Wednesday, March 4, 2021
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
CONFERENCE & FAIR

Thursday, March 4, 2021
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

University of CINCINNATI | THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRTUAL
GRADUATE SCHOOL
CONFERENCE & FAIR

UC to a Higher Degree
Greetings to our attendees from the University of Cincinnati and beyond,

We invite you to join us in exploring what graduate education is, and what it could mean for you.

We hope you approach this conference with curiosity. That is the starting point for discovery, and these are both essential features of graduate education. Whether you are interested in why our country decided to fight a war in order to abolish slavery, how consumers make decisions about what to purchase, or how to design a better building, graduate education provides the portal to learn deeply and improve society.

Advanced education beyond the bachelor’s degree propels you into a realm of curiosity, discovery, and personal challenge that can reshape your life expectations. It can change your perception of yourself—what you can do, and how big to dream—and alter your world by imprinting your environment with a legacy to outlast you. It can take a well-rounded, educated adult and transform her into a professional ready to serve communities both local and global, and it can do this in fields ranging from sociology and musicology to epidemiology, the law, and physics.

The conference we have organized today seeks to acquaint both current undergraduates and college alumni from our region with the possibilities of graduate study and with the practical know-how and savvy needed to navigate admissions, financial aid, and the job market. Through today’s events, we hope to demystify graduate school: to walk you through what it can give you, how to get there, and how it can help you to serve others and to contribute to something larger than yourself.

Whether you attend a graduate degree program at the University of Cincinnati or elsewhere, we hope that today’s discussions inspire you to imagine what studying a field in depth and becoming a professional practitioner of it can do for your future and for the work you will advance. Education is simultaneously a personal and a social good, and today you can take the first steps toward both of these benefits of advanced study at a university.

With best wishes for continued learning,
**Welcome Presentation**

Welcome—Dr. James Mack, Associate Dean, UC Graduate School
Graduate School Best Practices—Dr. Yonatan Eyal, Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School
Why Cincinnati

---

**Session 1, EXPLORE**

1) "Non-Traditional" Student Panel—Part time students, graduate certificates, distance learning students, UC staff, returning adults
Moderator:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

2) "Traditional" Student Panel—Full time master and doctoral students
Moderator:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

3) Assessing Skills and Interests
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience-Based Learning and Career Education Center

4) What You Need to Know about Graduate School Opportunities
Presenters:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Departmental Head of Biological Sciences, UC College of Arts & Sciences
Debbie Brawn—Director, University Honors Program

---

**Welcome Presentation**

Welcome—Dr. James Mack, Associate Dean, UC Graduate School
Graduate School Best Practices—Dr. Yonatan Eyal, Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School
Why Cincinnati

---

**Session 2, PREPARE**

1. Making Your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

2. Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

3. Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

4. Get Into Graduate School: Entrance Exam Preparation
Presenter:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

5. Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience-Based Learning and Career Education Center

---

**Welcome Presentation**

Welcome—Dr. James Mack, Associate Dean, UC Graduate School
Graduate School Best Practices—Dr. Yonatan Eyal, Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School
Why Cincinnati

---

**Session 3, PREPARE**

1. Making Your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

2. Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

3. Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

4. Graduate Test Preparation GRE/GMAT
Presenters:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

5. Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience-Based Learning and Career Education Center
6. What is Graduate Assistantship?
Presenter:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

7. Financial Aid & Money Management
Presenter:
Sydney Meimann—Program Director, Onestop Student Service Center

Session 4, PREPARE
1. Making Your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

2. Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

3. Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

4. Graduate Test Preparation GRE/GMAT
Presenters:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

5. Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience-Based Learning and Career Education Center

6. What is Graduate Assistantship?
Presenter:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

7. Financial Aid & Money Management
Presenter:
Sydney Meimann—Program Director, Onestop Student Service Center

Session 5 College Presentation
1. UC Lindner College of Business Presentation
Presenter:
Kevin Mussman—Assistant Director of Academic Graduate Recruitment, UC Lindner College of Business

2. UC College of Allied Health Sciences Presentation
Presenter:
Shauna Acquavita—Associate Professor, UC School of Social Work

3. College of Arts and Sciences Presentation
Presenter:
Margaret Hanson—Professor of Physics, Divisional Dean for Natural Sciences, UC College of Arts & Sciences

4. UC DAAP—Graduate Program Presentation
Presenter:
Lora Alberto—Program Director, Graduate Studies & Research, UC College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning

5. UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology (CECH) Presentation
Presenter:
Scott Peña—Sr. Admissions Counselor with the College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology

6. UC College of Engineering & Applied Science Presentation
Presenters:
Frank Gerner—Senior Associate Dean, Professor, UC College of Engineering & Applied Science
Gautam Pillay—Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Engineering Education, UC College of Engineering and Applied Science

7. UC College of Medicine Presentation
Presenter:
Cincy Bachurski—Co-Director, Office of Graduate Education, UC College of Medicine

8. UC College of Nursing Presentation
Presenter:
Christine Colella—Professor, Executive Director of Graduate Programs, UC College of Nursing

8. UC College of Pharmacy Presentation
Presenter:
Corey Bjarnson—Associate Director – Graduate Programs, UC College of Pharmacy
Conference Schedule

Graduate School Fair
3:00-5:00 PM
UC Carl H. Lindner College of Business
UC College of Allied Health Sciences
UC College of Arts and Sciences
UC College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services
UC College of Engineering & Applied Science
UC College of Medicine
UC College of Nursing
UC James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

Visit grad.uc.edu to view external universities that will be in attendance at The Graduate Fair

UC to a Higher Degree
Session Summaries

Session 1, EXPLORE

“Non-Traditional” Student Panel
Moderator: Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

This University of Cincinnati Graduate Student Panel consists of those who are classified as “non-traditional” students. They are currently part-time UC graduate students, students seeking a graduate certificate, distance learning graduate students, or returning adult learners. They are invited to share their graduate education experience and answer questions relevant to University of Cincinnati graduate programs.

“Traditional” Student Panel
Moderator: Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

This University of Cincinnati Graduate Student Panel consists of those who are classified as “traditional” students. They are currently full-time UC graduate students earning a Master of Arts degree, Master of Science degree, or Doctoral degree. They are invited to share their graduate education experience and answer questions relevant to University of Cincinnati graduate programs.

Assessing Skills and Interests
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, UC Experience-Based Learning and Career Education

This session introduces participants to the assessment of skills and interests using a simple skills inventory and the John Holland Code, the foundational model for a number of popular career assessments. Participants will assess their own skills and interests, and use their insights to evaluate potential graduate school options.

What You Need to Know about Graduate School
Presenters:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Departmental Head of Biological Sciences, UC College of Arts & Sciences
Debbie Brawn—Director, University Honors Program

Are you trying to decide if graduate school is right for you? Do you know how to navigate the application process? Come learn what graduate school is all about, how to find the right program and faculty advisor, and learn other valuable tips that will help you begin a successful application for graduate school.

Session 2, PREPARE

Making your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Come learn how to market yourself effectively, create advocates within your preferred graduate programs, and maximize your chance of receiving an offer of admission. This presentation will include tips for what to do before submitting your application, how to write a persuasive personal essay, and how to navigate the application process.

Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

No matter the discipline, graduate study requires higher expectations regarding the composition of texts, particularly as it relates to writing style. This presentation provides strategies for students in composing sophisticated statements of purpose. Audience awareness, rhetorical contexts, sentence construction, word choice, and other aspects of composition will be discussed.

Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

How do you nurture the mentoring relationships in your academic career? Yonatan Eyal discusses the importance of recommendation letters and the power of the words that come from those who know you well.

Get Into Graduate School: Entrance Exam Preparation
Presenters:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

Whether you are looking at law school, medical school, business school, or any other graduate program, this jam-packed session will teach you step-by-step what you can do to get into grad school! Join the discussion with Janet Staderman and Jay B. Cutts. You will receive specific information on registering for each test, strategies to help
you prepare, review of a structured study plan, and insights into the heart of the test itself. Plus, you will receive access to free planning services and materials, including a month-by-month email planning system that guides you step-by-step to a successful graduate school application.

Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience Based Learning and Career Education

An important component of applying to graduate school is creating a resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Charlie Thornton, career coach, discusses how to effectively communicate your experiences, skills, and interests through professional documents.

What is Graduate Assistantship?
Presenter:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

One of the main sources of funding for graduate education is the graduate assistantship (GA). But how does a GA position differ from other on-campus employment opportunities, and who is eligible to be a GA? This session will cover the various types of GA positions (teaching/research/administrative), explain UC’s GA policies, and walk you through what to look for in a GA offer letter.

Financial Aid & Money Management
Presenter:
Sydney Meimann—Program Director, Onestop Student Service Center

Join the One Stop Center for a presentation on the financial aid process for graduate students. We will discuss ways to find and secure funding for your graduate career.

Session 3—PREPARE

Making your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Come learn how to market yourself effectively, create advocates within your preferred graduate programs, and maximize your chance of receiving an offer of admission. This presentation will include tips for what to do before submitting your application, how to write a persuasive personal essay, and how to navigate the application process.

Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

No matter the discipline, graduate study requires higher expectations regarding the composition of texts, particularly as it relates to writing style. This presentation provides strategies for students in composing sophisticated statements of purpose. Audience awareness, rhetorical contexts, sentence construction, word choice, and other aspects of composition will be discussed.

Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

How do you nurture the mentoring relationships in your academic career? Yonatan Eyal discusses the importance of recommendation letters and the power of the words that come from those who know you well.

Get Into Graduate School: Entrance Exam Preparation
Presenters:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

Whether you are looking at law school, medical school, business school, or any other graduate program, this jam-packed session will teach you step-by-step what you can do to get into grad school! Join the discussion with Janet Staderman and Jay B. Cutts. You will receive specific information on registering for each test, strategies to help you prepare, review of a structured study plan, and insights into the heart of the test itself. Plus, you will receive access to free planning services and materials, including a month-by-month email planning system that guides you step-by-step to a successful graduate school application.

Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience Based Learning and Career Education

An important component of applying to graduate school is creating a resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Charlie Thornton, career coach, discusses how to effectively communicate your experiences, skills, and interests through professional documents.
What is Graduate Assistantship?
Presenter:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

One of the main sources of funding for graduate education is the graduate assistantship (GA). But how does a GA position differ from other on-campus employment opportunities, and who is eligible to be a GA? This session will cover the various types of GA positions (teaching/research/administrative), explain UC’s GA policies, and walk you through what to look for in a GA offer letter.

Financial Aid & Money Management
Presenter:
Sydney Meimann—Program Director, Onestop Student Service Center

Join the One Stop Center for a presentation on the financial aid process for graduate students. We will discuss ways to find and secure funding for your graduate career.

Session 4—PREPARE
Making your Graduate Application Stand Out
Presenter:
Theresa Culley—Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Come learn how to market yourself effectively, create advocates within your preferred graduate programs, and maximize your chance of receiving an offer of admission. This presentation will include tips for what to do before submitting your application, how to write a persuasive personal essay, and how to navigate the application process.

Style of Graduate Writing—Statement of Purpose
Presenter:
Daniel Floyd—Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center, UC Learning Center

No matter the discipline, graduate study requires higher expectations regarding the composition of texts, particularly as it relates to writing style. This presentation provides strategies for students in composing sophisticated statements of purpose. Audience awareness, rhetorical contexts, sentence construction, word choice, and other aspects of composition will be discussed.

Letters of Recommendation
Presenter:
Yonatan Eyal—Director of Graduate Studies, UC Graduate School

How do you nurture the mentoring relationships in your academic career? Yonatan Eyal discusses the importance of recommendation letters and the power of the words that come from those who know you well.

Get Into Graduate School: Entrance Exam Preparation
Presenters:
Jay B. Cutts—Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books
Janet Staderman—Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati

Whether you are looking at law school, medical school, business school, or any other graduate program, this jam-packed session will teach you step-by-step what you can do to get into grad school! Join the discussion with Janet Staderman and Jay B. Cutts. You will receive specific information on registering for each test, strategies to help you prepare, review of a structured study plan, and insights into the heart of the test itself. Plus, you will receive access to free planning services and materials, including a month-by-month email planning system that guides you step-by-step to a successful graduate school application.

Effective Resume/CV Writing
Presenter:
Charlie Thornton—Career Coach, Experience Based Learning and Career Education

An important component of applying to graduate school is creating a resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Charlie Thornton, career coach, discusses how to effectively communicate your experiences, skills, and interests through professional documents.

What is Graduate Assistantship?
Presenter:
Megan Tischner—Program Manager, UC Graduate School

One of the main sources of funding for graduate education is the graduate assistantship (GA). But how does a GA position differ from other on-campus employment opportunities, and who is eligible to be a GA? This session will cover the various types of GA positions (teaching/research/administrative), explain UC’s GA policies, and walk you through what to look for in a GA offer letter.
Financial Aid & Money Management
Presenter:
Sydney Meimann—Program Director, OneStop Student Service Center

Join the One Stop Center for a presentation on the financial aid process for graduate students. We will discuss ways to find and secure funding for your graduate career.

Session 5—APPLY | College Sessions

UC Lindner College of Business Presentation
Presenter:
Kevin Mussman—Assistant Director Graduate Admissions and Recruitment, UC Lindner College of Business
Learn more about the diverse portfolio of graduate business programs University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business has to offer and how a graduate degree can take your career to the next level.

UC College of Allied Health Sciences Presentation
Presenter:
Shauna Acquavita—Associate Professor, School of Social Work
This session will discuss the field of social work, a brief profile of the School of Social Work at University of Cincinnati and the Master of Social Work (MSW) program options. Information on travel abroad, interprofessional opportunities, student fellowships and scholarships and program activities will be reviewed. It will conclude with information on the MSW application process.

UC College of Arts and Sciences Presentation
Presenter:
Margaret Hanson—Professor of Physics, Divisional Dean for Natural Sciences, UC College of Arts & Sciences
Graduate School is an investment in your future self: your increased future career satisfaction, your increased future wealth, and your increased job resilience to unexpected changes in the future economy. Dr. Hanson will also review current A&S Graduate programs and how to present your best self to gain admission.

UC DAAP—Graduate Program Presentation
Presenter:
Lora Alberto—Program Director, Graduate Studies & Research College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
The top ranked College of DAAP offers ten graduate programs (8 Master’s and 2 PhD). Each program and dual degree opportunities will be discussed. The Portfolio submission will be explained and current updates and application requirements will be highlighted. Several of our specific field and offer an extended option to obtain licensures and/or certifications. Find out how to navigate the application system and make your application stand out.

UC College of of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology (CECH) Presentation
Presenter:
Scott Peña—Sr. Admissions Counselor with the College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology
The University of Cincinnati College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Information Technology (CECH) discusses what is new within the college, the current application requirements, why a graduate application is beneficial, and answers the questions of attendees who are interested in continuing their graduate education in Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services or Information Technology.

UC College of of Engineering & Applied Science Presentation
Presenters:
Frank M. Gerner—Senior Associate Dean, Professor, UC College of Engineering & Applied Science
Gautam Pillay—Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Engineering Education, UC College of Engineering and Applied Science
Dr. Gerner and Dr. Pillay discuss what is new within the college, the current application requirements, why a graduate application is beneficial, and answers questions of attendees interested in continuing their graduate education in the field of Engineering.

UC College of of Medicine Presentation
Presenter:
Cindy Bachurski—Associate Professor, Co-Director, Office of Graduate Education, UC College of Medicine
Preparing yourself for a biomedical PhD degree: Importance of undergraduate research and the application process.

UC College of Nursing Presentation
Presenter:
Christine Colella—Professor, Executive Director of Graduate Programs, College of Nursing
The University of Cincinnati College of Nursing discusses what is new within the college, the current application requirements, and why a graduate application is beneficial and answering questions of attendees interested in continuing their graduate education in the field of Nursing.
UC College of Pharmacy Presentation
Presenter: Corey Bjarnson—Associate Director – Graduate Programs, UC College of Pharmacy
The University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy discusses what is new within the college, the current application requirements, why a graduate application is beneficial, and answers the questions of attendees who are interested in continuing their graduate education in the field of Pharmacy.
Raj Mehta
Vice Provost for International Affairs, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School, Director of the University Honors Program, Professor of Marketing

Dr. Mehta has served as Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School since April 2020. His priorities are continuity of research at this Carnegie Research 1 University and support of postgraduates during the pandemic. In his ongoing role as Vice Provost for International Affairs, which he has held since 2012, he works closely with UC’s administration to achieve the university’s global goals. Dr. Mehta focuses on building comprehensive partnerships for UC with institutions of higher learning worldwide to provide educational opportunities that will prepare our students for a global future and to support innovative, interdisciplinary research collaborations that can solve complex world problems. Under Dr. Mehta’s early leadership, UC piloted the Joint Co-op Institute with Chongqing University, the first engineering program in China to mandate co-op. He helped create a model affiliation with Future University in Egypt to develop FUE’s curriculum and accreditation. UC now has 13 strategic global partners. As director of UC’s unique experience-based University Honors Program since 2007, Dr. Mehta leads efforts to recruit and retain UC’s top students and help them compete for prestigious national and international fellowships. He has also served as Academic Director (2004–2007) and Study Abroad Director (2000–2007) for the Lindner Honors PLUS Program in the Carl H. Lindner College of Business. His teaching interests are in international business and social enterprise start-ups in a global economy. He researches the role of new technologies in diffusing new products and ideas. His Ph.D. in Marketing is from the David Eccles School of Business, and his MBA is from Gujarat University.

James Mack
Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Professor of Chemistry

Prior to joining the Graduate School as associate dean in 2016, Dr. Mack served as the assistant chair for the Department of Chemistry (2013–16) and filled the role of graduate program director of advising for the same department (2005–13). Dr. Mack served on the steering committee for the formation of the UC Black Faculty Association, and upon the organization’s establishment in 2016, was appointed co-chair. As associate dean, Dr. Mack provides strategic direction over the necessary processes of the Graduate School, which support its many students, faculty, programs and staff. In his 13 years teaching chemistry, Dr. Mack has graduated 11 postgraduate students and is currently advising another eight. Some of these students have assisted him with his nationally and internationally recognized research, which has been broadcast on NPR and featured in the top journals of the chemistry field. His specific interests include the development of environmentally benign organic reactions and the synthesis of novel organic materials.

Yonatan Eyal
Director of Graduate Studies, Affiliate Associate Professor of History

Trained as an historian of nineteenth-century America, Dr. Eyal joined the Graduate School as its inaugural Director of Graduate Studies in 2015. He has served as a history professor as well as published author (a book and numerous articles and reviews on the politics of Jacksonian and Civil War America). An award-winning educator, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and American political and intellectual history.

As Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Eyal works with the Dean and Associate Dean to lead the Graduate School’s daily operations, strategize its vision and future, implement professional development initiatives and oversee staff functions and student services.
Shauna Acquavita  
Associate Professor, MSW, College of Allied Health Sciences  
Dr. Shauna P. Acquavita is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Social Work Program at the School of Social Work, University of Cincinnati. She has nearly a decade of professional experience providing counseling services to individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. She completed a Pre-Doctorate Fellowship in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Dr. Acquavita also completed a Post-Doctorate at Johns Hopkins University in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit in the School of Medicine. Her academic career in the field of social work has focused on the area of substance use disorders, maternal and child health, and interprofessional education and collaboration. She has received behavioral health workforce development grants for SAMHSA and HRSA. She has received awards at the college and university level for her research and teaching endeavors. She is a licensed clinical social worker supervisor in the state of Ohio.

Lora Alberto  
Program Director, Graduate Studies & Research - College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning  
Lora Alberto is the Program Director for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP). She advises graduate students and works with faculty in all four schools of the college to assist them in meeting University policies and procedures within ten graduate programs. She has a Master of Community Planning degree from UC and a B.S. from Miami University. Previously, Lora was the Education Director for Groundwork Cincinnati - Mill Creek, working with the Cincinnati community to protect and restore the Mill Creek Watershed. She also spent two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines.

Cindy Bachurski  
Associate Professor, Co-Director, Office of Graduate Education, UC College of Medicine  
Cindy Bachurski, PhD, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the UC College of Medicine, co-Director of Graduate Programs for student recruitment and outreach in the Office of Graduate Education, and Director of Student Pipeline Programs at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Bachurski has served in many roles at CCHMC and UC COM, including postdoctoral recruiter, co-Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and PI of a research laboratory in the Division of Pulmonary Biology. Dr. Bachurski has a long-term interest in mentoring young scientists. She currently directs the Summer Internship Program at Cincinnati Children’s, for graduating high school students to work with clinician-mentors, and the Biomedical Research Internship for Minority Students (BRIMS) Program for young high achieving minority students to gain research experience and the UC COM Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF-GE) Program. She also co-chairs the Cincinnati Children’s High School- and Middle School Science Symposia for local students and their teachers.

Corey Bjarnson  
Associate Director - Graduate Programs, James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy  
Corey Bjarnson is the Associate Director Academic for Graduate Programs within the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy. He is a recent addition to the University of Cincinnati but comes with over 10 years of experience in higher education. Corey is active in promoting the UC College of Pharmacy Graduate Programs to prospective students and is also dedicated to ensuring that these students achieve academic and career success within their UC program.
Debbie Brawn
Director, University Honors Program

Debbie Brawn is an educator and leader in higher education in Cincinnati. She is passionate about mentoring students to recognize their potential and make an impact in our world. This passion led her to a career in higher education and to UC’s University Honors Program (UHP). Debbie is the director of the UHP and guides the implementation of the program’s vision and mission. Debbie was a recipient of UC’s Just Community Award in 2010 and of UC’s Outstanding Advising Administrator Award in 2015. Debbie has a B.A. from Xavier University and a M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from The Ohio State University.

Theresa Culley
Professor and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences

Largely because of experiences as an undergraduate researcher at the University of California-Irvine, Theresa Culley decided to go to graduate school, eventually earning her PhD from The Ohio State University. Today, she mentors undergraduate and graduate students in her own research laboratory in the Department of Biological Sciences at UC. She has enjoyed working with the University Honors Program to identify graduate pathways for students, as Director of the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, and now as Head of Biological Sciences, one of the largest departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. Theresa has served on graduate admissions committees and as a national reviewer for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Theresa enjoys plant research in the Hawaiian Islands and working to identify invasive plant species within the state of Ohio, as well as teaching many students over the years.

Christine Colella
Professor, Executive Director of Graduate Programs, College of Nursing

Christine Lind Colella DNP, APRN-CNP, FAANP is a Professor, Clinical Nursing at the University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing and Executive Director of Graduate programs. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and has won numerous teaching awards. Dr. Colella works as a primary care Nurse Practitioner at The Lincoln Heights Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the uninsured and under-insured. She is an active member of the Ohio Association of Advance Practice Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau Beta Iota Chapter.

Jay B. Cutts
Director of Cutts Graduate Reviews and Lead Author of Barron’s Test Prep MCAT and LSAT books

Jay is an instructor with the UC Office of Professional and Continuing Education. He holds a Masters of Arts degree in Special Education and has specialized in personalized instruction for standardized exams, including the LSAT, MCAT, PCAT, and GRE, for over 30 years. He is the lead author of the Barron’s MCAT and LSAT prep books and the Barron’s MCAT Flash Cards. He is an expert in test strategy, including intuitive math strategies, timing, logic, and problem-solving and has helped hundreds of students overcome math anxiety and test anxiety through the mastery of powerful strategies.

Daniel Floyd, PhD
Educational Advisor, Academic Writing Center
UC Learning Commons

Daniel Floyd is the Educational Advisor over the Academic Writing Center at UC. He completed his PhD in English, Rhetoric and Composition at UC in 2020. His academic background includes English composition and literature, French literature, and education.
Sydney Meimann  
Program Director, One Stop Student Service Center

Sydney is the Program Director of the UC Financial Literacy Program, a member of the One Stop Student Service Center management team and convener of the UC Money Management Task Force. Sydney has a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and is passionate about inspiring others to better their financial future.

Kevin Mussman  
Assistant Director of Academic Graduate Recruitment, UC Lindner College of Business

A Cincinnati native, Kevin earned a Bachelor’s in Communications in 2013 from the University of Cincinnati and has served as Program Coordinator and Student Advisor for the Lindner College of Business. In 2017 he completed his Master’s in Marketing degree and has spent the last three years in his current role as Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment for the Carl H. Lindner College of Business.
Gautam Pillay  
**Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Engineering Education, UC College of Engineering and Applied Science**

Dr. Gautam Pillay is the associate dean for research in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. He assists faculty and students in pursuing their research agendas, including developing their professional networks, assisting in research proposal development, and expanding the College’s research infrastructure and capabilities. Prior to joining UC last year, he has 37 years of administrative and research experience at U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories and several public research universities. He served as a researcher, program manager, government relations officer, faculty member, and vice president / vice provost for research and graduate dean. He earned bachelors and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from New Mexico State University and Texas A&M University, respectively.

Janet Staderman  
**Director, Office of Professional & Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati**

Janet has been a valued staff member at UC for over eight years. She received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from UC School of Education and is a huge advocate of lifelong learning. Her work focuses on developing and implementing continuing education programs, including test prep and college readiness. Programs also include community education non-credit classes for personal enrichment and courses for professional development. Working closely with students at all phases in their lives, Janet is a key connector for bridging UC with the greater community.

Megan Tischner  
**Program Manager, UC Graduate School**

Megan Tischner has worked for the University of Cincinnati Graduate School since 2011. With a mission of supporting graduate student success, Megan manages the Graduate School’s award competitions and professional development programming. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Albion College (MI) and a Master’s in English from the University of Cincinnati.

Amy Robinson Wheeler  
**2021 Graduate School Conference & Fair Chair, Program Manager Graduate Recruitment, UC Graduate School**

Amy has been employed by the University of Cincinnati Graduate School since 2008. She received her Bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University and received her Master’s degree in Human Resources from the University of Cincinnati, Lindner College of Business. Amy is a strong advocate for continuing education. She is a resource for undergraduate and graduate students, UC staff and returning adults interested in continuing their education at the graduate level.

Charlie Thornton  
**Career Coach, Experience-Based Learning and Career Education Center**

Charlie Thornton is a Career Coach with UC’s Division of Experienced-Based Learning and Career Education’s Bearcat promise Career Studio. He supports students and alumni with the many facets of career planning and development. Charlie’s professional background is in college and career access and non-profit work. He is a UC Alumni where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Communication with a certificate in Public Relations and minors in Anthropology and Information Technology.
2021 Graduate School Conference & Graduate Fair Committee:

Amy Robinson Wheeler, 2021 Graduate School Conference Chair Program Manager-Graduate Recruitment, UC Graduate School
James Mack, Associate Dean, UC Graduate School
Megan Tischner, Program Manager, UC Graduate School
Tony Padilla Denis, Graduate Assistant, Recruitment & Retention, UC Graduate School
Mahnaz "Luna" Amin Foroughi, Graphic Design Graduate Assistant, DAAP, UC Grad School

University of Cincinnati Graduate School Leadership Team:

Raj Mehta, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School
James Mack, Associate Dean of the Graduate
Yonatan Eyal, Director of Graduate Studies

Conference Session Presenters:

Megan Tischner
Yonatan Eyal
Charlie Thornton
Theresa Culley
Debbie Brawn
Daniel Floyd
Jay B. Cutts
Janet Staderman
Charlie Thornton
Sydney Meiman
Kevin Mussman
Shauna Acquavita
Margaret Hanson
Lora Alberto
Scott Pena
Frank Gerner
Gautam Pillay
Cincy Bachurski
Christine Colella
Corey Bjarnson

Conference Volunteers:

Ariel Barat, Graduate Assistant, UC Graduate School
Courtney Becker, Executive Staff Assistant, UC Graduate School
Tony Padilla Denis, Graduate Assistant, UC Graduate School
Virginia Dennis, Assistant to Associate Dean, UC Graduate School
Alejandro Diaz, Student Worker, UC Graduate School
Emily Kregor, Software Developer, UC Graduate School- IT
Suzanne Matthey, Academic Evalauator, UC Graduate School
Julie Muenchen, Director, CEAS Graduate Studies & Research
Megan Tischner, Program Manager, UC Graduate School
Cory Whitworth, Graduate Assistant, UC Graduate School
Angie Walls, Program Manager, UC Graduate School

All Graduate Program College Recruiters

University of Cincinnati Information Technology Solutions Center

Vineela Kunapareddi - MS (Information Technology) | SOIT
Software Developer | ITSC | University of Cincinnati
Apexha Watane- MS (Information Technology) | SOIT | University of Cincinnati
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Session 3</th>
<th>Session 4</th>
<th>Session 5</th>
<th>VIRTUAL Graduate FAIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Event Chat</td>
<td>Assessing</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>Non-Traditional</td>
<td>Financial Aid &amp; Money Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:30</td>
<td>What you need to know about Graduate School Opportunities</td>
<td>Assessing Skills &amp; Interests</td>
<td>Traditional Student Panel</td>
<td>Non-Traditional Student Panel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35-12:20</td>
<td>Making your Graduate App Stand Out</td>
<td>Style of Graduate Writing</td>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>Effective Resume/ CV Writing</td>
<td>Get Into Grad School: Entrance Exam Preparation</td>
<td>What is a Graduate Assistantship?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:25-1:10</td>
<td>Making your Graduate App Stand Out</td>
<td>Style of Graduate Writing</td>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>Effective Resume/ CV Writing</td>
<td>Get Into Grad School: Entrance Exam Preparation</td>
<td>What is a Graduate Assistantship?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15-2:00</td>
<td>Making your Graduate App Stand Out</td>
<td>Style of Graduate Writing</td>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>Effective Resume/ CV Writing</td>
<td>Get Into Grad School: Entrance Exam Preparation</td>
<td>What is a Graduate Assistantship?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05-3:00</td>
<td>College Presentation Business</td>
<td>College Presentation A&amp;S</td>
<td>College Presentation Allied Health</td>
<td>College Presentation DAAP</td>
<td>College Presentation CECH</td>
<td>College Presentation Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>College Representative Meetings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>College Presentation Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 Graduate School VIRTUAL Conference Schedule
Still have UC Graduate School question?  
Contact Us:

Amy Robinson Wheeler  
Program Manager, Graduate Recruitment  
UC Graduate School  

Amy.Robinson@uc.edu  
or visit:  
https://grad.uc.edu
UC to a Higher Degree

grad.uc.edu