The University of Wisconsin–Madison Graduate School sets university-wide standards and policies for graduate education, serves a special advocacy and communication role, promotes diversity initiatives, and otherwise augments the margin of excellence.

The dean and associate deans provide institutional leadership for graduate education across campus, administer policies governing graduate education, develop standards and guidelines for student services, and monitor educational outcomes.

The Office of Academic Analysis, Planning and Assessment plays a critical role in the perpetuation of high quality graduate programs, and in turn, in the successful research enterprise on campus. The unit has two core functions: academic planning and program review, and data analytics and reporting.

The Office of Academic Services is a campus resource to promote and facilitate excellence in graduate education for current students, from matriculation through conferral of the graduate degree, as well as to those faculty and staff across campus who also support them during this time.

The Office of Admissions partners with over 160 academic programs to process approximately 17,000 applications for admission annually. It is a resource for applicants, students, faculty, and graduate programs throughout the admissions process, from prospect through matriculation.

The Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Funding helps to create an inclusive and multicultural educational landscape through the retention and recruitment of diverse students. The unit oversees the school’s fellowship and funding competitions, coordinates external fellowships, and assists with campus-wide funding issues.

The Office of Professional Development and Communications coordinates, develops, and promotes learning opportunities to foster the academic and professional skills of graduate students. It supports the various communication platforms of the Graduate School, including website, social media, and print materials.

The Delta Program engages graduate students and postdocs in professional development in teaching, mentoring, outreach, and advising.

Highlighted initiatives:

Office of Academic Analysis, Planning and Assessment
- Interactive data visualization tools: enrollment data, career outcomes, and more
- Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: graduate education governance body
- Graduate Student Tracking System: campus-wide tool for students, staff, and faculty to monitor academic progress

Office of Academic Services
- Graduate student issues: collaborative support and referral for students facing the unique challenges of graduate education, close partnership with the Dean of Students Office
- Degree completion: oversight of requirements and conferral of graduate degrees

Office of Admissions
- Admissions systems: suite of tools including the online application for admission, as well as Applicant Review to facilitate program admission recommendations
- High-volume: processes 19,000+ applications for admission each year

Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Funding
- Diversity and Inclusion programming: events and mixers that address the needs of graduate students of color through community and relationship-building
- Fellowship support: advises students with fellowship appointments
- Research and travel grants: student funding for conferences and research

Office of Professional Development and Communications
- DiscoverPD: skills framework, self-assessment tool, and database of opportunities drawn from across campus, can be used to write Individual Development Plans
- Professional development programming: skill and career development opportunities
- Communication strategy: website, social media, news articles, and print materials

Delta Program in Research, Teaching and Learning
- Goals: development of a future national faculty committed to implementing and advancing effective teaching and research mentoring for diverse student audiences
- Programming: workshops and panels, courses and learning communities, Delta Internship, and Delta Certificate

At a glance:

160+ MASTER’S AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

ADMISSIONS (2021-22)
- Applicants: 20,444
- Admits: 7,163
- New enrollments: 3,443

ENROLLMENT (2021-22)
- Total enrollment: 10,833
  - Master’s: 5,452
  - Doctoral: 6,047
- International: 3,209
  - Targeted minority: 1,188
  - Female: 5,562
  - Male: 5,271

DEGREES AWARDED (2020-21)
- Master’s: 2,414
- Doctoral: 730