Graduate and Professional Studies
at Texas A&M University

Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies
Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
In Fall 2018, a total of 14,901 graduate and professional students were enrolled, with 34% (5,007) seeking doctoral degrees.

Texas A&M offers over 268 graduate degree programs, including 23 interdisciplinary degrees.
OGAPS

Supports and promotes the advancement of graduate and professional studies at Texas A&M University

Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies
# Unit Responsibilities for Supporting Graduate and Professional Studies

## Office of Admissions
- Receives application materials

## Departments/Programs
- Recruiting
- Make Admission Decisions
- Fellowships
- Assistantships
- Dept./Program Orientation
- Graduate Faculty
- Offers Courses
- Directs Research

## Other Units
- International Student Services
- Career Center
- University Writing Center
- Center for Teaching Excellence

## Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS)
- Official Student Record
- Student Matriculation
- Processes:
  - Degree Plan
  - Thesis Proposal
  - Preliminary & Final Exams
  - Petitions
  - Residency
  - Theses & Dissertations
- University Degree Clearance and Dismissal Processes
- Graduate Committee Faculty Membership

## Other Units
- New Graduate Student Orientation
- Ombuds Services
- Univ. Fellowships and Awards
- Travel Grants
- Student Prof Dev Workshops
- Advisor Workshops
The Role of OGAPS
(Interactions w/ Students)

OGAPS

- Process documents for degree matriculation (on-line and paper forms)
- Review and release electronic thesis and dissertations
- Partner with Academic & Non-academic units on Graduate Student Professional Development initiatives – e.g. G.R.A.D. Aggies, CIRTL@TAMU, NCFDD
- Administer University Fellowships, Awards, and RAP Travel Awards
- Provide Ombuds services for graduate students
Data Transparency
Data Transparency

COALITION FOR NEXT GENERATION LIFE SCIENCE (CNGLS)

Texas A&M University is proud to be a member of the Coalition for Next Generation Life Science. Coalition members commit to collecting and publicly sharing data across a number of domains. The end objective is to increase transparency, improve training outcomes, and enhance recruitment and retention efforts aimed at diversifying the life sciences.

- PhD Admissions and Matriculation Data
- Demographics of Currently Enrolled PhD Students
- Median Time-to Degree for PhD Graduates
Graduate Student Ombuds Officer

Assist

Solving conflicts, disputes, and complaints informally

Safe Environment

Impartial and confidential advice

Assess and Identify

Trends in graduate student success using general, de-identified feedback

Ombuds@tamu.edu
Ombuds Officer Annual Report
2017 - 2018

Issues of Concern

- Grade Dispute
- Authorship/Intellectual Property
- Change Committee
- Workload/Assignment of Duties
- Other Degree Requirements
- Dissertation/Thesis Requirements
- Unfair treatment/Difficult Relations
- Probation/Suspension/Dismissal
- Other

VISITOR STATISTICS

Exhibit 2. Visitor Roles at the University

- Master's 72.70%
- Doctoral 9.10%
- Professional 8.00%
- Faculty 3.40%
- Administrator 4.50%
- Administrative staff 2.30%
- Other 2.30%
Graduate Student Well Being: Resources

- Harassment and discrimination
- Sexual harassment and assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and related retaliation

Also offers other services:

- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center
- New Student and Family Programs
- Off-Campus Student Services
- Student Legal Services
- Women’s Resource Center

Student Counseling Service

- Personal Counseling
- Addiction
- Couples Counseling
- Crisis Intervention
- Group Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Self-Help, Outreach, Consultation

G.R.A.D Aggies
Graduate Resources and Development

- Workshops
- Seminars
- Training

Graduate Ombuds Officer

- Discuss concerns
- Identify solutions
- Plan path forward

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Suggestions to Address Common Graduate Student Complaints

• Lengthy processing or review time by OGAPS
  
  Students should submit forms or petitions as soon as feasible so their approvals can be completed well in advance of graduation and registration deadlines

• Cannot find committee members or department reps for signature.
  
  Departments should have more than one authorized signer.
Suggestions to Address Common Graduate Student Complaints

• Cannot get answers to address issue
  – Department advisors send students directly to OGAPS
  – Not getting correct information from department or OGAPS
  – Information confusing in catalog, or on department or OGAPS websites
  – Don’t know who to ask

Encourage your graduate advisors to participate in trainings offered by my office
Keep department and college handbooks and websites updated with current policies and practices
## Student Grievance Procedures

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[http://student-rules.tamu.edu](http://student-rules.tamu.edu)
Steps for Student Grievance Procedures

1. Formal Resolution Procedure

   Student alleges that a decision rendered is
   - Arbitrary,
   - Capricious, or
   - Prejudicial

2. Informal/Preliminary Resolution Procedure

3. Formal Resolution Procedure

   Graduate Academic Appeals Panel
Resources

Graduate and Professional Catalog
http://catalog.tamu.edu

Graduate Advisors Handbook
http://ogaps.tamu.edu
## Contact Information

### OGAPS and Thesis & Dissertation Services

112 Jack K. Williams Administration Building  
(979) 845-3631  
[http://ogaps.tamu.edu](http://ogaps.tamu.edu)

<table>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ogaps@tamu.edu">ogaps@tamu.edu</a> - Office of Graduate and Professional Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:gradcom@tamu.edu">gradcom@tamu.edu</a> – Graduate Committee Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:GradCouncilAdmin@tamu.edu">GradCouncilAdmin@tamu.edu</a> - Graduate Council Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ogapsprocessing@tamu.edu">ogapsprocessing@tamu.edu</a> – Records Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:thesis@tamu.edu">thesis@tamu.edu</a> - Thesis and Dissertation Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ogaps-tatep@tamu.edu">ogaps-tatep@tamu.edu</a> - New Teaching Assistantship Training &amp; Assessment Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ombuds@tamu.edu">ombuds@tamu.edu</a> - OGAPS Ombuds services</td>
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