One of the best things about the Communication Graduate School is, of course, the faculty. Not only are they well known in their fields, but they're always eager to help with projects, advice and whatever else you may need. Also, the diversity of thought amongst students and faculty really allows you to find unique areas of study that you're interested in. Creativity is not only accepted, but encouraged.

Why Should You Choose The University of Alabama for Graduate Study?

TEACHING: Participate in a two-day intensive workshop for new Graduate Teaching Assistants to prepare you for teaching in a college classroom.

RESEARCH: Present your research at regional, national, or international conferences with funding from our Research and Travel Grant program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Get involved in the community as a researcher and/or volunteer with the help of our Center for Community-Based Partnerships.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Participate in a mentoring program, such as TIDE TOGETHER, to enhance the skills you need to be successful in your career.
Highly Ranked Graduate Programs with Outstanding Faculty

From Communication Studies to Business to Library and Information Sciences and Freshwater Ecology (to name just a few), The University of Alabama has a proven record of providing students the opportunity to study in nationally ranked academic programs with nationally renowned faculty.

In research, UA faculty and graduate students challenge the status quo and open new vistas of possibility. Our public outreach programs are making a real difference for our citizens and range from centers that serve families to those for medical and business communities.

Through rigorous academic study, intensive research experiences, and community outreach, our graduate students are building a reputation as students that will take them places after graduation.

- The “Black Belt 100 Lenses” project (upper left), whose co-director is graduate student Elliot Knight, gives Alabama youth a forum to raise concerns and awareness about their communities.
- Graduate students in the Creative Writing program are pioneering the Prison Arts writing and literature program in six of Alabama’s correctional facilities.
- Doctoral students (lower left) in the labs of Guy and Kim Caldwell (affectionately called “The Worm Shack”) are creating treatments for Parkinson’s and other dreaded diseases through QRxPharma and other private-sector companies.
- Tom Cherones, a former MA student in Telecommunication and Film, has made a name for himself as a successful Hollywood director of such shows as *Seinfeld*, *Ellen*, *Caroline in the City*, *NewsRadio*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, and *Desperate Housewives*.

- The Tom Bevill Energy, Mineral, and Material Science Research Building is the first energy-research center at a southeastern university.
- UA’s aquatic ecology program is the steward of one of only 20 core sites announced in the new NSF NEON (Natural Ecological Observatory Network) program.
- The graduate program in creative writing sponsors the Bankhead Visiting Writers Series, which showcases writers of national and international reputation.
- The University’s Center for Materials and Information Technology (MINT) is one of the world’s leading centers for research on magnetic recording technology and advanced concepts in information storage.
- The Child Development Research Center enhances interdisciplinary research for graduate students and faculty and houses child care facilities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- The UA Institute for Communication Research is one of the premier facilities for investigating a wide range of communication behaviors.
- The Alabama Institute for Manufacturing Excellence (AIME) advances efficient and environmentally responsible manufacturing technologies.

TAD DRIVER
Mechanical Engineering

As an engineering student, I have had the opportunity to work in several innovative labs with outstanding faculty members. I’ve also had the opportunity to work in the community as a fellow of the GK-12 program which allows graduate students to work with and present their research to middle and high school students in the areas of math and science.

MELODY KELLEY
Chemistry

As the recipient of 3 major fellowships, including the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship, I have had the opportunity to speak at different conferences, meet colleagues, and travel around the world. Research at The University of Alabama has been a rewarding experience and has afforded me the ability to work with not only chemists, but also physicists and engineers.
You will find UA an affordable place to study with reasonable tuition costs and plenty of funding opportunities. Annual graduate student fiscal support exceeds $40 million, including:

- Over 1,600 0.5-FTE (half-time) or greater teaching and research assistantships, each carrying a competitive stipend, full tuition scholarship, and paid student health insurance. In addition, approximately 200 students each year receive partial assistantship, fellowship, or scholarship support.

- The Graduate School awards over 80 Graduate Council Fellowships annually, each with a generous stipend, a full tuition grant, and health insurance.

- The McNair Graduate Fellowship Program, begun in 2008, has awarded more than 30 McNair Fellowships to students from under-represented groups or first-generation, low-income college students.

- Every year approximately 30 Alabama residents are awarded the National Alumni Association Graduate Fellowship.

But paying for a graduate education involves more than a stipend and tuition scholarships. You need support for your thesis or dissertation research and funds for those all-important networking and research presentation trips to national and international meetings. Here too, UA offers unparalleled support to help you Build Your Reputation. Our Research and Travel Grant Program partners with departments to provide over 500 students per year with nearly $400,000 in research and travel support, including additional funding opportunities for International Enrichment activities.

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**Did You Know?**

The average annual earnings of an adult with a doctoral degree is $93,600.

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**CORI PERDUE**

English

Pursuing my graduate degree at The University of Alabama has not only allowed me to work with exceptional faculty and dynamic graduate students, but it has also allowed me to pursue my educational goals without paying a huge price tag. At UA, I have received various financial awards and assistantships such as a Graduate Council Fellowship and graduate teaching assistantships that have allowed me to focus on being a successful scholar. Additionally, as a former resident of California and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, I have found Tuscaloosa to be an inviting and exceptional place to live that is full of energy and southern hospitality.
Commitment to Diversity

There is no such thing as a “typical” UA graduate student. We have students from over 70 countries and every state in the United States. We have nationally acclaimed musicians, award-winning young entrepreneurs, and rabid football fans. We are nationally known for our commitment to building a diverse academic community that welcomes ALL students.

- 2008 winner of the Council of Graduate Schools/Peterson’s Award for creating an inclusive graduate community
- 2nd among the 50 U.S. flagship universities in the percentage of graduate degrees conferred to African American students
- Winner of the 2007 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Mile High Award for extraordinary support of underrepresented graduate students
- Consistently ranked in the top 80 graduate degree producers for African American master’s and doctoral students

At UA, we know that you are more than just a student. You come here with unique backgrounds and diverse needs, so we work hard to make sure that you find the resources to help you juggle the many different parts of your life.

- Graduate Parent Support (GPS), a nationally recognized program providing resources and social activities for students with child-rearing responsibilities
- Graduate Student Services, an entire office committed to serving the unique needs of graduate students
- Capstone International Services, dedicated to helping international students make the adjustment to life in Alabama

RONG LI
Operations Management

When I arrived for graduate studies at The University of Alabama, the Capstone International Center helped me find a host family in order to ease my adaptation into American culture and ease my homesickness. On campus, there are many international students from all over the world. I am regularly invited to special cultural and cuisine events hosted by international student groups. Every year, I participate in the Chinese spring festival. This event offers authentic Chinese food and traditional Chinese performances such as Chinese Kungfu and Peking Opera. All of these opportunities are created by the vibrant international community and make studying at The University of Alabama more colorful.
JASON DOBLIN
Studio Art

I didn’t just come to UA as an MFA candidate in studio art, I came here as a father and a husband. With programs such as Graduate Parent Support, I am thankful to attend an institution that is not satisfied by solely what happens in the classroom. In addition to this, the Tuscaloosa/Northport communities have wonderful opportunities available for my children and myself as an artist. The Children’s Hands On Museum provides hours of interactive fun for my children each month and every year the Kentuck Festival provides an opportunity for me to exhibit and sell my artwork at one of the nation’s top arts and crafts festivals.

In many ways, Tuscaloosa, a city of nearly 100,000, has a distinctly small-town feel. There are few traffic jams here. You don’t have to leave your apartment an hour early to get to campus (except perhaps on Game Day), and the cost of living is very reasonable. And you will find lots of the amenities of big city living right at your back door:

- Kentuck, nationally known folk art festival held every October in downtown Northport
- Monthly Art Night highlighting talents of Tuscaloosa artists
- Live performances at the historic Bama Theater
- Tuscaloosa Symphony
- Theatre Tuscaloosa
- Lectures and performances featuring such nationally known scholars and performers as Cornel West, E.O. Wilson, Maya Angelou, Yo Yo Ma, and Itzhak Perlman
- Book groups
- Great restaurants ranging from fine dining, to ethnic offerings, to casual eating
- State-of-the-art Student Recreation Center offering year-round opportunities to stay fit with classes, a variety of courts and exercise equipment, and both indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- New community amphitheater on the banks of the beautiful Black Warrior River
- Nationally ranked sports programs

Conveniently located between the upper elevation of northern Alabama and the coastal lowlands to the south, Tuscaloosa is only a morning’s drive from both mountains and beaches. In one hour you can be in Birmingham (metro population over 1 million), and in 4 hours or less, you can be in Atlanta, Chattanooga, Nashville, Memphis, or New Orleans. When you see our beautiful campus, experience our mild climate, and get a taste of our Southern hospitality, you may just want to make Tuscaloosa your permanent home!
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

___ *Online Application Data Sheet at graduate.ua.edu
___ Statement of Purpose
___ Two official transcripts
___ GRE, GMAT, or MAT score (if required by department)
___ Three letters of recommendation, preferably from your former professors sent directly to your department
___ A non-refundable application fee of $50.00 (domestic) or $60.00 (international)
___ Additional departmental requirements (contact individual departments or programs to find out additional materials you may have to submit)

*Applicants with restrictions preventing the use of our online application should contact the Graduate School office.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All domestic applications must be received at least six weeks prior to departmental deadlines. Check with individual departments to see their application deadlines. If there is not a stated departmental deadline, submit your application at least six weeks before the semester of enrollment. However, to make yourself as competitive as possible, you need to submit your application as early as you can.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

We are proud at UA to have students from all around the world; however, processing international applications and immigration documents can be a lengthy process. International applicants living outside the United States are encouraged to complete their application at least six to eight months prior to their first semester of enrollment. To ensure adequate time for review, all international applications must be completed at least four months before the desired date of registration.

If your native language is not English, you will need to submit proof of English proficiency in the form of a TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE score. These scores must be less than two years old at the time of anticipated enrollment at UA. You will also be asked to provide proof of ability to finance graduate studies by submitting the following forms: “Information for Certificate of Eligibility of Non-Immigrant Student Status” and “Certification of Finances.”

NADIA RICHARDSON
Higher Education Administration

As a first-generation American citizen, I decided to pursue my graduate studies in a field that combined aspects of my cultural, professional and academic background. With the support of the Graduate School, I have presented at numerous professional conferences including the Association of Cultural Studies (ACS) Crossroads Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. These presentations made it possible for me to be recognized as an NCORE Student Scholar by the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in American Higher Education. The University of Alabama has given me the confidence and skills I need to be successful in my future endeavors.
CONTACT INFORMATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA:

The University of Alabama complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services. Inquiries and concerns may be directed to Gwendolyn D. Hood, University Compliance Officer, 171 Rose Administration Building, Box 870300, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35487-0300, (205) 348-5855 (Voice/TDD).

Message from the Dean

Thanks for your interest in The University of Alabama Graduate School! A graduate degree offers numerous professional advantages no matter how the economic winds may blow – better career prospects, higher earnings, and enhanced personal satisfaction. But deciding where to pursue your graduate education is complex. Universities with nationally prominent programs featuring top faculty mentors should be high on your list, as are ample assistantship and fellowship opportunities. The University of Alabama, as one of the nation’s fastest growing and most dynamic Top 50 National Public Universities, easily meets these criteria. From just under 20,000 students in 2003, UA now boasts a student population of around 30,000, and growth in graduate education – in terms of students, academic excellence, and diversity – has been equally dramatic.

But we hope you’ll look deeper – to UA’s commitment to Building Your Reputation as a teacher, scholar, and whole person. Our goal is not to be the largest Graduate School in the Southeast and nation, but rather to be the Graduate School of choice for the best, brightest, and most diverse student body desiring a student-centered approach to their graduate education. As you study this prospectus, you’ll see that this commitment to student welfare and professional development runs deep, from our many financial support programs for student research and professional travel to our innovative, student-led support and mentorship programs.

We hope you’ll soon be joining the Alabama Nation and the vibrant Tuscaloosa community, located in one of the most beautiful parts of the American Southeast. Peruse our website and by all means work with departmental contacts or the Graduate School to set up a campus visit. Let us help you Build YOUR Reputation and realize your personal and professional goals!

Roll Tide!
Dr. Dave Francko
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
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