



**TACO  
TUESDAY  
WITH THE  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL**

# AGENDA

- 1 About the Graduate School
- 2 About Graduate Student Government
- 3 PhD Funding
- 4 Making Good Progress
- 5 Mentoring

# ABOUT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- 1 Founded in 1910
- 2 Supports graduate students from admission to graduation, working to foster a diverse, inclusive & equitable culture of graduate study at USC
- 3 Oversees academic policy & procedures, graduate stipends & fellowships, Thesis Center
- 4 Provides workshops, resources, & dispute resolution
- 5 Works closely with schools, programs, & GSG on strategic planning & leadership
- 6 Awards PhD degree

# PHD PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS



Contains information on demographics, selectivity, retention & graduation, time-to-degree, & outcomes for all USC PhD programs



Found under the “about” tab on the Graduate School website:  
[graduateschool.usc.edu](https://graduateschool.usc.edu)



Point of departure for conversations about the structure of your program & the career paths open to you

# PhD Program Characteristics

The USC Graduate School is committed to providing detailed information on the inputs, outcomes, and overall characteristics of its PhD programs, for the purposes of full transparency and to support informed decision-making.

[Program: Admission and Enrollment](#)
[Program: Graduation](#)
[Program: Placement](#)
[School: Admission and Enrollment](#)
[School: Graduation](#)
[School: Placement](#)
[Technical Notes](#)
[Technical Notes \(post code changes\)](#)



USC

## PhD Program Statistics by Program (Part 1): (All)

Select Program

(All)

How selective is the program?


Who is in the program?

Application, Admission and Enrollment (Fall cohorts): (All)



Enrollment by gender over time (Fall cohorts): (All)





# **GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

# Graduate Student Government Leaders 2022-23



**Samuel Garza**  
GSG President



**Elisa Stephens**  
GSG Sr. Vice President

## USC Graduate Student Government Structure

○ HSC Team  
These positions are reserved for non-UPC students.

**President**

**Senior VP\***

### VP of Administration

Director of Elections & Recruitment

Director of Operations

Director of Finance - Education & Access

Director of Finance - Approvals

HSC Director of Finance

Director of Finance - Disbursements & Reconciling

Director of Grants

### VP of Advocacy

Director of Sustainability

Director of Accessibility Affairs

Director of Campus Affairs

Director of Diversity & Equity - Advocacy

HSC Director of Diversity & Equity

Director of External Affairs

Director of Globalization & Inclusion

Director of Virtual Accessibility

### VP of Programming

Director of Communications

HSC Director of Communications

Director of Community Service

HSC Director of Community Service

Director of Social Pro

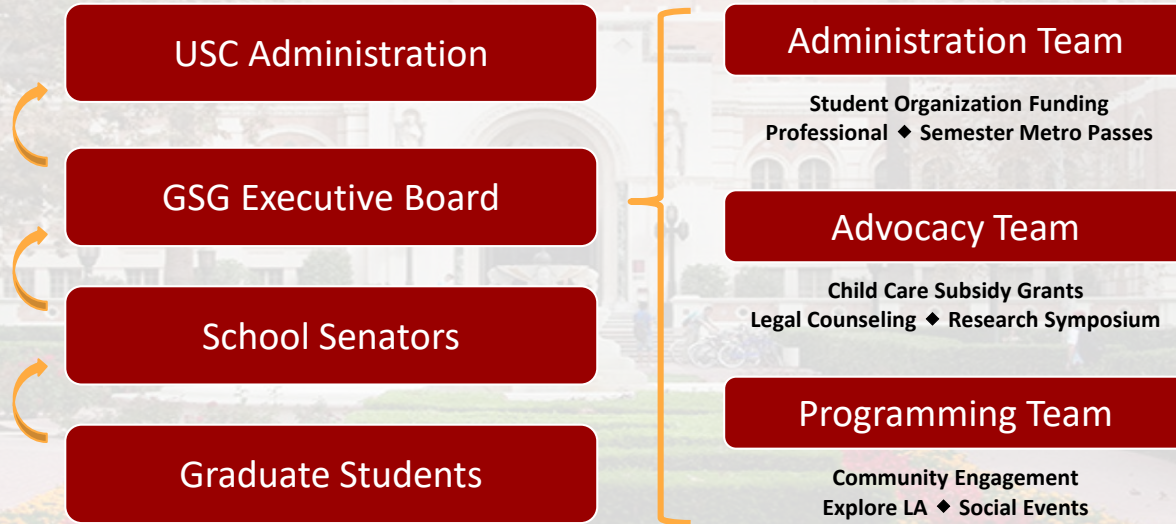
HSC Director of Social Pro

Director of Diversity & Equity - Programming

Director of Virtual Programming

Director of Academic Affairs

# GSG Representation





# GSG Programs

## Student Organization Funding

Discretionary, volunteer, social justice, and joint funds for recognized student organizations.

## Emergency Fund

Quick financial relief to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis.

## Professional Development Fund

Limited reimbursement for students' professional development.

## Legal Services

Free legal counseling for any student issues (housing, tax, harassment, etc.)

## Caretaker Subsidy Program

Awards to eligible graduate students to assist with costs of caring for a dependent.

***Please visit [gsg.usc.edu](https://gsg.usc.edu) for more information!***

# GSG Events



- 8:31 **USC vs Fresno State**  
Pardee Lawn | 4:30pm
- 9:7 **USC vs Stanford**  
Pardee Lawn | 4:30pm
- 9:20 **USC vs Utah (Friday)**  
Jesse Brewer Park | 3:00pm
- 10:19 **USC vs Arizona**  
McCarthy Quad | TBD
- 11:2 **USC vs Oregon**  
Pardee Lawn | TBD
- 11:23 **USC vs UCLA**  
Pardee Lawn | TBD

**Join us for:**

- FOOD
- GAMES
- GIVEAWAYS
- PAINT STATION
- & MORE!

**Free to all USC students + 1 guest. Football  
game ticket not required to attend.**

[campusactivities.usc.edu](http://campusactivities.usc.edu)  
[f](#) [i](#) [i](#) USCCampusActivities

**USC Student Affairs**



# Connect with GSG!



Follow us @uscgsg



Follow us at [facebook.com/uscgsg](https://facebook.com/uscgsg)



Visit us at [gsg.usc.edu/](https://gsg.usc.edu/)



*Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletters!*



# PHD FUNDING

# FUNDING OVERVIEW



**1** Key Terms

**2** External Fellowship Timeline

**3** USC Fellowship Related Resources

# KEY TERMS

## Fellowship

Stipend, tuition & fees, long period of time, disbursed incrementally, merit or research oriented. “Full-time” research.

## Assistantship

Stipend, tuition & fees. Either RA or TA, working with a faculty member

## Scholarship

One-time payment, typically small \$ amount (less than \$10,000) need based, ideal for summer.

## Grant

Project specific funding, budget allocated in advance.

# EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE



**Early - year 1 & 2**

ABOUT YOU

Ford Pre-Doc, NSF  
GRFP, Soros



**Mid - year 3 & 4**

ABOUT DATA  
COLLECTION

NIH NRSA F31,  
Fulbright, Fulbright  
Hays, SSRC



**Late - 5 & 6**

ABOUT WRITING  
AAUW

Ford Dissertation

# EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP RESOURCES

## USC Fellowship Database

<http://awardsdatabase.usc.edu/>

## Fellowship Support

Boot Camp for incoming and advanced PhDs

Research & Fellowships Week

Online Fellowship Course

Network of Applicants & Awardees

## Also...

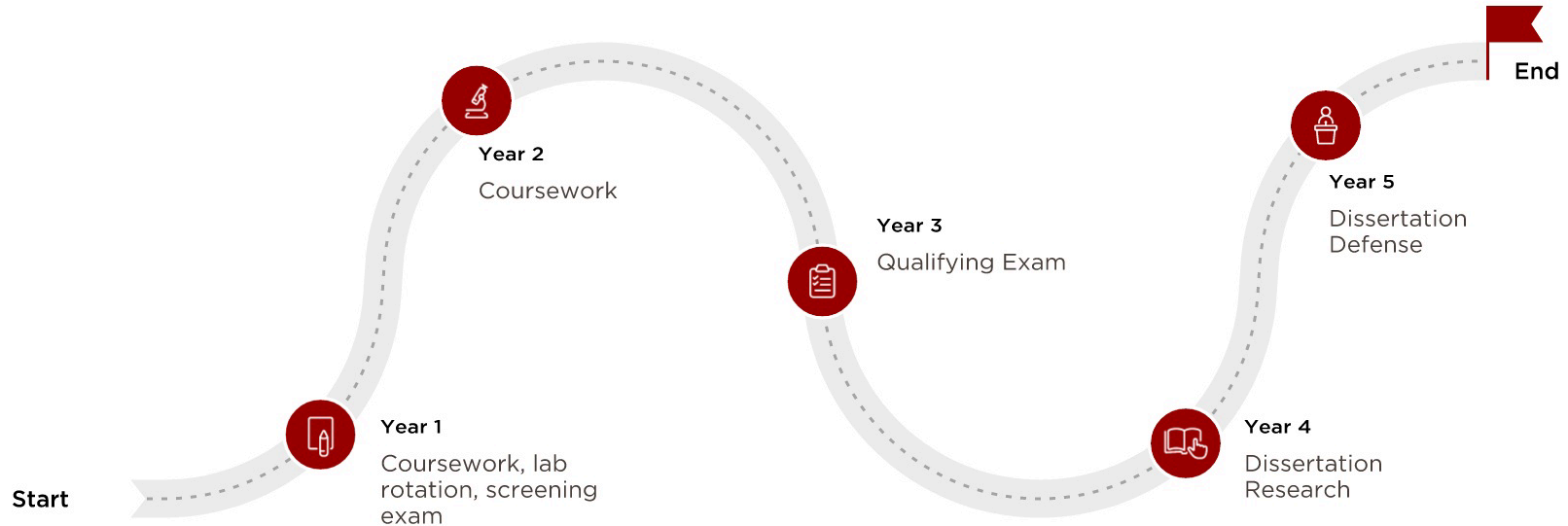
Graduate Women's Writing Group





**MAKING GOOD PROGRESS**

# “TYPICAL” PHD ROAD MAP



# STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Read your PhD Program Handbook
- Cultivate a supportive network & work towards small milestones;
- Develop time management skills & persistent daily efforts;
- Average time to degree: five & a half years;
- 76.5% of students complete with 8 years;





# **MENTORING**

# GETTING WHAT YOU CAME FOR

- 1. Set expectations and boundaries.**

Ask your advisor about creating a mentoring compact.

- 2. Bring an agenda to each of your meetings.**

Keep/ share a running notes document.

- 3. Distinguish between advising, supervision, sponsorship, and mentoring.**

## Advising

“Assists students in the clarification of their life/career goals and in the development of educational plans for the realization of these goals”

Can be formal and support specific questions (e.g., coursework)

Frame of mind may be transactional

Winston et al., 1982)

## Supervision

Oversight for work or tasks such as Research or Teaching assistantship, Dissertation completion

Often defined as part of mentoring, but this framing may also mask power dynamics

Manathunga, 2007

## Sponsorship

“publicly acknowledges the achievements of the mentee and advocates for the mentee”

Supports career opportunities, advancement, recognition in concrete ways

NASEM, 2019

## Mentoring

“a professional, working alliance in which individuals work together over time to support the personal and professional growth, development, and success of the relational partners through the provision of career and psychosocial support”

NASEM, 2019

## Academic and Career Efficacy

Grad students indicating they had excellent mentors more likely to complete their degrees (Ferrer de Valero, 2005); Johnson & Huwe, 2003). Positive relationship between career support graduate students receive from mentors & perceptions of career success (Johnson, 2016).

## Sense of Belonging

Graduate students' belief that they had ongoing mentorship opportunities and positive interactions with peers contributed greatly to their sense of belonging (O'Meara et al., 2017).

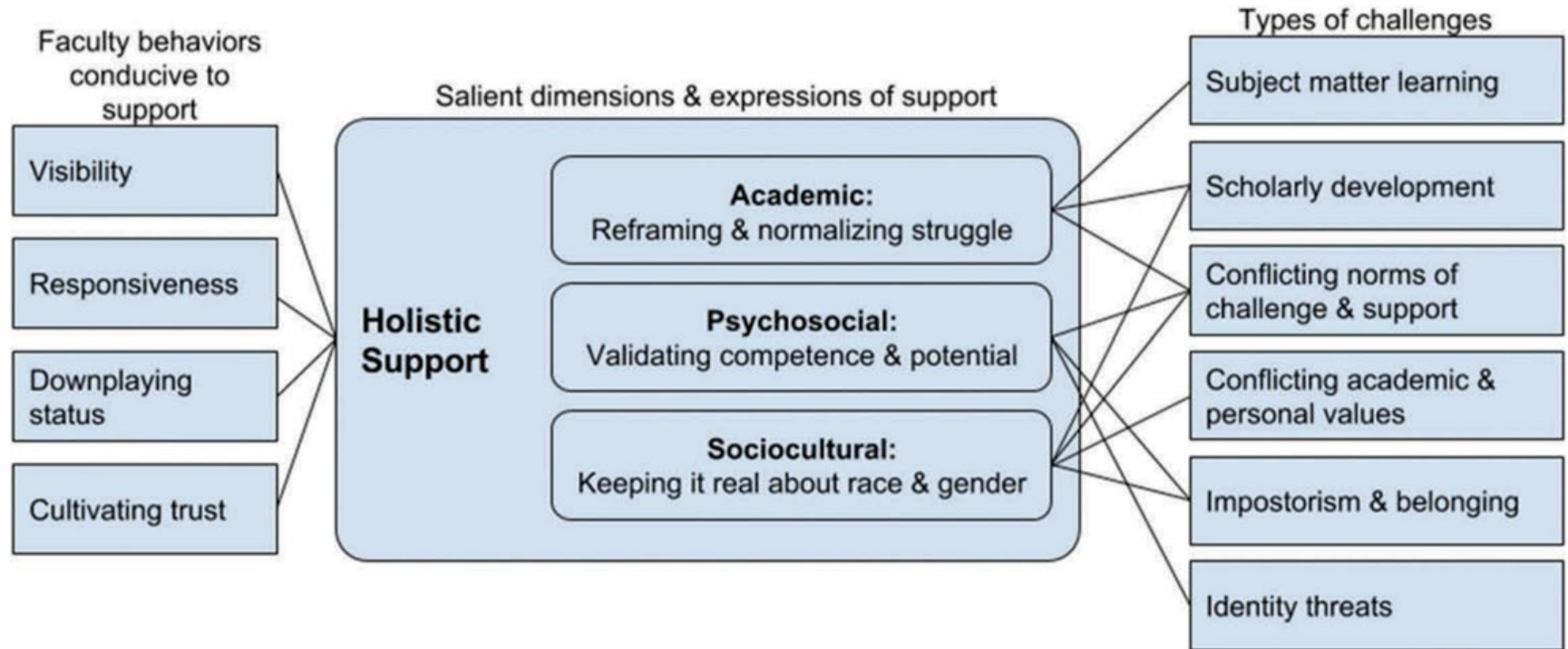
## Reduced Stress & Role Conflict

Mentors reduce role strain and conflict by modeling work-life balance and providing support and guidance to their mentees. Mentorship associated with reduced social isolation and stress (Johnson, 2016).

## Performance & Productivity

Having a faculty mentor predicts higher research productivity among graduate students and early-career professionals (Hollingsworth & Fassinger, 2002)

# Holistic Support in Doctoral Education



Source: Posselt, 2018



## AND PLEASE REMEMBER...

- 1. Professors are people too.**

Inquiring about aspects of their life path (or current goings-on) can build trust, which is a foundation to strong mentorship.

- 2. Mentoring and community are best when distributed.**

Consider the development of a mentoring constellation.

# Grad School Team - please introduce yourselves!



Andrew  
McConnell  
Stott



Meredith  
Drake  
Reitan



Laura  
Yoneda



Julie  
Posselt



Kate  
Tegmeyer



Kamille  
Mosqueda



Elda  
Padilla



Aaron  
Thompson