The Graduate College

The Graduate College is the institution’s primary advocate for graduate study. It promotes academic excellence by shaping graduate policy, assisting faculty in guiding and mentoring graduate students, and integrating services that help to recruit, retain, support and graduate a diverse population of students. In turn, these students become ethical scholars, researchers and professionals within and across disciplines.

Associated Programs

The Graduate College developed the *Interdisciplinary Studies* Ph.D. program in response to emerging interest in studies that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. In addition, there is increasing national demand for interdisciplinary approaches to research and education.

This degree offers flexibility to students with interests outside existing boundaries and established programs by allowing them to combine coursework and research in two or more disciplines/programs from across the University. This is a self-designed program that is developed by the student with input from faculty champions from the chosen disciplines. This option is only for students whose needs cannot be met by one of our existing graduate programs.

The *Interdisciplinary Studies in Evaluation* Ph.D. (IDPE) focuses on developing evaluation scholars and practitioners who have deep knowledge of evaluation theory, methodology, and practice as well as superior critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The program is, therefore, designed to develop and nurture evaluation thought leaders who have superior skills in designing, conducting, reporting and critiquing evaluations.

Department Objectives

- Provide strategic leadership and support for graduate education within a learner-centered, discovery-driven, and globally engaged university
- Develop and improve the environment for graduate education at WMU
- Assist graduate programs with enrollment management
- Support and promote graduate student success in teaching, learning and scholarly activities
- Provide quality control and maintain equitable and consistent standards in graduate programs

Key Department Functions

- Promotes graduate education at WMU to internal and external constituents
- Actively recruits for a diverse student body and creates an inclusive environment
- Orients and welcomes new graduate students and faculty
- Facilitates retention and degree completion
- Provides academic and professional development services for students
- Manages the processes and approvals for the graduate enterprise (e.g. admissions, graduate faculty, student committees, assistantship appointments, travel and research awards)
- Enhances and promotes effective advising, mentoring, and supervision of graduate students
- Works with faculty to implement best practices in graduate education and program development
- Endeavors to diversify funding for graduate education
- Engages with graduate student organizations and oversees graduate student ambassadors
- Upholds standards and policies for graduate study, fostering an ethical academic community responsive to the needs of a pluralistic society
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Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants and Awards
• George and Beatrice Fisher Gerontology Dissertation Prize
• Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship
• Graduate Student Research Grant
• Graduate Student Travel Grant
• Graduate Studies Council: Department and University Teaching and Research Award
• Martin Luther King, César Chavez and Rosa Parks Dissertation Fellowship
• The Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowship
• The Patricia L. Thompson Dissertation Award
• Thurgood Marshall Fellowship
• WMU Dames Endowed Scholarship
• WMU Graduate Education and the Professoriate Fellowship

Giving Opportunities
Fellowships and scholarships support graduate students by contributing to or creating a fellowship or scholarship fund.

Graduate student sponsorship is offered to a graduate student for one of the following:
• Cultural competence training
• Dissertation retreat
• Leadership academy
• Teaching academy

The Graduate Student Commons assists the establishment of a study space for graduate students.

The Graduate College
wmich.edu/grad
(269) 387-8212
grad-info@wmich.edu

Western Michigan University est. 1903
Offering over 100 world class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly $52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan
The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.