

# Graduate Council

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The Graduate Council is the executive committee of the Graduate Faculty and is responsible for the formulation of academic policy and programs related to graduate study at Mississippi State University. In addition, the Council may advise the Dean of the Graduate School on any matter they, or the Dean, feel is appropriate. The Chairperson of the Graduate Council is elected by and from the members of the Council.

The Council consists of one elected member from each of the eight academic colleges offering graduate study (programs), a graduate student association representative, and one fewer in number (seven) appointed by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, of which at least one must represent interdisciplinary programs. Not more than two appointed faculty members may be from the same college or school. To be eligible for membership on the Council, members must hold Graduate Faculty status. The term of office is three academic years. A vacancy on the Council is filled in the same manner in which the member vacating the position was selected. In addition to the faculty, the Council has one graduate student representative who is usually the president of the Graduate Student Association. S/he is a voting member, and the term of office is one academic year.

Ex-officio members include:

- Dean of the Graduate School;
- Associate Dean of the Graduate School;
- Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs;
- Executive Vice Provost;
- Vice President for Research and Economic Development;
- Dean of University Libraries;
- Executive Director of Center for Distance Education;
- Director of International Institute;
- Chair of University Committee on Courses and Curricula;
- Associate University Registrar; and
- Director of Academic Quality, Institutional Effectiveness

## Officers

### **Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Ph.D., Chair**

Professor, Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education  
College of Education

### **Russell Carr, Ph.D., Vice-Chair**

Associate Professor, Basic Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine

## Ex-Officio Members

### **Peter L. Ryan, Ph.D.**

Executive Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

### **W. Brien Henry, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean of the Graduate School

### **David R. Shaw, Ph.D.**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

### **Dan Reynolds, Ph.D.**

Assistant Vice President/Executive Director, International Institute

### **Lis Pankl, Ph.D.**

Dean of University Libraries

### **Susan Seal, Ph.D.**

Dean, College of Professional and Continuing Studies

### **Lauren Wright**

Director of the International Institute

### **Andy Perkins, Ph.D.**

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

**Emily Shaw, M.S.**  
Associate Registrar

**Dana Franz, Ph.D.**  
Director of Academic Quality, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

## Elected Members

**Richard Harkess, Ph.D., 2026**  
Professor, Plant and Soil Sciences  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Glen Fulton, M.S., 2026**  
Assistant Professor, Interior Design  
College of Architecture, Art, and Design

**Joanne Beriswill, Ph.D., 2026**  
Associate Professor, Instructional Systems and Workforce Development  
College of Education

**Kevin Armstrong, Ph.D., 2025**  
Associate Professor, Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

**Heidi Renninger, Ph.D., 2025**  
Associate Professor, Forestry  
College of Forest Resources

**Priscilla Hill, Ph.D., 2024**  
Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering  
Bagley College of Engineering

**Russell Carr, Ph.D., 2024, Vice-Chair**  
Associate Professor, Basic Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**Mike Highfield, Ph.D., 2025**  
Professor, Real Estate Finance  
College of Business

## Appointed Members

**Larry Hanson, Ph.D., 2024**  
Professor, Basic Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**Luke Tucker, 2024**  
Graduate Student Association President

**Adrian Sescu, Ph.D., 2024**  
Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering  
Bagley College of Engineering

**Sandra Orozco Aleman, Ph.D., 2023**  
Associate Professor, Finance and Economics  
College of Business

**Nick Fitzkee, Ph.D., 2025**  
Associate Professor, Chemistry  
College of Arts and Sciences

**Kevin Hunt, Ph.D., 2025**  
Professor, Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture  
College of Forest Resources

**Kelly Wamsley, Ph.D., 2025**

Associate Professor, Poultry Science  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Chair, Ph.D., 2025**

Professor, Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education  
College of Education