

Excellence in Graduate Education at UNLV

Excellence in graduate education is achieved when programs, faculty, and graduate students expect and produce outstanding research, scholarship, or creative activity. In addition to mastering research and technical skills, students also benefit from teaching experience, engaging in service and campus activities, learning about and adhering to disciplinary ethical standards, and participating in professional organizations. Whether graduate students pursue an academic or non-academic career, an excellent program trains students in the various skills needed to prosper in their chosen profession.

Recommendations for Excellence Within Programs

- Provide the necessary resources for student-faculty interaction and efficient functioning of the program, such as effective leadership, staff support, faculty graduate advisers, appropriate work space, and student financial support.
- Actively recruit students regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Recruit and retain faculty and students who represent and promote diverse backgrounds, orientations, and perspectives.
- Establish procedures for faculty members to formally assess and incorporate student feedback as appropriate.
- Ensure mentors are actively engaged and aware of program requirements for all students.
- Monitor student progress regularly and develop procedures to offer feedback on their performance in the program.
- Communicate all program requirements, performance expectations, and degree program milestones on a regular basis.
- Offer specializations only in areas with qualified faculty and regularly taught courses.
- Provide up-to-date counseling on career advancement and/or the job market.

Recommendations for Excellence in Research

- Offer up-to-date curriculum in basic and advanced theories and methods appropriate to the discipline.
- Enable students to acquire research and practical skills in a broad range of methods.
- Provide a balance of breadth and depth of specialized learning.
- Advise students on how to locate and apply for extramural funding opportunities.
- Embolden students to conduct research and present or publish papers early in their graduate career.
- Educate students in the ethical issues faced by scholars and practitioners in their discipline.

- Provide adequate office space, laboratory equipment, and other material support necessary for graduate work.

Recommendations for Excellence in Teaching

- Provide training, mentoring, and practical experience that instill both the foundations of pedagogy and learning with the concrete activities of teaching.
- Provide students planning academic careers opportunities to teach courses in their content area.
- Awaken in students the need for staying current with the latest pedagogical developments in their fields.
- Foster classroom and laboratory environments that represent the highest ethical standards.

Recommendations for Excellence in Professional Education

- Attain accreditation by appropriate certifying bodies.
- Maintain a balance between the theoretical and the applied aspects of the field.
- Offer all courses required for certification in a student's area of specialization.
- Strive to make clinical, field or internship opportunities available to students.
- Ensure frequent and clear communication between program and field or internship sponsors, including expectations of accomplishments and timely feedback.
- Provide adequate opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate their skills as early as is feasible in the graduate process.
- Provide laboratory equipment and other material support necessary for professional work.
- Provide mentoring by qualified practitioners in the field and opportunities for service learning.
- Ensure the effective integration of clinical faculty within professional graduate education.

**Adapted from UCLA's Excellence in Graduate Education Statement*

Donovan Conley
Jennifer Rennels
Janet Dufek
Rebecca Benfield