

# The Graduate School Ambassador Program

## Introduction

The Graduate Student Ambassador Program aims to enhance the visibility and reputation of The Graduate School (TGS) and improve the graduate student experience by leveraging the experiences and insights of our current graduate students. The program seeks to:

- **Promote Engagement and Champion Excellence:** Represent TGS and foster a welcoming environment by connecting graduate students across programs and increasing awareness of graduate student opportunities and resources, as well as highlighting the excellence of our graduate students and programs to the broader academic and professional communities.
- **Build Community and Enhance Connectivity:** Strengthen the sense of community throughout Augusta University and build strong connections between students, faculty, and staff to create a collaborative environment by organizing and participating in events that encourage networking, mentorship, and collaboration across different disciplines.
- **Provide Leadership Opportunities:** Develop leadership and communication skills by offering training and opportunities to represent TGS at various events and forums.
- **Advisory Board:** Contribute to the continuous improvement of TGS by providing valuable feedback and advocating for the needs of the graduate community by serving as a bridge between the student body and the administration to ensure programming meets student needs.
- **Support Recruitment and Promote Growth:** Support TGS recruitment efforts by participating in outreach activities, such as open houses, information sessions, and campus tours, to share personal experiences and highlight the unique strengths of our programs.

## Program Structure

### 1. Recruitment and Selection:

- **Application Process:** Interested graduate students will apply using an online form detailing their academic background, extracurricular involvement, and reasons for wanting to become an ambassador. The application will also include a letter of recommendation from an AU faculty member, administrator, or supervisor.
- **Interview:** Selected candidates may be required to undergo an interview process to assess their communication skills, enthusiasm, and suitability for the role.
- **Selection Criteria:** Ambassadors will be chosen based on their academic achievements, leadership qualities, and ability to represent the graduate school positively. One representative per college will be chosen, in addition to two ambassadors at large.

### 2. Training and Development:

- **Orientation:** Newly selected ambassadors will participate in an orientation session to familiarize themselves with the program's goals, expectations, and responsibilities.
- **Skill Development Workshops:** Monthly workshops will be conducted to enhance ambassadors' skills in areas such as public speaking, leadership, and peer mentoring.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Outreach Activities:** Ambassadors will engage in various outreach activities, including campus tours, information sessions, and open houses, to share their experiences with prospective students.
- **Peer Mentoring:** Ambassadors will provide mentorship to new students, offering advice and support to help them navigate their academic journey.
- **Event Participation:** Ambassadors will represent the graduate school at events, conferences, and other forums, showcasing the strengths and opportunities available at the institution.
- **Feedback Collection:** Ambassadors will gather feedback from students and share it with the administration to help improve the graduate school experience.

### 4. Evaluation and Review:

- **Program Reviews:** Reviews will be conducted prior to and following the program to assess ambassador program contributions and effectiveness.
- **Program Improvement:** Feedback from participants will be used to continuously improve the program structure and activities.

### 5. Community Building:

- **Networking Events:** Ambassadors will organize and participate in networking events to foster connections among graduate students, faculty, and staff.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Ambassadors will work on collaborative projects that promote interdisciplinary learning and community engagement.
- **Social Activities:** Regular social activities will be planned to strengthen the sense of community and belonging among graduate students.

Graduate Student Ambassadors must commit to at least two (2) TGS events per semester, as well as a monthly meeting. Additionally, the program will provide leadership and professional development workshops specifically tailored to these students. The Ambassadors will be expected to fulfil a one (1) academic year commitment with the ability to reapply for an additional year.

## Agreements

### Ambassadors will:

- Represent The Graduate School with professionalism and integrity at all times.
- Maintain a positive and proactive attitude in all interactions and activities.
- Actively participate in events, meetings, and initiatives, demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm.
- Serve as a liaison between TGS and the graduate student community, providing valuable feedback and insights.
- Uphold the values and mission of TGS, promoting its programs and opportunities.

**TGS will:**

- Provide structured leadership and professional development sessions at each monthly meeting.
- Offer opportunities for ambassadors to build their professional network.
- Support ambassadors in their roles with resources, guidance, and mentorship.
- Recognize and celebrate the contributions of ambassadors through various forms of acknowledgment and appreciation.
- Foster a collaborative environment that encourages personal and professional growth.

**Conclusion**

The Graduate Ambassador program presents a unique opportunity for current TGS students to apply for a leadership role within The Graduate School. This initiative not only supports the growth and development of TGS students but also amplifies the positive impact that The Graduate School and its staff have on current, future, and prospective students.