University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Graduate Executive Committee
9/11/2026
Minutes

Attendees:

Voting Members:

Amanda Elder, Carlos Diaz, Christina Jiminez, Diep Dao, Edin Mujkic, Ezio Iacocca, Gregory Plett, James Pearson, Jeremy Bono, Johanna Baez, Justin Cole, Kara Holt, Karin Larkin, Kate Quintana, Katie Sullivan, Lavonne Johnson, Lei Zhang, Leilani Feliciano, Patty Witkowsky, Rory Lewis, Xin Yee

Non – Voting Members:

Alyssa Langness, Amanda Bear, Amy Rodas, Andrea Williams, Asjia Trotter-Mcgill, Brian McAllister, Bridget Roe, Carolyn Daley, Chris Beiswanger, David DuBois, Deanna Johnson, Gloria Seward, Gregory Augspurger, Hillary Fouts, Janel Owens, Jennifer Newcomb, Jose Mora, Julie Torkelson, Kim Paine, Kim Severn, Lauren Harriott, Mary Rupp, Megan Rogers, Michael Corl, Monica Yoo, Paige Feria, Rosey Reidl Smith, Sam Adams, Scott Kupferman, Shonda Johnson, Sofi Cruz Duke, Stephani Hosain, Stephanie Trujillo, Steve Bistricky, Susan Eldridge, Svetlana Gureyeva, Wendi Clouse

Agenda Items:

- College of Education Proposed New AMP (Patty Witkowsky)
  GEC voted to recommend new AMP (20 agree, 0 disagree, 0 abstain)
- Change to Graduate School Leave of Absence Policy (Janel Owen)
  - The graduate school will review the proposed policy for way to better support cohort model programs and bring this item to a future GEC meeting.
- New Graduate School Scholarships (Janel Owens)
  - Exceptional Graduate Program Service Award
    - Please submit your feedback here by 10/1/2026
  - Graduate Student Scholarship for Careers in Community Wellbeing
    - Please submit your feedback here by 10/1/2026
- New OnBase Certificate Approval Form Demo (Lauren Harriott)
  - The OnBase Certificate Approval Form is required for any revision or proposal of a new certificate and can be found on the Provost's website: https://provost.uccs.edu/policies

Informational Items:

- The Department of Communication's Graduate Certificate Leading Through Change no longer counts COMM 6250: Storytelling for Strategic Leadership as one of the certificate courses because it will no longer be taught. It will be replaced with COMM 5050, Managing Social Media, which is offered yearly.
- The College of Engineering and Applied Science – Computer Science PhD programs are shifting application deadlines to February 1st for Fall admissions, and October 1st for Spring admissions (previously: April 1st for Fall admissions and November 1st for Spring admissions). This applies to the Computer Science and Cybersecurity PhD programs.
- The faculty of the psychological science committee unanimously voted in favor of the following change for the "MA Psychology—Psychological Science track": Starting with the incoming 2026

cohort, students will be granted a maximum of 5 years to complete the program (leave of absences will not extend the time limit).

- The SAHE program has changed their application deadline for Summer 2027 to February 1st for early decision and April 1st for regular decision.
- The BS degree in Computer Engineering (BSCpE) is now an eligible pathway for the Electrical Engineering AMP

Announcements:

- Ithenticate is available to all faculty working with graduate students. Information on how faculty can gain access to iThenticate can be found on the Graduate School's website under the Faculty and Staff Resources page or on the FRC website under the TurnItIn tab.
- If you would like your program to be eligible for Western Regional Graduate Program, please make sure you are completing the Program Request to Participate in WRGP Form on the Graduate School website. For more information on WRGP, please visit the WRGP website
- For questions about changing admissions deadlines or rolling admissions, please reach out to graddocs@uccs.edu. Any changes need to application deadlines and materials need to go through GEC as informational item.
- For programs who would like to propose a new AMP, please complete the new AMP Approval Form on the Graduate School Website to be submitted with your proposal.
- For any student requesting to take more than 15 hours in a regular semester,6 hours per 4-week term and 9 hours per 8-week summer session, please complete the new Course Overload Form on the Graduate School Website.
- UCCS Digital Collections has migrated platforms and the Theses and Dissertations collection has been moved. If you have the old Mountain Scholar address (archives.mountainscholar.org) bookmarked, please change it. Direct link: UCCS Theses and Dissertations or the UCCS Digital Collections can be reached through the Kraemer Family Library website, select Preservica (Access the Library's Digital Collections), then Theses and Dissertations. Within the collection, theses and dissertations are now organized by degree in a single collection. Students still submit their work through ETDadmin for approval by the Graduate School then publication by the Library. Please contact mrupp@uccs.edu with any questions.
- Grad School, Center for Student Research, and the Office of Research will host an NSF GRFP information session on Friday, 9/18, 1 - 2:30 pm via Zoom and in person (room location TBD). For the many programs that have AMP programs, this will be of benefit for students.
- Grad School and Center for Student Research are hosting "Mentor Mondays" with our first meeting on Monday, 9/14, from 11:30 - 1 pm in the UC (Cafe 65 area). Bring your lunch, tell your colleagues, and come by to discuss mentorship and writing a research group welcome letter and helping mentees with communication plans.

GEC Meetings for 2026/2027 (Academic Year) all meetings are from 10:00-11:30

- Fall GEC Meetings
  9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11
- Spring GEC Meetings

2/5, 3/13, 4/9, 5/7

Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Health and Human Services to Master of Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education Accelerated Master's Pathway

Presented by Dr. Patty Witkowsky
Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Research, and Foundations

Program Description:
The Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Health and Human Services (BHHS) to Master of Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education (MA in Leadership-SAHE) Accelerated Master Pathway (AMP) is designed to allow students to work concurrently on the BA in BHHS and the MA in Leadership-SAHE. Up to 12 graduate credit hours earned while enrolled in the BA to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP can be counted toward the fulfillment of requirements for both programs. For the courses to be credited for requirements in both degree programs, they must be taken after admission to the AMP and prior to completion of the undergraduate degree. Courses also must be from the list of identified courses approved for dual credit.

The purpose of the BA in BHHS to the MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP is to provide an opportunity for high achieving students to complete their undergraduate degree in BHHS and MA in Leadership-SAHE in an accelerated time frame. The result should be to increase opportunities for access to graduate education and expand career prospects.

Students admitted to the dual program will earn a Bachelor of Arts in BHHS upon completion of the BA requirements and will be eligible to participate in the undergraduate commencement ceremony. After successful completion Students admitted to the BA to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP will be automatically admitted to the MA in Leadership-SAHE program if they have received at least a 3.0 (B) in each MA course completed. Otherwise, BA to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP students are not guaranteed admission to the MA in Leadership-SAHE program and must apply to be admitted.

Students pursuing the BA in BHHS to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP pathway must first complete the AMP Intent Form through the UCCS Graduate School before beginning courses (as they complete 60 credit hours or transfer in 60 credit hours or an Associates degree). Once approved, they may begin taking MA in Leadership-SAHE graduate-level courses. Students can take up to 12 credit hours of dual-counted coursework, though they may choose to take fewer. Before graduating from the undergraduate BHHS program, students with at least a 3.0 (B) in each graduate course must indicate through a form on the MA in Leadership-SAHE program website if they will be pursuing the MA in Leadership-SAHE by January 15th of the year they will begin or for students without at least a B in each of the AMP courses, they will complete the formal application to the MA in Leadership-SAHE program. All students must meet all standard MA in Leadership-SAHE admission requirements, or the program reserves the right to conditionally admit a student who does not meet the standard admission requirements.

Instructions for the graduate application process are available on the MA in Leadership-SAHE website. Once the AMP is approved, the form to indicate plans to pursue the MA in Leadership-

SAHE will be available for students who completed their AMP courses with at least a 3.0 (B) in each course.

BA in BHHS to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP students are not required to continue with the MA in Leadership-SAHE program after completion of the BA in BHHS. However, BA in BHHS to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP students are admitted on the preise that they intend to complete both degrees. If they choose to withdraw from this program prior to completing both degrees, they will need to ensure that the credits are within the 6-year timeline prior to returning to complete their MA in Leadership-SAHE.

M.A. in Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE)
Degree requirements include:

- Completion of a minimum of 36 hours of graduate work with a grade point average of B (3.0) or better.
- Students must earn grades of B- or better in all courses applied to the degree.
- The 36 hours include 33 hours of core courses, and 3 hours of LEAD elective course.

BA in BHHS to LEAD SAHE AMP students must complete all the LEAD SAHE AMP core courses and additional LEAD SAHE MA degree requirements as outlined in the university catalogue.

Dual Credits:
BA in BHHS to MA in Leadership-SAHE AMP allows students to count 12 semester credit hours toward both the Bachelor of Arts in BHHS and the Master of Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education. For credits to be double counted, the following conditions must be met:

- Dual credit courses must be from among those approved, included in the list of courses approved for dual credit below.
- Dual credit courses must be completed with a B or better
- Dual credit courses must be taken for graduate credit (5000 level or above)

Courses approved for Dual Credit:

- LEAD 5700
- LEAD 5260
- LEAD 5110
- LEAD 5610

Standards for Admission:

- Completion of the AMP Intent form through the graduate school into the BA in BHHS to MA in LEAD-SAHE AMP is required prior to taking the dual-credit BHHS/LEAD SAHE AMP courses at the 5000 level.
- Students must meet the following criteria
    - A current UCCS student who has completed at least 30 credit hours at UCCS
    - A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
    - Student is a declared major in the BA BHHS program
    - Completion of at least 15 credits hours in the major

- Meet the standards and admissions requirements for both programs as outlined in the UCCS catalogue (which may include higher standards than those listed above and/or additional criteria)

Program Retention Criteria:
Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the undergraduate portion of the program and a 3.0 GPA throughout the graduate portion of the program. To remain in the program, students must meet the requirements of the respective programs as outlined in the UCCS catalog. If students fail to maintain requirements for either program they will be dismissed from the AMP in accordance with the policies outlined in these documents. In cases where the student appeals a dismissal decision, the policy of the college whose requirements are not met will be followed.

Departmental Authority:
The College of Education will track students enrolled in the BA in BHHS to LEAD SAHE AMP. The College of Education will inform appropriate offices (e.g., admissions, records, academic advising, graduate school, financial aid) when a student is being admitted to the accelerated master's graduate status as well as when a student is removed from the program due to failing to meet program requirements or if student selects to voluntarily end enrollment in accelerated program. Advising responsibilities for the undergraduate portion of this degree will be the responsibility of Academic Advising. Advising for the LEAD SAHE MA portion of the AMP will be the responsibility of the LEAD SAHE MA faculty.

BA in BHHS to MA LEAD-SAHE AMP Five-Year Degree Plan

Please note that this is an example degree program and the specific student's program may vary. Students are responsible for completing all course prerequisites.

Fall 1	**Hours**	**Spring 1**	**Hours**
ENGL 1310	3	ENGL 1410	3
COUN 2000	3	COUN 2040	3
GPS 1010	3	LEAD 1600	3
Explore-Arts, Humanities, and Cultures	3	Explore-Society, Behavior, and Health	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
TOTAL	15	TOTAL	15

Fall 2	**Hours**	**Spring 2**	**Hours**
COUN 3000	3	COUN 3110	3
LEAD 2700	3	COUN 3400 or 2400	3
COUN 2950	3	Explore-Physical and Natural World	3
COUN Elective	3	General Elective-Sustainability	3
General Elective-Writing Intensive	3	COUN 3410	3
TOTAL	15	TOTAL	15

Fall 3	**Hours**	**Spring 3**	**Hours**
General Elective-Inclusiveness	3	COUN 3500	3
COUN 4950	3	COUN or LEAD Elective	3

COUN Elective (upper division 3000 level+)	3	General Elective (upper division 3000 level+); Writing Intensive	3
COUN Elective (upper division 3000+); Navigate	3	General Elective (upper division 3000 level+)	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
TOTAL	15	TOTAL	15

Fall 4	**Hours**	**Spring 4**	**Hours**
LEAD 5110	3	HUM 3990	3
LEAD 5610	3	LEAD 5260	3
LEAD 5700	3	General elective (upper division 3000+)	3
General elective (upper division 3000+)	3	General elective (upper division 3000+)	3
General elective (upper division 3000+)	3	General elective (upper division 3000+)	3
TOTAL	15	TOTAL	15

Summer 4	**Hours**
LEAD 5010	3
LEAD 5280	3
TOTAL	6

Fall 5	**Hours**	**Spring 5**	**Hours**
LEAD 5030	3	LEAD 5210	3
LEAD 5310	3	LEAD 5290	3
		LEAD 6830	3
		LEAD 6000 or 7000	3
TOTAL	6	TOTAL	12

UCCS Graduate School Leave of Absence Policy Update

Background:

UCCS currently uses the term **Leave of Absence (LOA)** for graduate students who temporarily step away from their academic program with advance approval from their graduate program director.

While the current process has served important academic and administrative purposes, the term "Leave of Absence" does not accurately reflect how graduate student enrollment interruptions are treated under federal financial aid regulations. This terminology has the potential to create confusion regarding enrollment status, student loan repayment, and financial aid eligibility.

Issues:

Several factors support replacing the current LOA terminology and process:

- **Federal Compliance and Clarity:** The UCCS graduate student LOA process does not meet the federal definition of a ***Leave of Absence*** used for financial aid purposes. Continuing to use this terminology may result in misunderstanding financial aid and loan repayment obligations.
- **Student Understanding:** Students may incorrectly assume that an approved LOA preserves their official enrollment status or delays federal loan repayment timelines when it does not.
- **Academic Program Needs:** Graduate programs value a formal process that allows students to communicate academic, personal, or professional circumstances requiring a temporary interruption in their graduate studies and documents the student's anticipated return.
- **Registrar's Software (SIS) Settings:** The current LOA status in SIS turns off the automatic discontinuation process for three terms of non-enrollment. Failure to auto-discontinue LOA students has led to dozens of students remaining in LOA status after years of non-attendance, allowing them access to UCCS resources long after permissions should have ended.

Proposal:

The Graduate School must establish an **Enrollment Pause** policy to replace the current Leave of Absence terminology and process. Initial language for consideration of this new proposal is provided below.

Graduate School Enrollment Pause Policy

Purpose

The **Enrollment Pause** allows graduate students to take a temporary one-semester break from enrollment without withdrawing from their degree program. The Enrollment Pause is intended to support students experiencing short-term circumstances that temporarily interfere with their ability to engage fully in graduate studies while promoting retention and student success. Such reasons for taking an Enrollment Pause are detailed below.

Eligibility

Students may request an Enrollment Pause if they:

- Are enrolled in a graduate degree or certificate program.
- Have completed at least one semester in their current program.
- Are not currently on suspension or dismissal status.
- Have no outstanding holds that would prevent enrollment.

International students in F-1 or J-1 status must consult with the institution's International Students and Scholars Services (ISSS) office before requesting an Enrollment Pause, as immigration regulations may affect eligibility. ISSS approval must be documented on Enrollment Pause Request Form when submitted.

Duration

- An Enrollment Pause may be approved for **one academic semester** (fall or spring).
- Summer terms do not require an Enrollment Pause semester unless summer enrollment is required by the student's program.
- Academic departments will determine the number of Enrollment Pauses (consecutive or non-consecutive) they will allow students to take during the duration of their graduate program. If the student is not enrolled for three consecutive semesters, they will be automatically discontinued from the program by the Office of the Registrar, and they must reapply to the graduate program to request permission to continue their studies.

Acceptable Reasons for Taking an Enrollment Pause

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Personal or family responsibilities
- Temporary medical or mental health concerns
- Military obligations
- Financial hardship
- Significant professional opportunities
- Caregiving responsibilities
- Other circumstances deemed appropriate by the graduate program

Students are **not** required to provide detailed personal information unless necessary to support the request.

Request Process

To request an Enrollment Pause, the following steps should be taken:

1. Student submits an Enrollment Pause Request Form to their graduate program director before the semester begins or **no later than the census date** of the paused semester. (Note: if a student requests an Enrollment Pause *after* the census date, we will provide additional instructions).
2. The request includes:
    - Brief reason for the pause (this may be a simple statement, such as 'military obligation')
    - Academic term in which the pause will occur
    - Acknowledgment of policy terms
3. The graduate program director reviews the request.
4. Final approval is granted by the Graduate School.

Students are encouraged to meet with their graduate program director before submitting a request.

Academic Status During the Enrollment Pause

During the approved Enrollment Pause:

- The student remains active in the graduate program but will be reported as "withdrawn" to the Department of Education for the duration of the pause.
- Enrollment in any graduate program coursework is not required.
- Registration access for the future two semesters is retained.

- The student's place in the program is preserved.
- The student does not need to reapply for admission upon return should the Enrollment Pause be limited to one or two semesters.

Students may not:

- Enroll in graduate coursework required by their program at the institution during the paused semester.
- Use university resources that require active enrollment unless otherwise permitted by university policy or by courses that they choose to engage in during their enrollment pause.
- Receive assistantship stipends, tuition support, or student employment positions that require enrollment in their specific graduate program of admission.

Impact on Funding and Benefits

An Enrollment Pause may affect:

- Assistantships
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Tuition benefits
- Health insurance eligibility
- Loan deferment status – students on Enrollment Pauses will be reported as "withdrawn" to the Department of Education
- Veterans' educational benefits

Students are responsible for consulting the appropriate campus offices (Office of Financial Aid, Office of the Dean of Students, Veteran & Military Affairs, etc.) regarding the impact of a Program Pause on their individual circumstances.

Time-to-Degree

An approved Enrollment Pause semester will not count against program continuous enrollment requirements. However, the pause does not automatically extend established time-to-degree limits. Students must still complete their desired degree within the established time limits of the Graduate School policy and their graduate program policy.

Returning from an Enrollment Pause

Students approved for an Enrollment Pause will:

- Follow standard registration procedures.

- Work with their graduate program director, if needed, to develop an updated degree completion plan.
- No readmission application or fee is required if the student is returning before three consecutive academic semesters (one calendar year) have passed.

Failure to Return

Students who do not enroll in the approved return semester and do not request an extension to the Program Pause may:

- Be considered inactive.
- Be required to apply for readmission under current admission requirements and policies.

Required Changes to Graduate School Policies: **Recommend replacing the current Article IV, Section C with the following:**

Article IV, Section C, Enrollment Pause

The Enrollment Pause allows graduate students to take a temporary one-semester break from enrollment without withdrawing from their degree program. The Enrollment Pause is intended to support students experiencing short-term circumstances that temporarily interfere with their ability to engage fully in graduate studies while promoting retention and student success.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a graduate degree or certificate program, have successfully completed at least one academic semester in their current program, have no outstanding institutional holds, and not be on academic probation or dismissal status. It is preferred that students be in good academic standing at the time of request. If a student is not in good academic standing or is undergoing a review process for violating academic code, the Enrollment Pause Request Form should include an explanation from the program director. International students in F-1 or J-1 status are subject to federal immigration regulations and must obtain clearance from the International Student and Scholar Services office prior to policy authorization.

An approved Enrollment Pause applies to a single academic semester (Fall or Spring); Summer terms do not count toward pause limits unless summer enrollment is mandatory for the program. Individual academic departments maintain the authority to set maximum allowable pauses per student. An Enrollment Pause maintains the student's program placement and future registration privileges and does not count against continuous

enrollment requirements. However, a pause does not extend the time limits for completion of degrees outlined in section K.

Students who remain un-enrolled for three consecutive academic semesters will be automatically discontinued by the Registrar and must apply for readmission.

During an approved pause, students may not enroll in program-required coursework, receive graduate assistantship stipends, tuition benefits, or hold program-contingent employment. Access to university resources requiring active enrollment is restricted in accordance with general university policies. Students on an approved pause are reported as withdrawn to the U.S. Department of Education for loan deferment purposes, and the pause may impact financial aid, veteran benefits, and health insurance eligibility. Students maintain sole responsibility for understanding the financial and benefit implications of non-enrollment prior to initiating a pause.

Current Article IV, Section C: Leave of Absence

If a student needs to take a leave of absence (LOA) from a program for longer than one semester, the student will need to request a formal leave of absence from the program. A leave of absence may occur for one year (3 continuous semesters including summer). Programs may have shorter stop out periods. Students may request consecutive leaves but if the student has not contacted the program to return from their LOA at the end of the end of the designated timeframe and later request to return, the student may need to reapply to the program to determine if they are still eligible to return to the program.

A program may also place a student on an administrative leave of absence if a student is not making satisfactory academic progress in the program. An administrative leave of absence cannot be used in place of academic probation but may be used simultaneously. The program may request that students meet certain conditions prior to returning. Such conditions for returning to the program must be written in a formal document, agreed upon by the student and program director, and filed with the Graduate School.

At readmission from a student-requested LOA or an administrative LOA, a program may ask students to complete any new program requirements since original application. During the leave period, the progression clock remains active. That is, students will need to complete a master's degree within six years or a doctoral degree within nine years from the original admission into the program. The student and program may still request an extension within the limits of the graduate school and program rules. Once a leave of absence has been approved by the program, the program director should notify the Graduate School. The Graduate School will work with the appropriate campus offices to put a stop on enrollment and financial aid for that student, until the time they decide to come back. To remove the holds, the program will need to inform the Graduate School that the student has restarted the program.

Section D: Applications by Former Students

A student who was previously admitted to a graduate program, did not complete the degree, is no longer eligible to register at the University, and now wishes to return to school must do the following:

1. Clarify status with the program to determine eligibility to return and pursue the same degree.

2. A new application must be submitted and reviewed for the student to be readmitted to the program. No new application fee is required.

3. Student may be held responsible for any curricular changes that have occurred in the program since they were last enrolled.

4. Any coursework that is more than six years old for master's degrees and ten years old for doctorates at the semester of degree conferral will need to be validated to be used towards the degree. Departments may have shorter timelines for work needing validation.

A student applying to a doctoral program from a master's program in the same department should submit an application for the doctoral program and pay the application fee.

A student in a doctoral program who gets a master’s degree along the way does not need to submit a new application or pay an application fee.

Exceptional Graduate Program Service Award

About

This award was established in 2026 by the UCCS Graduate School to recognize the outstanding work that faculty and staff do in supporting the graduate programs of their department, unit, or college. Per the Graduate School's Policies & Procedures, these graduate program directors (GPDs) and Program Assistants have the responsibility for the curriculum and the integrity of their programs, working with graduate faculty advisors and graduate students to facilitate the admission, progression, and ultimate success of graduate students. Success of graduate programs would not be possible without the work done by these faculty and staff.

One GPD or Program Assistant will be selected each year and recognized at the annual 3MT competition (February), which is hosted by the Graduate School, and the awardee will also receive a one-time monetary award of $1000. Please review the eligibility criteria and nomination procedures to ensure a complete application packet.

Eligibility

- Employed faculty or staff at UCCS with an appointment of 0.5 FTE or greater, and
- Has served as Graduate Program Director or as Program Assistant to support graduate programs for at least two academic years prior to nomination.

Nomination Procedures

Complete the nomination cover sheet (see next page) and email a single nomination application to graddocs@uccs.edu as instructed on the bottom of the cover sheet. The nomination should meet the requirements listed below.

- One nominating letter from a peer faculty or staff member in a similar role within a different program/department OR department chair OR graduate student.
- Up to three letters of support from department chair, faculty, and/or graduate students (students may be former or current students). Supporting letters may be collaborative and may be written by more than one person.

Nominators may choose to reflect on the following examples (see below) when crafting a nominating letter. This list is purely informational, and nominators are encouraged describe the varied and impactful ways in which faculty and staff support and sustain the graduate programs within their unit. Such examples of service to the graduate program within the unit may include:

- Effectively communicating with students (prospective, unclassified, new, continuing, and graduating students) and faculty on academic or curricular changes, professional development or mentorship opportunities, policies & procedures, and important paperwork that supports the graduate student record.
- Being accessible to students, faculty, and staff within the unit to answer questions or field concerns about graduate education.
- Mentoring graduate students throughout the admissions and graduation processes, including navigating paperwork, coursework, required exams, finding educational opportunities (e.g., research, practicum, internship).
- Supporting graduate students in seeking and successfully obtaining funding.
- Developing new academic endeavors as new partnerships across the campus, within the community, or within the discipline.
- Promoting kindness and collegiality that enhances the experiences of graduate students, staff, and faculty of our graduate programs.

Application Deadline

The application packet is due to the UCCS Graduate School (at graddocs@uccs.edu) by December 5, 2026.

Exceptional Graduate Program Service Award – Cover Sheet

Nominee Name:

Nominee's Program:

Nominee's Title:

Nominees: Email Address:

Start Date as GPD or Program Assistant:

Description of Nominee's Role(s):

Names of persons providing supporting letters (up to three additional letters of support may be included within the nomination package. Letters may be collaborative and written by more than one person).

Please send the nomination package as a single pdf file to graddocs@uccs.edu with the cover sheet listed first, nominating letter included second, and letters of support attached. Use the naming convention: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_GPDSERVICENOM.pdf

All nominating packets are confidential but redacted content, as excerpts, may be used in public announcements.

Graduate Student Scholarship for Careers in Community Wellbeing

About

Returning graduate students who have completed at least one semester at UCCS in graduate programs that will prepare the student for a community service profession (e.g., behavioral health, mental health, primary care, rural health, rural teaching, physical therapy, athletic training, counseling, social work, health promotion etc.) are encouraged to apply for this award. This award honors students who clearly articulate their goals to become a future provider of services within their community.

Amount

Six awards are made annually, each at $1,500, and are processed by the Office of Financial Aid. **International students are eligible for this award.**

Eligibility

Graduate students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a master's or doctoral student in a program that prepares the student for providing services within their community,
- Be enrolled full-time,
- Have completed at least one semester at UCCS with at least two additional semesters remaining of training,
- Have a graduate GPA of 3.5 or higher,
- Must not have received this same award previously.

Application Deadline

Students apply through the UCCS Scholarship Portal, which is available starting December 1st. **Applications must be received by March 1st to be considered for funding in the following academic year.**

How to Apply

Students apply through the UCCS Scholarship Portal and must provide:

1) A personal statement that includes:
    - Description of work experience and/or community service with demonstration of support of advancing community wellbeing;
    - Goal statement as a future provider of services within the community;
    - Description of intended clinical profession (e.g., behavioral health, maternal health, primary care, rural health, rural teaching, physical therapy, athletic training, counseling, social work, health promotion).
2) One letter of recommendation from a faculty member within the student's graduate program that describes the student's preparation and likelihood for success in supporting community wellbeing

Selection Criteria

Graduate students must be the following criteria as designated below to be considered eligible:

- Graduate GPA of 3.5 or higher,
- Students must be enrolled full-time (5 credit hours or more),
- Must provide a quality essay responding to the provided prompt,
- Must be enrolled in a graduate program (as a master's or doctoral student) that will prepare the student for work in a profession that promotes community wellbeing.

Notification of Award Decision

Students are notified of the award decision, whether selected or declined for funding, by the end of April.

Expectations of the Awardee

Graduate students must demonstrate adequate progress every semester toward their degree in accordance with their program or department graduate student handbook.

About the Program

The Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP) in Electrical Engineering allows high-achieving UCCS students to pursue their bachelor's degree in either Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering and a master's degree in Electrical Engineering concurrently by allowing up to 6 credit hours to be used for both the BS and MS. The pathway typically takes currently enrolled full-time students 5-6 years to complete both degrees.

Students admitted to the AMP program are classified as undergraduate students and will pay the undergraduate tuition rate for the graduate-level courses until their bachelor's degree is awarded.

Program Requirements

- Minimum standards for admission require a cumulative GPA of 3.25.
- Only currently enrolled UCCS Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering students may be considered for admission to the program.
    - Current students may submit an **AMP Intent Application** after they have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours of core Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering courses.
    - Transfer students must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of core Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering courses before applying to the accelerated program.
    - (**Reminder: Completing the AMP Intent Application DOES NOT admit students into the Graduate School and/or AMP.)**
- Once admitted into the AMP program, accelerated students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25 throughout their enrollment.
- Students in the AMP program must be full-time and continuously enrolled through their undergraduate to graduate degree for courses to double count towards both degrees.
- During the final year of their BS, students will apply for the MS in the usual manner. AMP students are still required to follow all application deadlines for UCCS Graduate Programs to ensure their application will be considered for admission.
- If an AMP student is interested in being admitted into a Ph.D. program, they must complete both their bachelor's and master's programs before they may be admitted.
- Students who are admitted to the AMP program may not pursue a double degree or double major. AMP students may pursue minor programs.
- The ECE Department will be responsible for admissions procedures and decisions.
- Issues of satisfactory academic progress, petition/appeal, transfer credit and grievance will be the responsibility of the program administrator with participation by the ECE Chair, EAS Dean, and Graduate Dean as appropriate. The ECE Department will be responsible for dismissing or placing on probation those students who do not maintain the minimum requirements stated above.
- Students in the AMP program may be eligible for RA/TA appointments at the discretion of their department.

MENTOR MONDAYS

Hosted by the Graduate School and Center for Student Research

Graduate faculty are critical players in the development of their graduate students by providing mentorship or structured professional development opportunities

ATTENTION ALL FACULTY & STAFF MENTORS!

Come join us at Cafe 65 on September 14th, 2026 from 11:30-1pm.

Feel free to bring lunch or snacks and we will discuss mentoring tips and strategies to best support our graduate students

LOCATION: CAFE 65 in University Center
Time: 11:30-1pm

BRING SNACKS/LUNCH

UCCS Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

UCCS Center for Student Research
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

NSF GRFP Info Session

Join the Graduate School, Center for Student Research, and the Office of Research for an NSF GRFP information session. We will as discuss GRFP eligibility, NSF priorities and trends, and best fellowship writing practices. We will also share plenty of handouts and resources for you to put together your best application!

Zoom and in-person

(room TBA)

Friday September 18th

1:00 - 2:30 pm

All are welcome!

UCCS Office of Research
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS