

WELCOME GRADUATE STUDENTS!



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2026

Welcome from **Dr. Phil Payne,** Graduate School interim dean

[View the welcome message](#) 



Today's Topics

Your support system

What does it mean to be a graduate student?

Building a strong foundation for success

Making the most of your graduate experience

Guidance from your peers and faculty

Graduate Program

(academic unit)

Provides specialized
knowledge/training in
your field of study

Graduate School

Responsible for policies
and processes governing
your academic journey
as well as understanding
and addressing the
needs of grad students,
done in partnership with
academic units

Connect with us!

Email

grad@ksu.edu

Call

785-532-6191

Visit us in-person

113-119 Eisenhower Hall

<https://www.k-state.edu/grad>

Follow us on social media



@KSUGraduateSchool



@kstategradschool



2026-2027 GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS



Zane Whitney
President



Vydehi Gadiparthi
President-Elect



Kanyon Alexander
Membership Outreach
Coordinator



Charissa Trout
GSC-SGA Liaison

Get engaged with GSC

- Participate in research forums
- Attend social events to make new connections
- Serve in a leadership role or on committees
- Funding to support travel to conferences



Graduate Student Week of Welcome Social

Meet other graduate students at the first social event of the year.
Play BINGO for a chance to win baskets filled with grocery essentials

Grab a slice of pizza and chat with your Graduate Student Council
Representatives.

August 26 | 6:00 - 8:00PM

Town Hall, Leadership Studies Building



[Register here](#)

GROCERY
GROCERY
BINGO
SOCIAL

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Council

What does it mean to be a
graduate student?

What do graduate students do?

- Coursework
- Research/scholarly/creative/practical experience
- Gain AND contribute knowledge in you field
- Teaching and mentoring
- Develop critical-thinking and problem solving skills
- Assistantship
- Network building

Reaching milestones

Making progress to degree completion

Major milestones



File
program
of study

by completion of
9 credit hours



Pass
preliminary
exam
Doctoral Only



Propose
thesis or
dissertation



Complete final
exam/defense



Submit final
thesis/
report (ETDR)



Graduate/
Attend
commencement!

Key academic requirements

Credit hours

- 30 for masters
- 90 for doctoral

more hours could be required by the program

GPA

- minimum 3.0 or for coursework on program of study AND all graduate coursework

Grades

- C or better for all coursework on program of study

Understand
Graduate School
and university
policy

Graduate Handbook

Department/program handbook

University policy and procedure
manual (PPM)

Student code of conduct

Graduate school
is the beginning
or advancement
of your career

Now is the time to build
practices and habits that are
necessary for career success

- Time management
- Professionalism
- Critical thinking
- Initiative taking
- Relationship building
- Take ownership



Working with
faculty

Primary faculty members who support your degree progress

- Major professor (co-major professors)
- Supervisory committee members
- Academic advisor
- Graduate program director
- Department head
- Assistantship supervisor

What are these and how do I get them?

Discuss with your graduate program director or faculty advisor

Refer to the Graduate Handbook

www.ksu.edu/grad/student-success/graduate-handbook/

Success tips

For your first semester

Build relationships with faculty and develop a plan

- Discuss expectations and goals early and regularly
- Create a mentoring plan and IDP

Earning a graduate degree is a full-time job

Work does not always follow M-F, 8am-5pm schedule

Be curious, ask questions, and explore diverse opportunities

Take ownership and respect boundaries

[Graduate Handbook](#)

[Mentoring and individual development plans](#)

[Graduate Student Forms](#)

[Navigating degree requirements](#)

[Graduation and commencement](#)

[Present your academic work](#)

[Professional development](#)

[Awards and recognition](#)

Mentoring and individual development plans

Faculty role in supporting your success

A critical part of the graduate student experience is the relationship you have with your major professor—your primary point of contact and supporter for your academic journey. Developing a mentoring plan and an individual development plan (IDP) with your faculty mentor will help foster an effective mentor-mentee relationship and will facilitate your academic progress and career preparation.

[Mentoring Plan](#)

[Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#)

Making the most of your
graduate career

Embrace the full experience
and grow as a professional

Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce

Career Readiness Competencies

There are **eight career readiness competencies**, each of which can be demonstrated in a variety of ways.



What Is Career Readiness?

Career readiness is a foundation from which to demonstrate requisite core competencies that broadly prepare the college educated for success in the workplace and lifelong career management.

Stay informed!

- Email - primary mode of communication
- Graduate student bi-weekly newsletter
- K-State Today (Mon, Wed, Fri)
- Social media
- University calendars (academics and events)



The Graduate Student NEWSLETTER

August 11, 2026

[VIEW THE 2026-2027 GRADUATE SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

New schedule for research forum events
Research and the State has moved to the spring semester (February), and the first round of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition will occur in the fall semester (late October). The 3MT final competition will kick off our spring semester at the end of January. K-GRAD will again be held in April.

All deadlines, events and dissertation defenses can be found on the [Graduate School events page](#).



**Incoming Graduate Student
Welcome
August 19**



**Graduate Student
Grocery BINGO
August 26**



**Three Minute Thesis
First Round
October 28**



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Building a strong
foundation for success

Make your well-being a priority

Being a graduate student is
only part of who you are

To achieve success in
graduate school and beyond,
your basic human needs
must be satisfied.



Success in grad school does not mean
doing everything on your own

*“Self-care is not avoiding the hard things.
Self-care helps you be able to do the hard things.”*

Resources and services
to support you
and opportunities to
build community



<https://bit.ly/KSU-Resources>

What do I do if I get stuck or don't know what to do?

- Work with major professor
- Grad program director
- Department head

If you still haven't gotten what you need or found a solution, contact the Graduate School

*More opportunities
to connect to resources
and build community!*

Manhattan campus events

For new students



Aug 20-23

For all students



Aug 24-28

www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/incoming-students/orientation/fall.html

Best wishes on your
graduate school journey!

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School