

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The Graduate School was established in 1951 in recognition of the importance graduate instruction had attained at Middle Tennessee State University. As graduate education continued to grow and develop at the University, the Graduate School was renamed the College of Graduate Studies in 1991 to signify the academic status of the college. All graduate degrees at the University are awarded by the College of Graduate Studies, under the auspices of the dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

The mission of the College of Graduate Studies is to provide academic, financial, and other support services for graduate students, while upholding academic standards. The college certifies that every candidate for conferral of a graduate degree has fulfilled all academic requirements. The college contributes assistance to help ensure that each graduate program provides the optimal educational experiences for its graduate students. This support includes the distribution of graduate assistant funds and the provision of graduate fellowships. The college also serves as the central collegiate component for uniting the entire graduate academic community at MTSU. The college, in consultation with the faculty, establishes policies and procedures to promote excellence in graduate education. These include processes to ensure judicious and selective graduate student admission decisions; rigorous adherence to the academic standards expected of graduate students; monitoring for excellence in graduate program curricula via the graduate program review process; and selectivity in making graduate faculty appointments. This latter graduate faculty standard enhances the opportunities for graduate students to receive optimal intellectual challenges and quality research mentoring during the course of their graduate experiences at MTSU. The importance of scholarly research in graduate education is exemplified by the fact that the College of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee, selects recipients for faculty research grants.

