The Graduate School

Administration

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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School, located in Green Hall, is the administrative hub for all graduate programs at Liberty University. It assists the departments and schools of the University in the planning and maintaining of high quality master’s and doctoral degrees across the disciplines. The Graduate School at Liberty University facilitates various faculty functions, such as the Graduate Senate and the Graduate Administrative Council. It also coordinates a variety of services to students through the Graduate Writing Center, the Institutional Review Board, and the Online Graduate Student Affairs Office.

PURPOSE

The Graduate School at Liberty University guides the University’s schools and academic departments in developing and maintaining distinctively Christian and academically excellent graduate programs.

GOALS

1. Promote the integration of faith and learning by:
   - Fostering the development of a scholarly community with a shared Christian epistemology
   - Ensuring opportunities for dialog about integration
   - Encouraging research and scholarship that demonstrates and examines
2. Ensure consistently high quality in graduate programs by upholding appropriate standards for:

- Recruitment and retention of graduate faculty
- Graduate-level curriculum and degree requirements
- Admission, matriculation and student conduct

3. Advocate for the University’s graduate programs and support services by:

- Evaluating institutional and programmatic needs
- Participating in the University’s planning process
- Pursuing adequate resourcing

4. Contribute to the scholarly community by:

- Mentoring students to be teacher-scholars
- Promoting and enabling research among students and faculty
- Recognizing and encouraging scholarly activity

5. Create a culture that fosters a dynamic relationship with Christ by:

- Encouraging a values-sensitive environment that leads to service
- Promoting a spiritually disciplined lifestyle
- Offering corporate opportunities for spiritual growth

THE GRADUATE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (GAC)
The Graduate Administrative Council (GAC) is the administrative entity tasked with overseeing, planning, developing, and coordinating all graduate programs at Liberty University. The GAC is comprised of all graduate program directors and appropriate graduate-related administrators and is chaired by the Dean of the Graduate School.

THE GRADUATE SENATE
The Graduate Senate consists of faculty representatives from each graduate program and the appropriate members of the administrative staff of the Graduate School. It conducts the regular faculty business of graduate studies, academic standards and curriculum, and program requirements. The Graduate Senate meets monthly and is coordinated by an executive committee.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)
Liberty University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) is designed to protect people who take part in research studies affiliated with the University. The IRB examines each study’s design to insure it is ethical, does not involve unnecessary risks, and includes adequate safeguards for research participants. The IRB committee consists of academicians with scientific training, clergy, medical doctors, persons without scientific training, and students. Liberty’s IRB may be reached online at irb@liberty.edu, or through its web page at http://www.liberty.edu/academics/graduate/irb.

GRADUATE WRITING CENTER
The mission of the Graduate Writing Center (GWC) is to assist graduate students and faculty of all disciplines and all levels of expertise to become the best writers
they can be. In support of this mission, the GWC provides free face-to-face tutoring sessions (our core service), classroom presentations, workshops, and web resources to students, faculty, and staff. Peer tutors work with writers at all stages of the writing process, from topic selection to documentation. Services offered to students include one-on-one tutoring, consultations on thesis and dissertation projects, and conversation practice for non-native English speakers. Services offered for faculty include developing writing and teaching aids for classroom use, presenting on writing-related topics in classes, and assisting faculty with their own research and scholarship. Most services are available in both residential and online formats. More information is available at www.liberty.edu/graduatwritingcenter.