



# UCCS Graduate School

## Monthly Newsletter

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### Feature Story

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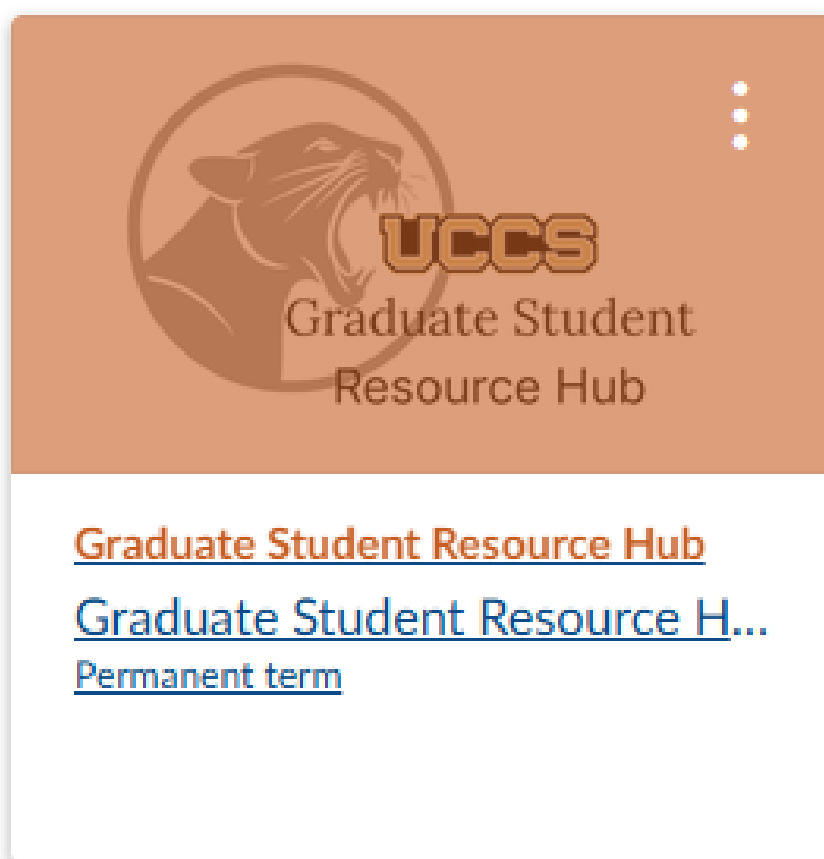
## Welcome to another academic year at UCCS!

We currently have approximately 2,895 active graduate students, and 1,470 graduate students who were admitted into a graduate program this fall semester. To all students, new and returning: **welcome!**

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, we held our Annual Fall Welcome Reception to welcome new graduate students to our UCCS community. We hold this event every year for new UCCS graduate students. It is a great opportunity for new graduate students to connect with other students, faculty, staff, and learn about available campus resources. This year, we had the highest number of attendees since the creation of this event! We are very grateful for the students, faculty, staff, campus resource office representatives, graduate admissions team, and event services who supported the event.

If you were unable to attend this event, do not worry! Our new Graduate Student Resource Hub in Canvas has officially launched, and you can find all of the information there. The purpose of this resource hub is to provide resources, tips, tricks, and tools to improve your experience as a graduate student. The resource hub has information on funding, teaching assistant roles, mental health and self-care, mentorship, and tools to help you write your thesis or dissertation. All current graduate students should have access to this resource in Canvas. However, if you find that you do not have access to this course in Canvas, please let us know by emailing [gradinfo@uccs.edu](mailto:gradinfo@uccs.edu). This hub is a “living” resource, so please reach out to us via email or by Canvas to suggest changes or additions. We would love to hear your feedback as we continue to improve this resource.

Go Mountain Lions! 🦁



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Yani Yakob, M.A**

**“We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.”**

**— Jesse Owens**

Yani recently graduated in Spring 2026 with a Master of Arts in Psychology, thesis track, from the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

Her thesis title is *Modeling the Pathways Between Intergenerational Trauma, Black Identity, Out-Group Threat, and Racial Socialization in Black American Parenting.*

Yani’s educational goal is to receive her doctorate and publish research that supports marginalized communities. Her career goal is to work in public policy to improve youth mental health and then go on to teach at a university. She will take her first steps towards achieving these goals this August as she begins her PhD program at University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

Yani would like to thank her faculty advisor, Dr. Joseph Wagoner, for all his help and contribution to her achievement!

Congratulations Yani on your recent achievement, and we wish you the best in all your endeavors.

Welcome to the [UCCS Alumni Community!](#)

## Mentor Mondays for Faculty and Staff Mentors



We welcome the many faculty and staff mentors who are returning to UCCS. Over the past two years, the Graduate School has been developing resources to support stronger mentor-mentee relationships, which you can find on our [website](#) and in our Canvas resource hub. But for many of us now running our own research groups and supporting graduate student development, receipt of specialized training on becoming and improving as a mentor isn't widespread. It is not uncommon to model graduate student mentoring based upon how we were treated as students.

To help build a strong community of mentors, we invite faculty and staff to informal lunches in Cafe 65 (University Center) on "Mentor Mondays," an event series that we are co-hosting with the Center for Student Research. At our first meeting, September 14<sup>th</sup> (11:30 am – 1:00 pm), we will have a general discussion theme of **Improving Communication**. Many conflicts between students and their research advisors or mentors can be traced back to poor communication or assumptions regarding expectations. This is a highly informal discussion, so please note that you're welcome to join for some or all of the meeting times. Please invite your colleagues in your department or programs who also mentor graduate students.

Future **Mentor Mondays** lunches (11:30 am – 1:00 pm) and broad discussion themes are listed below:

- **September 14<sup>th</sup>: Effective Communication and Creating a Welcoming Research Environment: Writing a Research Group Welcome Letter**
- **October 12<sup>th</sup>: On Writing the Thesis or Dissertation: Strategies for supporting students on their writing journey**
- **November 16<sup>th</sup>: Career Conversations: Guiding mentees in professional development**

## Graduate Student Tips



### Do I Need Mentoring?

A critical aspect of finding the success you envision in your graduate training is taking the primary responsibility for successful completion of the degree but also advocating for your professional development needs.

This tool is meant to be used at multiple points in your graduate training, or beyond, as professional interests and goals change.

As you accept new challenges in your professional development and training, you may find that identifying a mentor can accelerate your journey professionally and personally.

Use this tool as you embark on a new research project, internship, practicum, collaborative project, or other experience.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What two or three things do I want to learn from this experience?
2. What are one or two specific professional or personal goals that I can learn from this experience?
3. What skills do I need to develop to be successful?
4. How does this experience support my career goals or interests?
5. What UCCS resources, including mentorship, are available to support me?

PDF VERSION FOR DOWNLOAD [HERE](#).

\* The Graduate School at the University of Missouri and the University of Georgia Athens were important resources in developing this tool.

For more mentoring tips, please visit our website [here](#):

### CONTACT US

✉ [gradinfo@uccs.edu](mailto:gradinfo@uccs.edu)

☎ 719-255-3417

📍 Cragmor Hall 110

✳ [linkedin.com/in/uccsgraduateschool](https://www.linkedin.com/in/uccsgraduateschool)

🌐 <https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/>

## Public Safety Tips For ALL

Below is guide provided by the Department of Public Safety on the best way to handle an active harmer emergency.

For more information, please watch the educational video [here](#).

**\*Trigger warning: this video includes audio of fake gunshots.**



|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RUN</b><br>If a safe path is available, <b>RUN</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an escape route and plan in mind</li> <li>• Do not hesitate, get out</li> <li>• Leave your belongings</li> <li>• Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow</li> <li>• Keep your hands visible</li> </ul> |
| <b>HIDE</b><br>If you cannot get out safely, <b>HIDE</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block entrances, turn off lights and lock doors</li> <li>• Stay out of the harmer's view</li> <li>• Be quiet and silence your phone (including vibrate)</li> </ul>                                                        |
| <b>FIGHT</b><br>Fight only as a <b>LAST RESORT</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to disarm and incapacitate the harmer</li> <li>• Improvise weapons or throw items at the harmer</li> <li>• Fight like your life depends on it</li> </ul>                                                              |

## CALL OR TEXT **911** WHEN SAFE TO DO SO

### WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Avoid quick movements toward officers
- Avoid pointing, screaming, or yelling
- Do not ask questions when evacuating

### INFORMATION TO PROVIDE 911 OPERATORS

- Location of the active harmer
- Number of harmers
- Physical description of harmer(s)
- Number and type of weapons the harmer has
- Number of potential victims at location

## REMINDERS

- Many campus wide events are posted in Mountain Lion Connect. Please make sure to check out events and organizations offered: [Explore - Mountain Lion Connect](#)
- Important Graduation Deadlines (Schedule of Deadlines Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer 2027)
  - If you plan to graduate this year, please be sure to review these deadlines and steps for applying to graduation listed on our website here:

[Graduating Students | Graduate School](#)

### SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES FOR UCCS GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES EXPECTING TO GRADUATE DURING 2026-2027

To be eligible for graduation, students must have fulfilled the appropriate requirements as established by their program and the Graduate School. The student must have a completed approved Application for Admission to Candidacy for an Advanced Degree and Online Diploma Card turned in as indicated below. Students must have completed all coursework; and (Program Specific) successfully Defended Thesis/Dissertation, Capstone, Project, Report. Procedures and Deadlines\* required are described below: **By the Semester Desired for Graduation and Participation in Commencement.**

Revised: 7-15-2026

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Fall Grads 2026<br>Commencement Dec 2026                                          | Spring Grads 2027<br>Commencement May 2027                                         | Summer Grads 2027<br>Commencement Dec 2027                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Student submit Completed Application for Admission to Candidacy forms to Department/Program                                                                                                                                              | Due to Program by 9/4/2026<br>(unless your program specifies an EARLIER deadline) | Due to Program by 1/29/2027<br>(unless your program specifies an EARLIER deadline) | Due to Program by 6/18/2027<br>(unless your program specifies an EARLIER deadline) |
| <i>Student submits online Diploma Card in Student Portal</i>                                                                                                                                                                             | 9/4/2026                                                                          | 1/29/2027                                                                          | 6/18/2027                                                                          |
| Deadline for Programs to Submit Application for Admission to Candidacy, along with any necessary additional forms, to the Graduate School:<br>(Transfer of Credit, Unclassified Credit, Unofficial Transcript, Course Validations, etc.) | 9/11/2026                                                                         | 2/5/2027                                                                           | 6/25/2027                                                                          |
| Last day for Final Thesis/Dissertation Defense*                                                                                                                                                                                          | No later than 11/13/2026 (Friday)                                                 | No later than 4/13/2027 (Tuesday)                                                  | No later than 7/6/2027 (Tuesday)                                                   |
| Thesis/Dissertation to the Graduate School*<br>All edits complete and electronic submission approved through ProQuest by listed Day and Time.<br>(Must be complete to be eligible for graduation)                                        | Submitted into ProQuest and approved by 12/17/2026 @ 12:00pm (Thursday)           | Submitted into ProQuest and approved by 5/13/2027 @ 12:00pm (Thursday)             | Submitted into ProQuest and approved by 8/5/2027 @ 12:00pm (Thursday)              |
| Deadline for Programs to Submit Final Transcripts and any outstanding forms* due to the Graduate School for Final Audit<br>(Transfer of Credit, Unclassified Credit, Unofficial Transcript, Course Validations, etc.)                    | 1/5/2027                                                                          | 5/21/2027                                                                          | 8/13/2027                                                                          |
| Deadline for Program Department Confirmed Lists due to the Dean of the Graduate School                                                                                                                                                   | 1/5/2027                                                                          | 5/21/2027                                                                          | 8/13/2027                                                                          |

These deadlines will insure graduation during the semester desired. If a defense is held past this deadline, but prior to the start of the next semester, registration for the next semester is not required, but the degree will be awarded the following semester.

**NOTE:** Departments/ Programs may have other deadlines, which must be met by students.

Students should ascertain and satisfy such requirements as specified by the department/program advisor.

Copies of the UCCS Thesis/Dissertation Manual are available on the Graduate School website.

Students preparing a Thesis/Dissertation/Capstone should consult their advisor and the manual early on in the preparation process.

Students using human subjects/animals and/or biohazards in research must obtain approval from the appropriate institutional committee before beginning such research.

<https://osp.uccs.edu/research-compliance>

Visit the Commencement website: <http://www.uccs.edu/~commencement>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Fall 2026 JC Penny Suit-Up Event**

(Hosted by the Career Center)

Up to 45% off select career wear, shoes, and accessories - when paired with the 30% off coupon card we will provide!

Students, Alumni, Staff, and Faculty are welcome to participate!

**Date:** Saturday September 12th, 2026

**Time:** From 11am to 2pm

**Location:** In Store: 3650 New Center PT, Colorado Springs, CO 90822  
Coupon is also valid online!! To receive the coupon for the online store please text CLYDE to 67292

**NO RSVP Required!**

**This event is also listed on [Mountain Lion Connect](#).**



### **Graduate Student Virtual Writing Circle**

Need dedicated time to write or some extra writing support?

Join the Graduate Student Virtual Writing Circle! Come work on your articles, fellowship applications, coursework, dissertation, and more.

**RSVP here ([Please fill out this form](#))**

**Dates:** September 11th, 2026 - December 4th, 2026

**Times:** Fridays 9-10:30am

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

Questions? Reach out to [csr@uccs.edu](mailto:csr@uccs.edu) for more information!