The Graduate School

The Graduate School historically administered all Master of Arts (AM) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees at Washington University from 1964 to 2021. During the 2021-22 academic year, the administrative functions of the Graduate School will transition to the respective AM- and PhD-granting schools at Washington University, including Arts & Sciences, the Olin School of Business, the McKelvey School of Engineering, the School of Medicine, and the Brown School. The university also collaborates with the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College to offer a PhD in Nursing Science.

Governance

The Graduate Council will continue to serve as the legislative branch for PhD programs. The Council currently consists of one faculty representative and one graduate student representative from each degree-granting program; it is chaired by the vice provost for graduate education. Much of the work of the Council occurs in committees, on which students serve alongside faculty members. This model of shared governance — equal representation and equal responsibility for faculty and graduate students — is believed to be unique among U.S. universities.

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