessions. Admitted students will be able to join any sessions of interest to them. We expect this may allow for more admitted students to participate since they will not need to travel.

Q. Do you have any tips for other faculty or graduate program coordinators who are interested in upping their visit day game?

Be sure to include faculty and current students as much as possible. Each year, the graduate student panel is the highest rated session, followed by the luncheon, where they have 1.5 hours to chat and get to know our fantastic faculty and current students. Faculty and current students also really enjoy these events. It doesn't need to be expensive to be successful and impactful; however, it does take considerable planning and staff time to pull it off. Start planning 2 to 3 months before the event to be sure you get on everyone's calendars!



Amanda Armington, MPH
Administrative Director

Do you have an innovative practice you would like to share? Please get in touch with us!

What's
New

What's new

Scholarly Presentation Award - Previously offered as the "Travel Award", the Graduate School is pleased to offer the new [Graduate Student Scholarly Presentation Award](#) for the 2020-2021 academic year. Award amounts will not exceed \$500. The matching funds requirement for this award have been suspended. Students should continue to work with your advisor, department or program to submit a nomination.

Grad Inspire on Feb 25 - Join us as four current graduate students from Oregon State University share the questions and motivations framing their research. [Grad Inspire](#) combines scholarship communication with personal narrative, giving us a glimpse of not only "how" these students do their work, but also the motivations and commitment behind it.

Apply to Graduate Deadline - If you have students graduating this spring or summer, please ask them to [apply to graduate](#) by April 2. More [commencement deadlines](#) will be made available soon.

Winter Term Program Meeting - Each term the Graduate School holds a meeting for Graduate Program Directors and Coordinators. Our intention is to have faculty and others who hold leadership positions within the programs attend the meeting. We will share some new information coming out of the Graduate School and will certainly leave time for Q and A. The meeting for this term is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9. [Please join our meeting via Zoom.](#)

Student Support Resources

Each issue, we feature student professional and personal development resources and how to incorporate them into your support activities.

Writing reference letters for students of color

Sometimes faculty inadvertently hurt their students of color in their letters of recommendation. Learn the common mistakes faculty make in letter writing for students of color, and how to write more impactful letters in this

article: [Avoiding racial bias in letter of reference writing.](#)

Graduate Writing Center

The [Graduate Writing Center](#) assists with theses and dissertations, seminar papers, manuscripts, IRB material, funding and research proposals, as well as conference and defense presentations. The GWC's highly trained graduate writing consultants work with students in one-on-one appointments and in weekly writing groups, by providing a welcoming space, critical feedback, goal-setting and accountability, all in a low-stakes environment.

When to send your students to the Graduate Writing Center:

There's never a bad time to send your student to the GWC! Remember, the GWC isn't only for "bad writers." Graduate students of all levels and abilities, and of all native languages, can get support and improve their writing at the GWC. If your student struggles with idea development, writing productivity issues, or you're sending a student to present at a conference, your students can likely benefit from the GWC.

We encourage faculty to promote the GWC early and often with their students, to develop the critical skills they'll need as their research and writing demands deepen. The GWC can especially help during the thesis or dissertation stages by combating the motivation and isolation challenges that students so commonly experience.

Co-sponsorships: matching group awards up to \$1000

Fund your next student success initiative with help from the Graduate School. Faculty and staff may apply for a matching award of up to \$1000 for eligible trainings, tools or activities. While we're still social distancing, awards for group activities can still be possible with a little creativity.

[Co-sponsorship ideas for faculty and staff:](#)

- Prepare for your winter or spring virtual visit day(s) with a high quality video tour of your facility. Share a meal with prospective students by sending DoorDash or UberEats gift cards in advance of your virtual visit.
- Invite a guest speaker for a virtual presentation. With less of the speaker's time and no travel costs, this could be the ideal time to bring in a bigger name to visit your group.
- Plan for [Grad Appreciation Week](#) in spring by printing and mailing certificates of appreciation to your students, along with a mini-gift box of snacks. Or plan a virtual 5K with prizes for the best photos along the walk/run/roll.
- Purchase a group tool, resource, or annual membership to a professional organization.

Learn more and [apply for a co-sponsorship](#).

Spring GRAD courses

The Graduate School is pleased to offer the following GRAD designator courses in spring term. Please find more information to share with students in [this flyer](#).

- GRAD 599 - Creating Happiness
- GRAD 520 - Responsible Conduct of Research
- GRAD 599 - Graduate Teaching Seminar
- GRAD 521 - Research Data Management
- GRAD 599 - Interdisciplinary Teams
- GRAD 542 - The Inclusive Classroom: Difference, Power, and Discrimination

Visit our website to find more resources and information:

- [Current students](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Recruitment](#)

- [Student success](#)
- [Faculty resources](#)

Karen Hanson

Director of Graduate Success

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