Mentoring to Support Diverse Students and Careers

Ambika Mathur, Ph.D.
Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Dean of The Graduate School
UTSA Graduate School

First-generation

Doctoral: 41%
Master's: 42%

Average Age

Doctoral: 35
Master's: 30

Underrepresented Minorities

Master's: 60%
Doctoral: 35%

Doctoral

Female: 49%
Male: 51%

Master's

Female: 57%
Male: 43%

Full-time

Doctoral: 44%
Master's: 56%
Mentoring Across the Graduate Student Life Cycle

Recruitment, Preparation & Enrollment

Retention & Completion

Readiness for Careers
Retention

Recruitment

Preparation | STIR-UP | GREAT

Retention

Peer Mentoring | Interdisciplinary Grand Challenge

Readiness

Career Preparation | Micro-credentials
STIR-UP
South Texas Interdisciplinary Research for Undergraduate Programs

Graduate Student Mentors
- Increase graduate diversity starting at the undergraduate level

Faculty Mentors
- Interdisciplinary team research
- Hands-on professional development

Community Engagement
- Partnerships with city of San Antonio agencies

Career Exploration
- Emphasis on breadth of research-related careers outside of higher education
GREAT
Graduate Representatives of Excellence Ambassador Team
Peer mentoring from recruitment through graduation

Peer mentors are:

✓ Representative of students UTSA aims to recruit, retain, and graduate
✓ Approachable
✓ Familiar with formal and informal graduate program expectations
✓ Knowledgeable
✓ Informal support for new graduate students
Transdisciplinary Grand Challenge

Center for Transdisciplinary Training

Team Grand Challenges: encouraging transdisciplinary partnership and research within the UTSA graduate community to solve issues of global significance.

✓ 3 - 5 graduate students from different disciplines
✓ Community partners are encouraged
✓ Graduate school assistance for team formation
✓ Awards for top 3 teams

146 Participants

- 51% Female
- 45% Hispanic
- 50% PhD

CoVID
Social Justice
Water

UTSA Graduate School
Career Preparation: Micro-credentials

Professional development transferable across a variety of careers. Through online sessions, learners develop interconnected skills and earn digital badges.

- Competency-based marketable skills
- Deliverables required to earn badges
- Available to students and the community
- Easily visible to potential employers

554 Badges
97 Badges
10 Collections

UTSA Graduate School
COMPETENCY BASED MARKETABLE SKILLS

Required across job sectors and disciplines

Career Exploration

Educator Development

Leadership and Professionalism

Communication

Equity and Inclusion

Well-being

Digital Literacy

Teamwork and Collaboration