

# Division of Graduate Affairs

**OFFICE:** Student Services East 1410  
**TELEPHONE:** 619-594-5213  
**FAX:** 619-594-0189  
**E-MAIL:** [gra@sdsu.edu](mailto:gra@sdsu.edu)

Within Graduate and Research Affairs, the Division of Graduate Affairs is the administrative unit responsible for post-baccalaureate and graduate study at San Diego State University. The Division of Graduate Affairs is composed of the academic units that offer graduate study in the university. The faculties of these units support nearly 5,000 students in over 100 master's, doctoral, and advanced certificate programs across the arts, business, education, engineering, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The Graduate Council is a standing committee of the University Senate with representatives from the academic colleges and is chaired by the graduate dean. The council's responsibilities are broadly defined and include the development, consultation, and implementation of university-wide policies related to graduate studies, graduate student affairs, and graduate student scholarship.

The dean of the Division of Graduate Affairs is the chief administrative officer of the division and serves as chair of the Graduate Council. The graduate dean has general responsibility for implementing the policies of the Graduate Council and for the development, improvement, and administration of all post-baccalaureate study.

## Graduate Study at San Diego State University

The size and scope of graduate studies at San Diego State University has increased significantly since graduate degrees were first offered at what was then San Diego State College in the 1950s. SDSU faculty embrace the necessarily close relationship between excellence in faculty research, program outcomes, student research, and teaching. Since the early 1970s, graduate study has steadily grown over a wide range of academic and professional disciplines to become an integral part of the institution's central mission. SDSU offers master's degrees that are entry-level requirements or terminal degrees in many fields of study, as well as numerous Ph.D. programs. In addition to Ph.D. degrees issued in partnership with other institutions, SDSU offers independent doctorate degrees in Audiology (Au.D.), Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), and Physical Therapy (DPT). Graduate studies are also available to meet state credentialing requirements and provide advanced certificates in many disciplines, particularly for careers in education.

Graduate studies at San Diego State University continually evolve in response to new local and global challenges and career opportunities. The faculty who support graduate studies maintain strong externally funded research programs in excess of \$100 million annually. The university is recognized nationally as a hub of entrepreneurship, innovation, and invention, SDSU is also one of the most ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse universities in the United States, and is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. San Diego State University provides a dynamic and intellectually challenging environment for academic and professional opportunity.

## Graduate Student Employment

### Graduate Teaching Associates

Appointments as graduate teaching associates, known more commonly as TAs, provide students the opportunity to participate directly in the teaching activities of the university. Indeed, faculty members in many programs consider such appointments an integral part of the academic curriculum for their graduate students. Under the supervision of senior faculty, TAs provide direct instruction to undergraduate students, primarily at the lower division level.

Appointments as graduate TAs are available to qualified graduate students in all doctoral programs and many master's programs. Graduate TAs must be admitted to San Diego State University with classified or conditionally classified graduate standing. Appointments may be for a period of either one semester or the academic year. Reappointment is dependent on satisfactory performance in graduate studies (as prescribed by departmental need, Graduate Council, and satisfactory teaching performance). Information concerning an appointment as a graduate TA may be obtained from the head of the department, school, or college in which the applicant wishes to obtain the advanced degree. For further information, consult A Handbook for Graduate Assistants and Graduate Teaching Associates available at [http://grad.sdsu.edu/funding/ta\\_ga\\_info](http://grad.sdsu.edu/funding/ta_ga_info).

### Graduate Assistants

Graduate assistants (GA) provide instructionally related services to undergraduate students or may be assigned duties that directly support faculty research activities. Graduate assistants are available in most San Diego State University departments and schools. Graduate assistants must be admitted to San Diego State University with classified or conditionally classified graduate standing.

Appointments may be for a period of either one semester or the academic year. Reappointment or continuation of an appointment is dependent upon satisfactory performance in graduate studies (as prescribed by the Division of Graduate Affairs), departmental need, and satisfactory completion of assigned duties. Information concerning an appointment as a graduate assistant may be obtained from the head of the department, school, or college in which the applicant wishes to obtain the advanced degree. For further information consult A Handbook for Graduate Assistants and Graduate Teaching Associates available at [http://grad.sdsu.edu/funding/ta\\_ga\\_info](http://grad.sdsu.edu/funding/ta_ga_info).

### Student Assistants

Graduate students are eligible for employment as student assistants who perform a wide variety of tasks supporting faculty and staff across the university. Assistants are paid by the hour and are restricted to assignments not to exceed 20 hours per week. Information concerning an appointment as a student assistant may be obtained from the head of the department, school, or college in which the applicant wishes to obtain the advanced degree. A listing of available positions is also maintained by the Office of Career Services located in Student Services East, Room 1200.

### Research Assistants (SDSU Research Foundation)

Some graduate students obtain part-time employment as research assistants. Research assistants work directly with faculty in a laboratory or other research facility in the health, physical, and social sciences. Although research assistants are employees of the SDSU Research Foundation, they are generally hired directly by faculty members seeking assistance for specific research programs. Students may inquire about such appointments through the appropriate faculty in their program, the chair or director of the respective department, or the Office of Human Resources of the SDSU Research Foundation. Those interested in adding their names to a list of candidates for current or future openings may obtain application materials from the San Diego State University Research Foundation, Gateway Building, 5250 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-1945. Further information may also be available on faculty and department websites.

## Scholarships

### California Pre-Doctoral Program

The California Pre-Doctoral Scholarship Program targets students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages, and intend to apply to a doctoral program. The program supports upper division undergraduate students, and current (non-Ph.D.) graduate students. The program places a special emphasis on increasing the number of CSU students who enter doctoral programs at one of the University of California institutions. Students chosen for this award are designated Sally Casanova Scholars. Recipients receive direct guidance from CSU faculty members and receive funding for travel, development (broadly defined), and summer research experience (at any U.S. major research university). For more information, contact the Division of Graduate Affairs or visit <http://www.calstate.edu/PreDoc/index.shtml>.

### Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program targets current or incoming doctoral students who intend to eventually pursue CSU instructional faculty positions. Students who obtain a loan through this program may have a portion of it forgiven if they obtain a CSU faculty position. For more information, contact the Division of Graduate Affairs or visit <http://www.calstate.edu/PreDoc/index.shtml>.

### Additional Scholarships and Financial Aid Opportunities

Many additional scholarships and financial aid opportunities are available to San Diego State University graduate students. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships or visit [http://go.sdsu.edu/student\\_affairs/financialaid/Default.aspx](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/financialaid/Default.aspx).

## Graduate Study in the College of Extended Studies

Most courses that apply to graduate degrees are state-supported. Enrollment in state-supported graduate courses requires admission to SDSU in an appropriate graduate program. Non-degree seeking students may be eligible to enroll for state-supported courses if there are open seats, through the College of Extended Studies (CES) Open University program. Individuals considering future graduate studies should consider that most master's degree programs allow use of no more than nine units of combined Open University and self-supported CES courses taken prior to admission. Applicants with prior coursework should consult the adviser for their intended program, or the Division of Graduate Affairs, or the section of the Graduate Bulletin entitled Graduate Program Unit Limits and Guidelines. For more information about Open University, visit <https://www.ces.sdsu.edu>.

San Diego State University offers some CES courses that are applicable to graduate degrees, certificates and credentials, and a small number of degrees that include only self-supported CES courses. Students who intend to earn a degree from these programs must be admitted to and matriculate in the program before completing more than nine units. Students in CES programs that are offered only during summer session must attend a minimum of three summers to earn their degree.

Fees for CES programs and courses (whether Open University or self-supported CES) differ from fees for state-supported San Diego State University courses. For more information, visit <https://www.ces.sdsu.edu>.

## Veterans and Graduate Study

San Diego State University is approved to train veterans under the G.I. Bill. Veterans who are interested in graduate work should visit the Joan and Art Barron Veterans Center located in Student Services West for information and counseling regarding veterans' benefits. Veteran students and potential applicants may also call 619-594-5813 or visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/veterans> for more information.

