Graduate Student Assembly
Fifth General Meeting

March 29, 2021 4:30-5:30pm CST
Overview of GSA

The GSA serves as a **channel to advocate for graduate students** at the University of Texas at Dallas through representation to university departments and organizations, through initiatives that **improve the UT Dallas graduate student experience**, and through events and programming that **meet graduate students’ educational, professional, and social needs**. All **graduate students** at UT Dallas are considered members.
GSA Updates

**Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) & Graduate Student Stipends**

• Reminder: presented about effect of rising cost of SHIP and low stipend amounts to Academic Senate at January meeting, also met with both President Benson and Provost Musselman

• Partnering with fellow graduate students to continue analysis to aid in further discussions:
  - Compare average UTD stipend to similarly ranked institutions nationwide
    • Compare stipend of specific departments to similarly ranked institutions nationwide
  - Investigate solutions other universities, both within and outside UT System, have implemented to lower or cover costs of graduate student health insurance
  - Report back to Academic Senate, President Benson, Provost Musselman, and other stakeholders
GSA Updates
Research Continuity & Teaching Experience during COVID-19 Surveys

• Research Experience Survey
  • 95 responses
  • Summarized data shared with the Office of Research
    • Research Continuity Town Hall in early March discussed common questions, concerns, etc.
      • Town Hall video recording and document of questions with links posted under March 2021 announcements on GSA website

• Teaching Experience Survey
  • 107 responses
  • Summarized data to be shared with the Provost and Committee on Effective Teaching
Get involved on campus!

- Graduate student representative on the Committee for Educational Technology (UTDPP1028)
- More information in application:
  - https://utd.link/GSAEffectiveTech
  - Due by April 2 at 11:59pm CST
Upcoming GSA Events

• Diversity Series Lunch: Celebrating Neurodiversity
  • In this virtual lunch event, we will be discussing neurodiversity in a variety of forms with Desi Jones, a PhD student in UTD’s Social Cognition and Interaction in Autism Lab and pioneer in autism research. We will focus on the importance of neurodiversity understanding and acceptance, and how we can support autistic and other neurodiverse individuals.
  • Tuesday, April 6 1-2pm CST
  • https://utd.link/neurodiversity

• Diversity Lecture Series: Diversity in Academia
  • In this final portion of the Diversity Lecture Series for Spring 2021, we will be examining the importance of consuming diverse voices in academia. The lecture will focus on how individual researchers can seek out research from others with different perspectives and support inclusivity in academic culture. We will also discuss forming a diverse community of researchers and web platforms that can support your efforts.
  • Date and time TBD
Upcoming GSA Events

• Graduate Professional Development Series: Mock Interviews
  • April 13-15
    • Schedule a time using Handshake
      • https://utdallas.joinhandshake.com/jobs/4544697
• Blood Drive sponsored by GSA, Student Government, and UTD Blood Initiative
  • April 22-23, 10am-5pm CST
    • Register for a slot to donate blood on campus & help with the current shortage of blood
Official GSA Website!

https://gsa.utdallas.edu/

Updates about ongoing GSA initiatives

Upcoming events

Previous meeting slides

General information about GSA

UT Dallas Graduate Student Assembly serves as a voice for more than 8,500 graduate students on campus to the UT Dallas administration.
GSA Elections for 2021-22

• Executive Board and School Representative positions available
  • Term from May 2021-May 2022
  • Description of responsibilities in GSA Constitution
• Applications open beginning of April
• Voting period end of April
GSA Elections for 2021-22

• Executive Board
  • President
  • Vice President
  • Vice President for Administration
  • Vice President for Public Relations
  • Vice President for Programming & Events
  • Vice President for Leadership Oversight & Coordination*

• School Representatives
  • Arts & Humanities (A&H)
  • Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC)
  • Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS)
  • Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS)
  • Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)
  • Interdisciplinary Studies (IS)
  • Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM)
  • Naveen Jindal School of Management (JSOM)

*contingent on GSA Constitution Amendments passing
Why serve on GSA?

• Leadership opportunity
• Influence campus policy
• Represent the graduate student voice at UTD
• Connect with fellow graduate students
• Give back to others
• Network with various staff, faculty, and administration
• Your work now can impact graduate students/campus for years to come
COVID-19 Updates:

• Proper masks covering both the nose and mouth as well as social distancing still required on campus
• Starting today (3/29/2021), anyone 16 years or older in Texas is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine
  • non-Texas residents and international (not US citizen) people eligible to receive one
• New UTSW vaccination site at UT Dallas in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center
  • https://www.utdallas.edu/covid/response/vaccine-clinic/
• Go-to site for UTD updates: https://www.utdallas.edu/covid/
  • links to vaccination sites for surrounding counties
• Proactive COVID-19 testing
  • recommended for anyone on campus 2 or more days a week
  • Email c19resource@utdallas.edu to get more enrolled
COVID-19 Updates:

• Student Emergency Financial Assistance Program
  • [link]
  • Fund to help students with unexpected expenses that are an unforeseen, short term issue that requires financial resources to solve, and, if not addressed, could prohibit a student from remaining enrolled and persisting toward graduation at UT Dallas.
  • Open to all currently enrolled UT Dallas students
• Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act
  • [link]
  • Funding for emergency grants for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who have experienced financial costs or hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for funding for educational or emergency costs.
  • Cannot be awarded to international students, TASFA applicants, or DACA students
Stay Connected with GSA!

@gsa_utdallas

UT Dallas Graduate Student Assembly
@gsautd

https://gsa.utdallas.edu/

comments, questions, concerns, & more:

https://utd.link/askGSA

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