

University Senate: Report from The Graduate School (TGS)

Leslie M. Shor, PhD

Centennial Professor of Chemical Engineering
Vice Provost & Dean of the Graduate School

March 9, 2026

Graduate Program Enrollment (FA 10TH Day)

	Fall 2024		Fall 2025			
	Master's	Doctorate	Master's	Doctorate		
Agriculture & Natural Resources	266	262	256	257		
Business	1268	42	1198	46		
Education	328	174	322	180		
Engineering	345	615	326	582		
Fine Arts	70	24	69	26		
Interdisciplinary	107	11	131	13		
Liberal Arts & Sciences	429	1205	437	1194		
Nursing	252	138	249	137		
Pharmacy		56		54		
Social Work	405	25	505	26		
UConn Health	139	185	141	183		
Total	3609	2737	3634	2698		
Total	6346		6332			

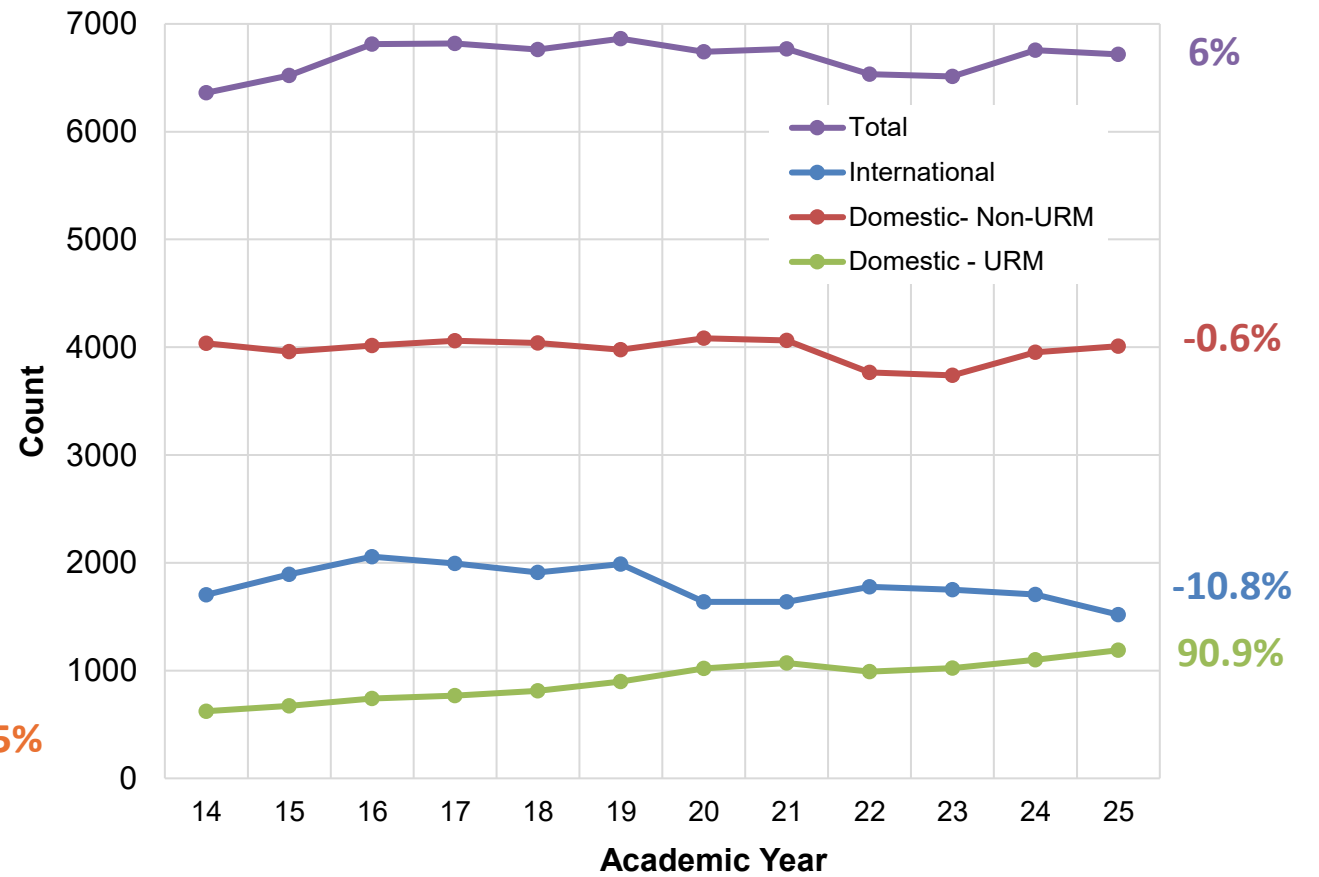
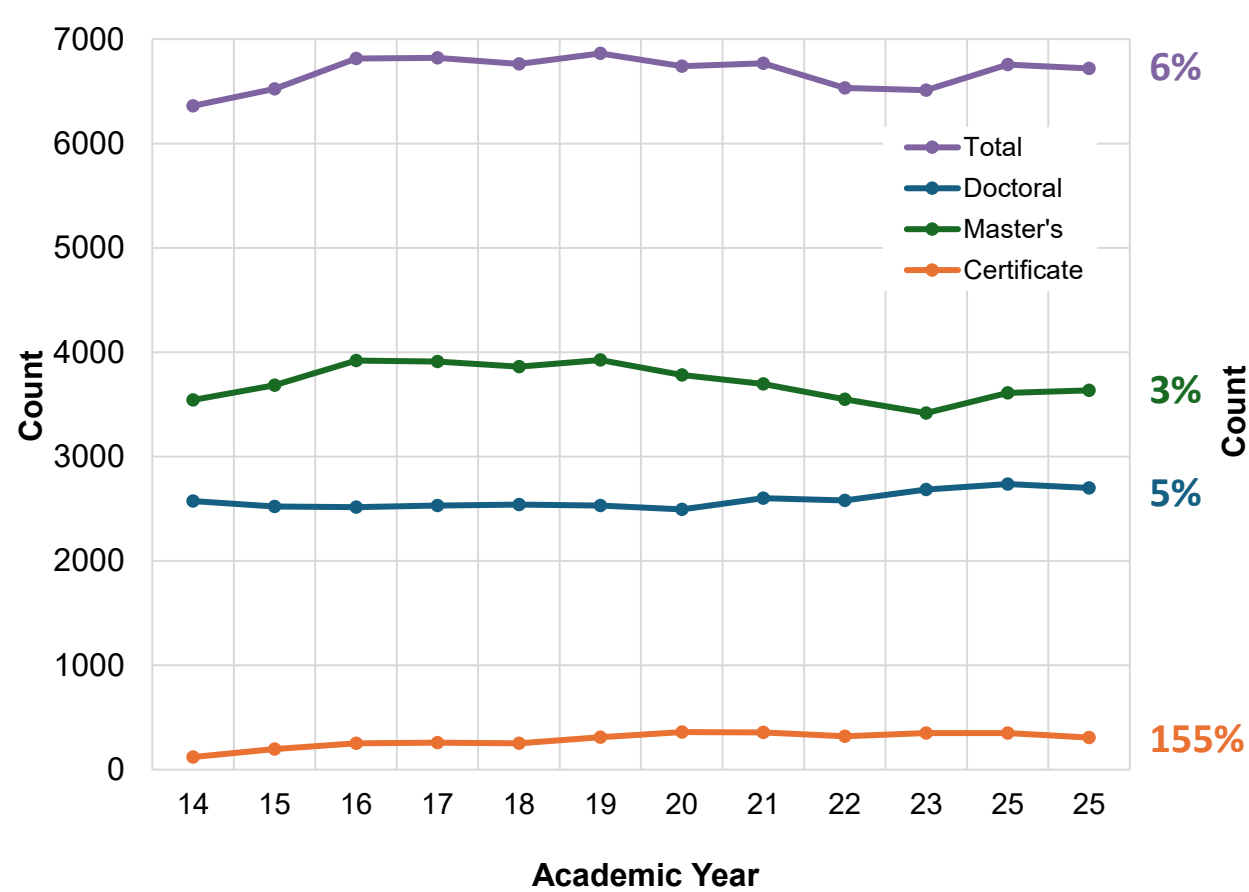
* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

Graduate Program Enrollment (FA 10TH Day)

	Fall 2024		Fall 2025		Change (%)	
	Master's	Doctorate	Master's	Doctorate	Master's	Doctorate
Agriculture & Natural Resources	266	262	256	257	-3.8%	-1.9%
Business	1268	42	1198	46	-5.5%	9.5%
Education	328	174	322	180	-1.8%	3.4%
Engineering	345	615	326	582	-5.5%	-5.4%
Fine Arts	70	24	69	26	-1.4%	8.3%
Interdisciplinary	107	11	131	13	22.4%	18.2%
Liberal Arts & Sciences	429	1205	437	1194	1.9%	-0.9%
Nursing	252	138	249	137	-1.2%	-0.7%
Pharmacy		56		54		-3.6%
Social Work	405	25	505	26	24.7%	4.0%
UConn Health	139	185	141	183	1.4%	-1.1%
Total	3609	2737	3634	2698	0.7%	-1.4%
Total	6346		6332		-0.2%	

* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

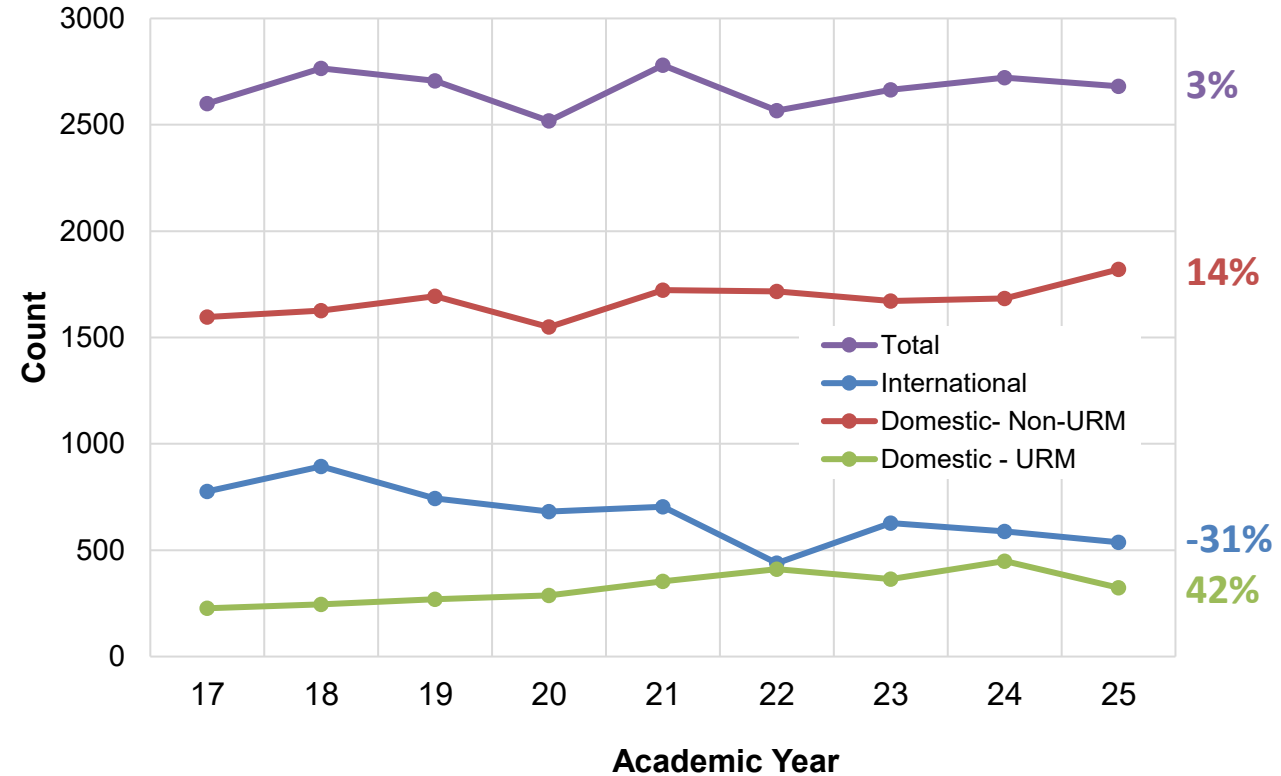
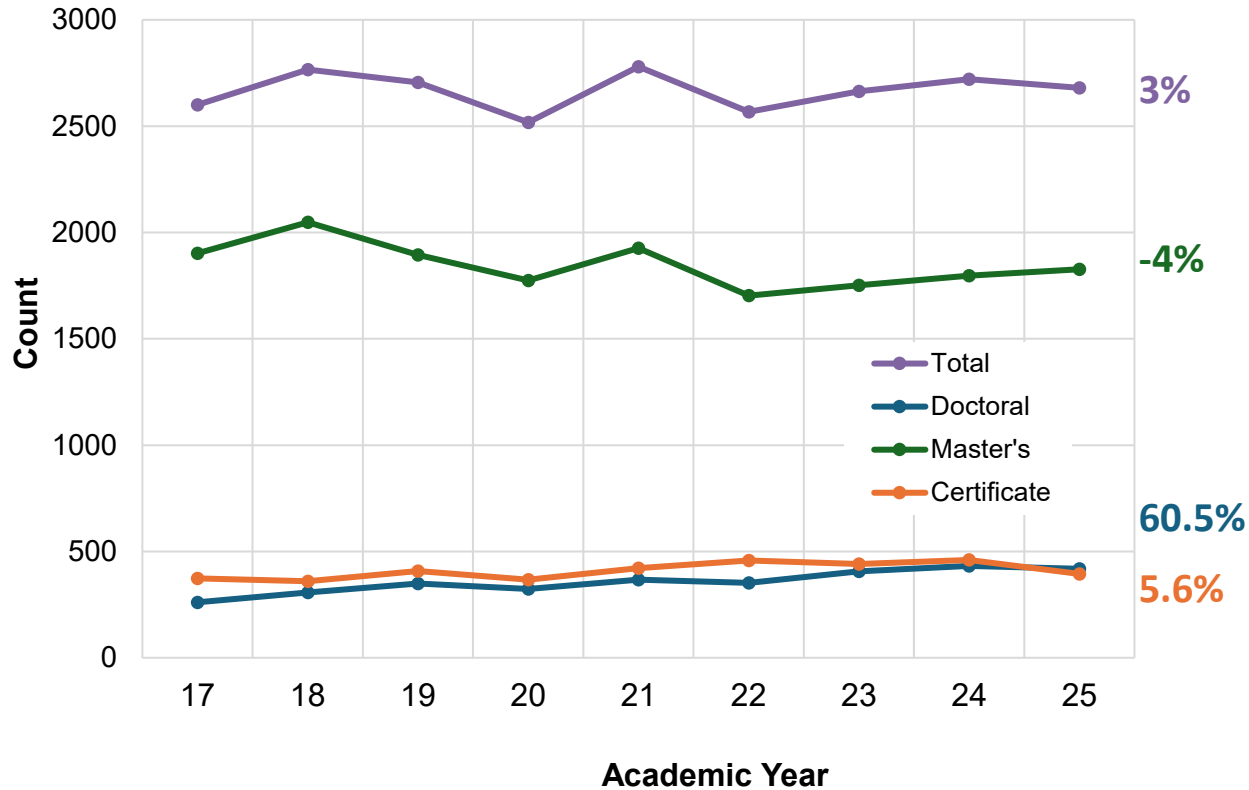
Graduate Program Enrollment (FA 10TH Day)



* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

Note: Domestic – Non-URM (White + Asian American + Multiracial + Unknown)
 Domestic – URM (Black + Hawaiian/Pacific Islander + Hispanic/Latino + Native American)

Graduate Program Completions (AY25 = Su/Fa24 + Sp25)



Note: Domestic – Non-URM (White + Asian American + Multiracial + Unknown)
 Domestic – URM (Black + Hawaiian/Pacific Islander + Hispanic/Latino + Native American)

* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

What TGS does for **Graduate Students**

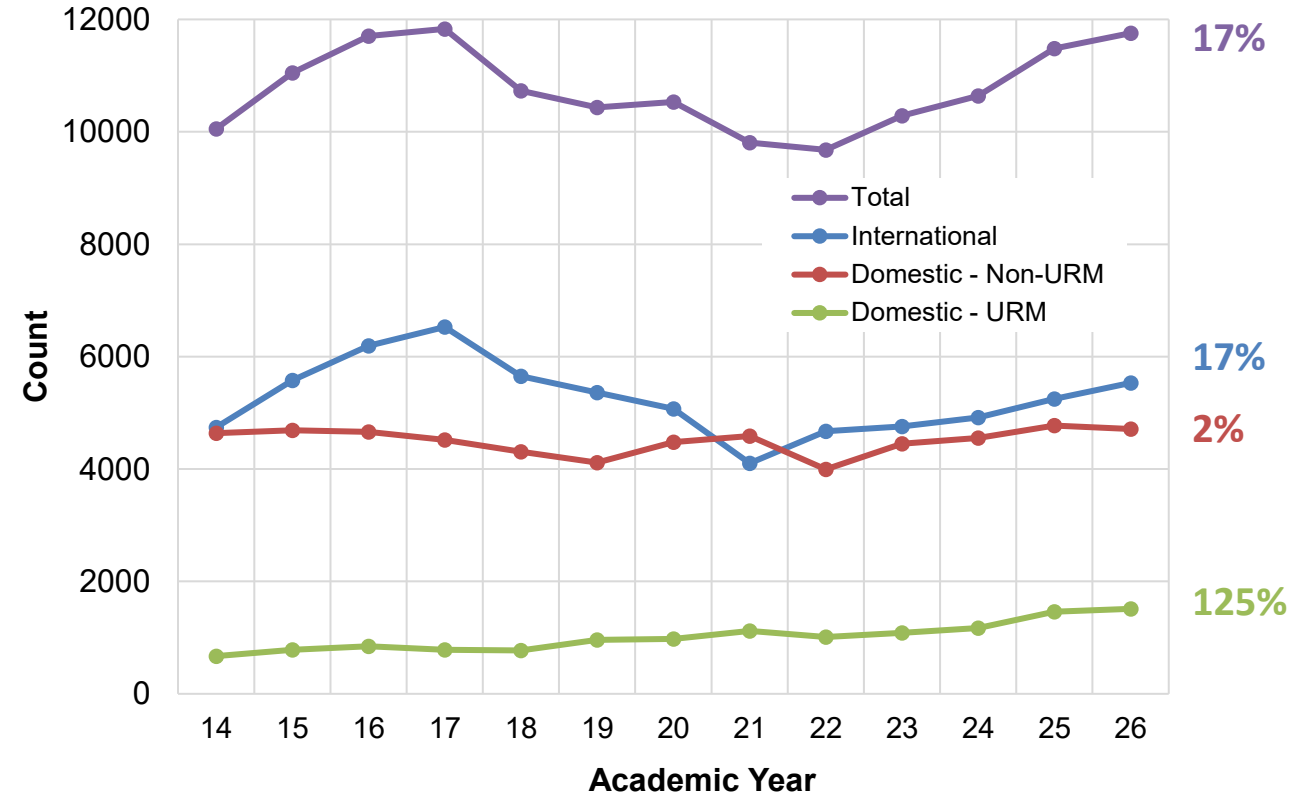
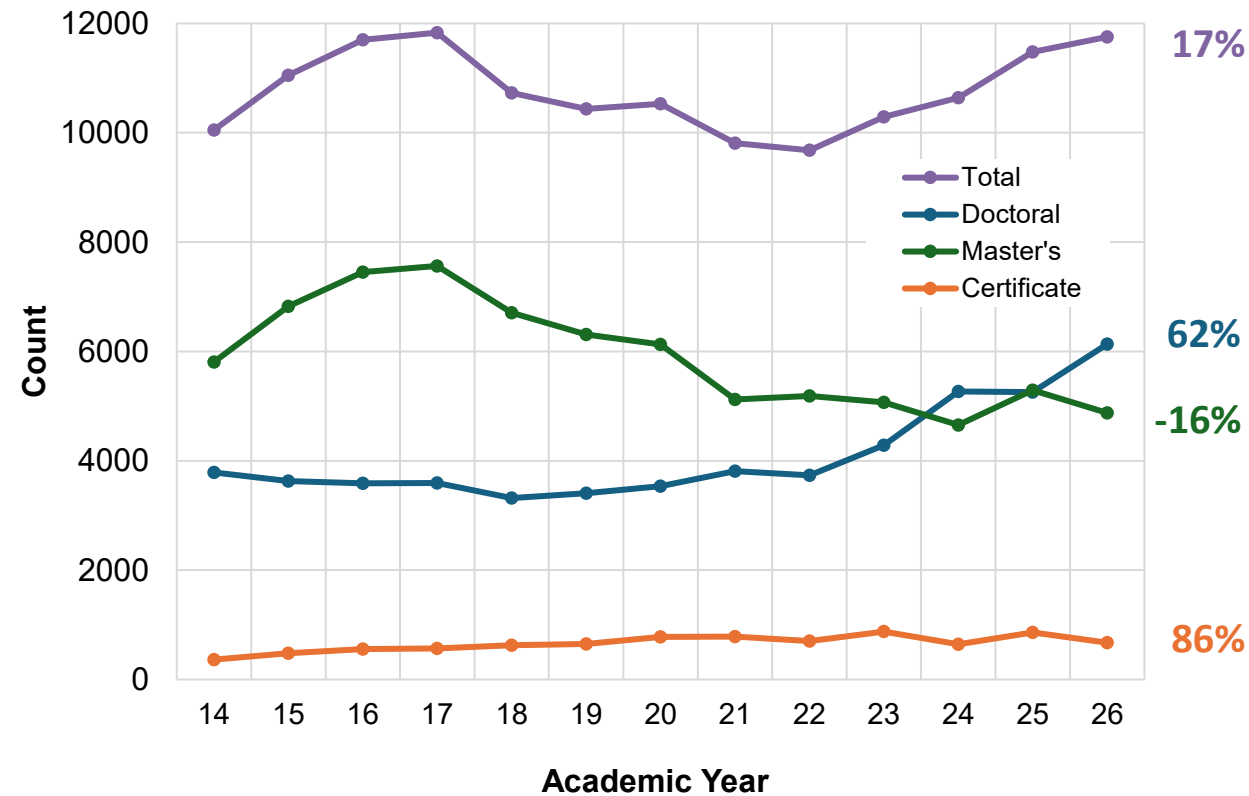
Key Areas of Support:

- ✓ Support applicants
- ✓ Process applications, admissions, and matriculations
- ✓ Provide on-boarding & administrative support
- ✓ Advocate for grad students & post-docs
- ✓ Lead graduate education initiatives and promote capacity building & interdisciplinary collaborations
- ✓ Distribute ~ \$6M/yr in graduate fellowships and tuition scholarships
- ✓ Administer benefits & stipends for some fellows

...but we do not

- ✗ Make admissions decisions
- ✗ Provide routine academic advising or career services
- ✗ Confer degrees
- ✗ Provide GA funding
- ✗ “Waive” tuition

Graduate Program Applications (AY25 = Su/Fa24 + Sp25)

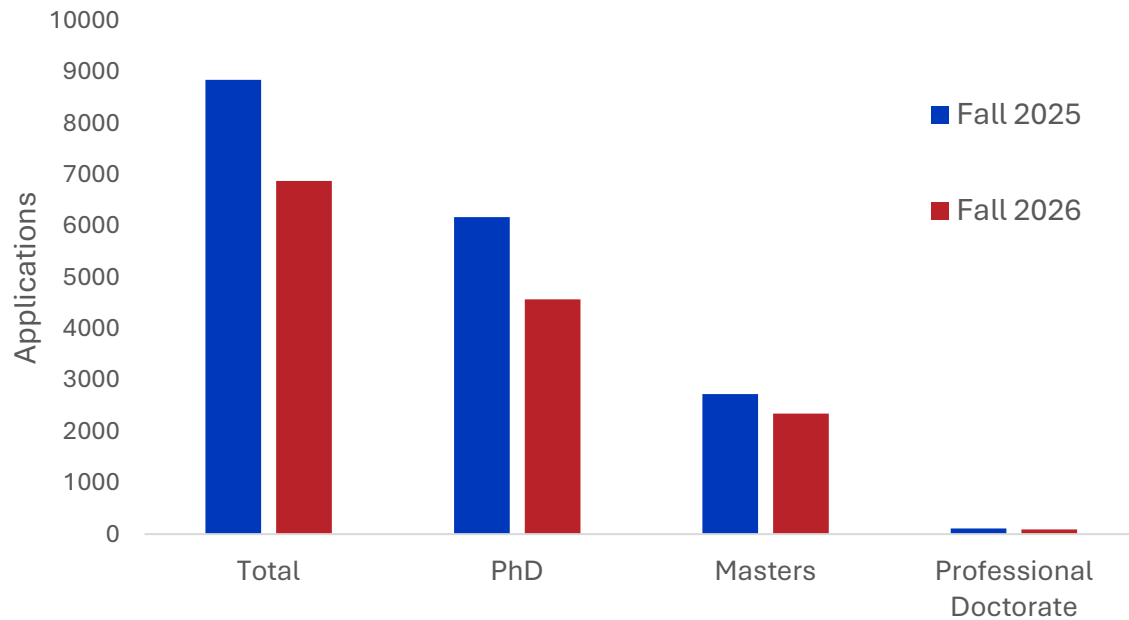


Note: Domestic – Non-URM (White + Asian American + Multiracial + Unknown)
 Domestic – URM (Black + Hawaiian/Pacific Islander + Hispanic/Latino + Native American)

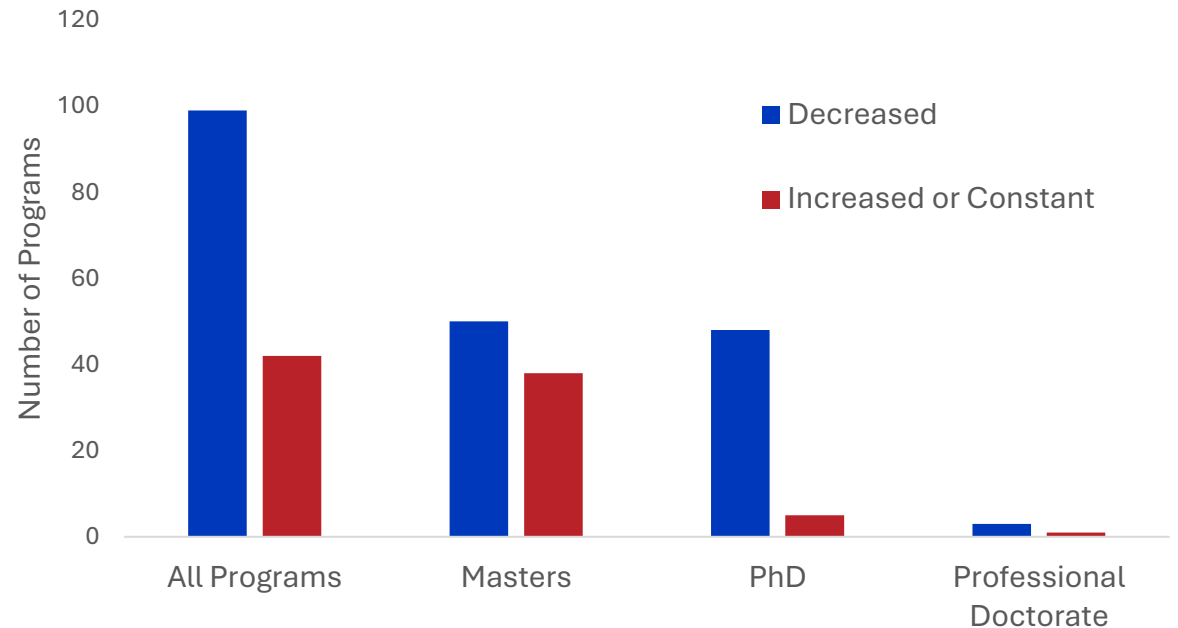
* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

Current Application Trends

Total Applications by Degree Type
(report generated 2/23/26)



Programs with Decreased Applications
(report generated 02/23/26)



* Chart includes only programs in the Graduate School

Graduate Student & Post-doc Support at TGS



Karen Bresciano

Assistant Dean of TGS

karen.bresciano@uconn.edu



Megan Petsa

Director of Graduate Student
Administration

megan.petsa@uconn.edu



Kimberly Curry

Director of Graduate Student
and Postdoctoral Support

kimberly.curry@uconn.edu



Melanie Sinche

Director of Graduate Student
and Postdoctoral Success

melanie.sinche@uconn.edu

Admin: Summary of Recent Initiatives

Timely Topics

- Fall '25 Fac/Admin Track:
 - 7 sessions;
 - average 59 per session
 - 199 unique sign-ups.
- Student Track:
 - 4 sessions
 - average 59 students per session
 - 228 unique sign-ups (up from 181 in F24)

GradSlate GA Letters

- Pilot: 11 dept's for Sp26 GA
- Wide launch January 2026
- **All** offers for Fall 2026 & beyond **must be initiated through GradSlate**
- Does **not** include:
 - GAs at UConn Health
 - Summer/Intersession/Overloads: use Special Payroll/PageUp

Training & Resources

GA Offer Letters in Slate webpage provides Guides and training dates



Support: Summary of Recent Initiatives

Emergency Fellowships

- For active, degree-seeking UConn graduate students
- Provides up to \$2k for 1-time, acute, unexpected need (academic or living expenses)
- 3 application windows plus off-cycle applications
- 170 approved between June 2025 and December 2025

TGS Emergency Loans

- Many grads ineligible for GSS or DOS STELF loans
- TGS: max \$2k; interest-free; payback in 90 days

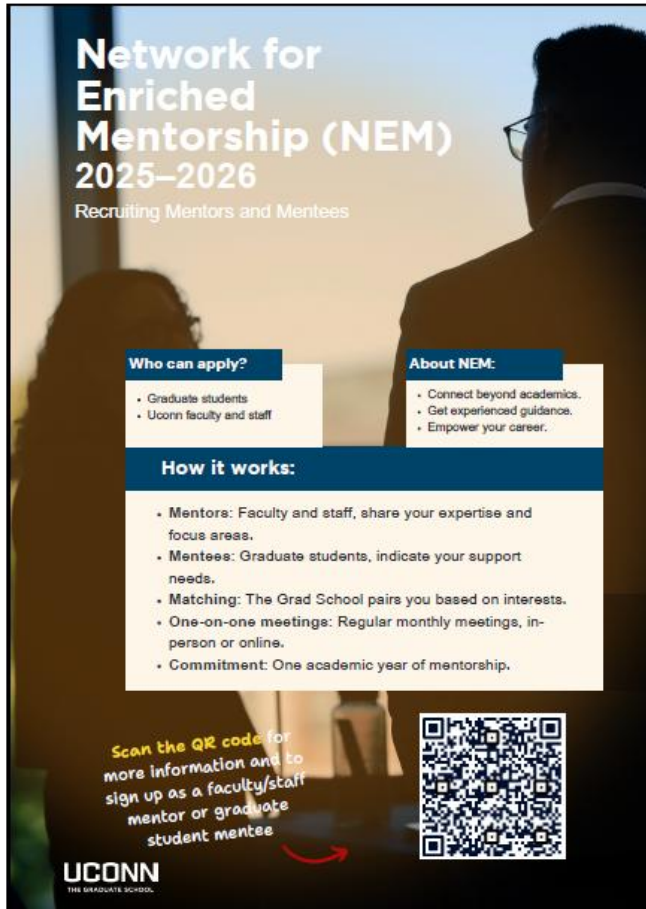
TGS Emergency Funding:



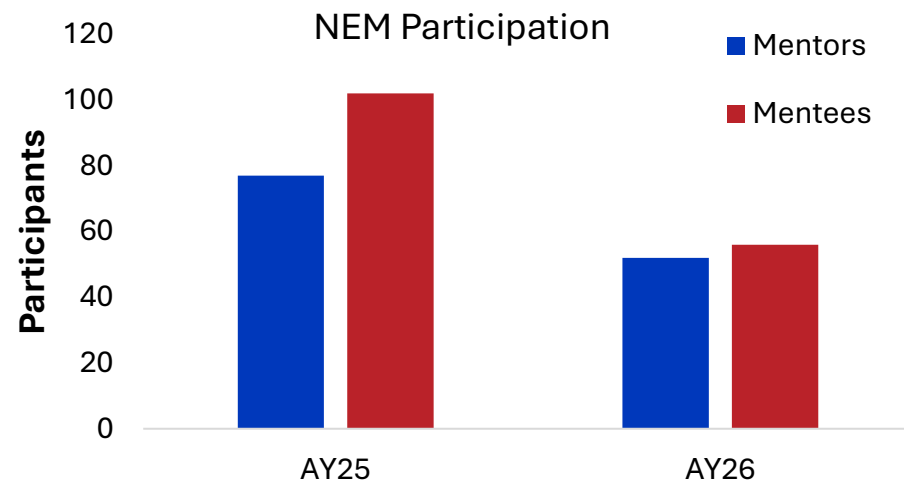
Mentoring Support

- Mentor & Mentee Guides
- Mandatory faculty CIMER training: trained >125 faculty
- NEM: >100 students & > 50 faculty
- Grad Chat
 - First Gen
 - Grads with Disabilities
 - Marginalized Groups

Network for Enriched Mentorship (NEM)



- UConn-wide interdisciplinary mentoring network for graduate students,
- Mentors support grads outside of their coursework and dissertations.
- Mentors have experience navigating obstacles (e.g., systemic bias, personal hardship) or can be effective and accountable allies, thus helping students feel supported and assertive in their own careers.



NEM AY25:

Faculty/Staff mentors: 77

Graduate mentees: 102

NEM AY26:

Faculty/Staff mentors: 52

Graduate mentees: 56

Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP)

- Apprentices commit to working on a graduate student mentor's project over the fall semester
- Apprentices receive a \$500 stipend
- Graduate student mentors receive commit to completing mentor training
- Mentors receive a \$500 stipend

Benefits:

- New research training & opportunity for undergrads
- Mentorship training & experience for grads, establishing best practices
- Establishes meaningful relationships

Fall 2025: Matched 11 pairs
Fall 2026: Plan to match 21 pairs



**Research
Apprenticeship
Program**

Success: Summary of Recent Initiatives

Three Minute Thesis

- Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) has been re-launched!
- Grand Prize: \$6,000
 - ✓ 103 applications
 - 64 semi-finalists
 - 30 finalists

April 8, 2026
8:00a-1:00p
Konover Aud



Postdoc Research Day

- Opportunity for postdocs to present research for a general audience.
- Professional development training



Dec 11, 2025
1 - 5:30p
SU Theatre

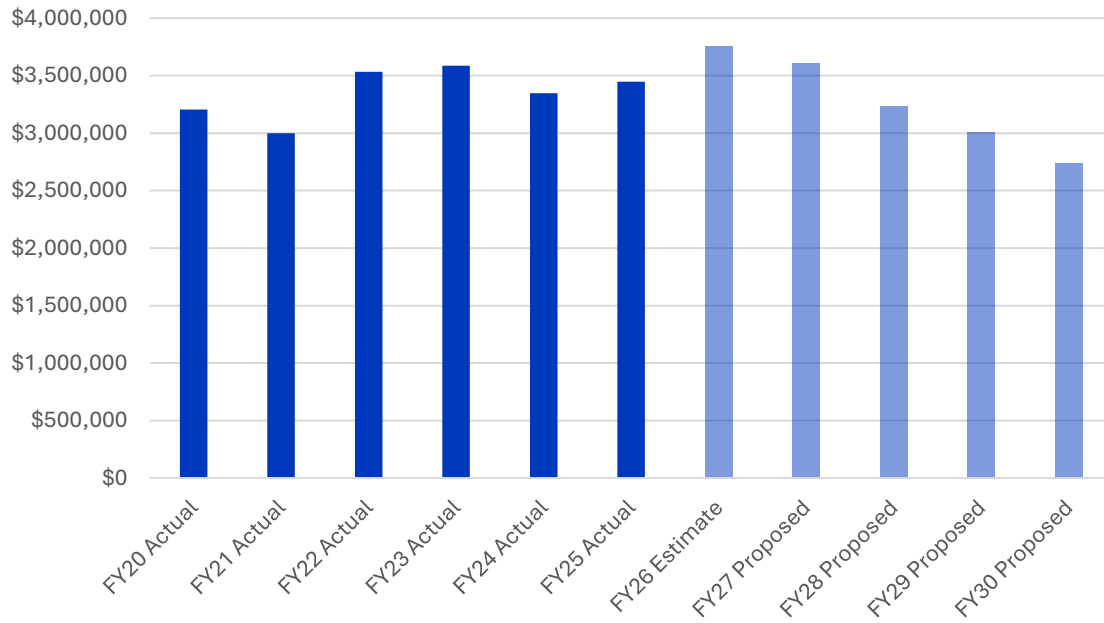


Future of Fellowships

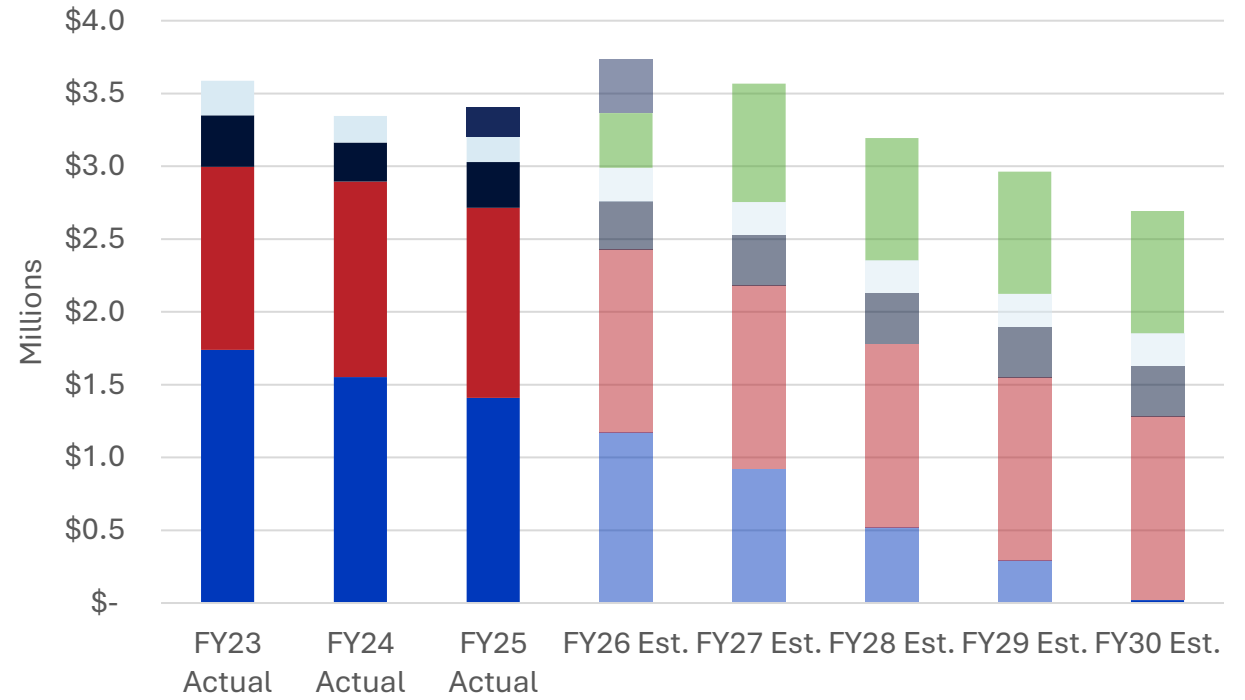
- 23 “Distinguished Graduate Fellows” (\$5k/ea) selected
- 12 “Impact Scholarships” (\$50k/ea) have been awarded.
- Process will open again in December 2026.

Internal Fellowships

Internal Fellows Cost

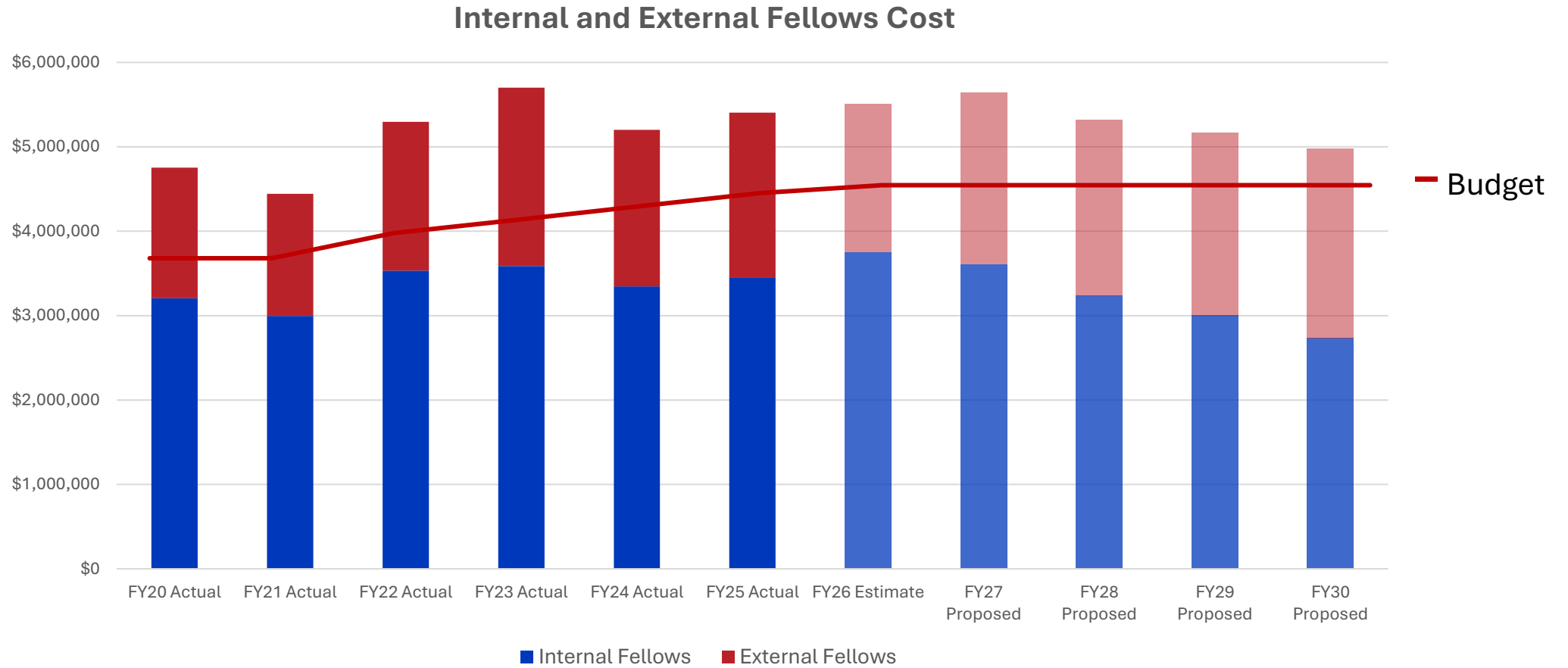


Grad School Internal Fellowships



■ HJC
 ■ Dept's
 ■ \$2k Dissertation
 ■ \$750 Travel
 ■ Impact & DGF
 ■ Emergency

Internal & Prestigious External Fellowships



What TGS does for **Graduate Faculty**

Key Areas of Work:

- ☑ Appoints graduate faculty to specific graduate programs (i.e., MS, PhD).
- ☑ Provides free, FUN, and mandatory 8 hr “CIMER” mentor training for new faculty.
- ☑ Produced Mentor/Mentee Guides & template for annual academic performance reviews.

...but we do not

- ✗ Hire or review faculty
- ✗ Make teaching assignments

Faculty Mentorship Support



Mary Bernstein
mary.Bernstein@uconn.edu



Mary Anne Amalaradjou
mary_anne.amalaradjou@uconn.edu



Xiang (Peter) Chen
xiang.chen@uconn.edu



Mentor Guide



NEM Info/signup

What TGS does for **Graduate Programs**

Key Areas of Work:

- ☑ Via **Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)**, set general policies, standards for Graduate Education
- ☑ Via **Executive Committee (EC) of TGS**, review & approve graduate programs actions
- ☑ Assist Registrar with Course Leaf rollout, codifying grad programs, & implementing electronic plans of study
- ☑ Develop & approve new international agreements
- ☑ New: *****Assist graduate programs with marketing, recruiting, and (potentially) advertising*****

...but we do not

- ✗ Set program/unit budgets
- ✗ Assign teaching
- ✗ Decide when/if to
 - cancel courses,
 - suspend app's
 - create or sunset grad programs

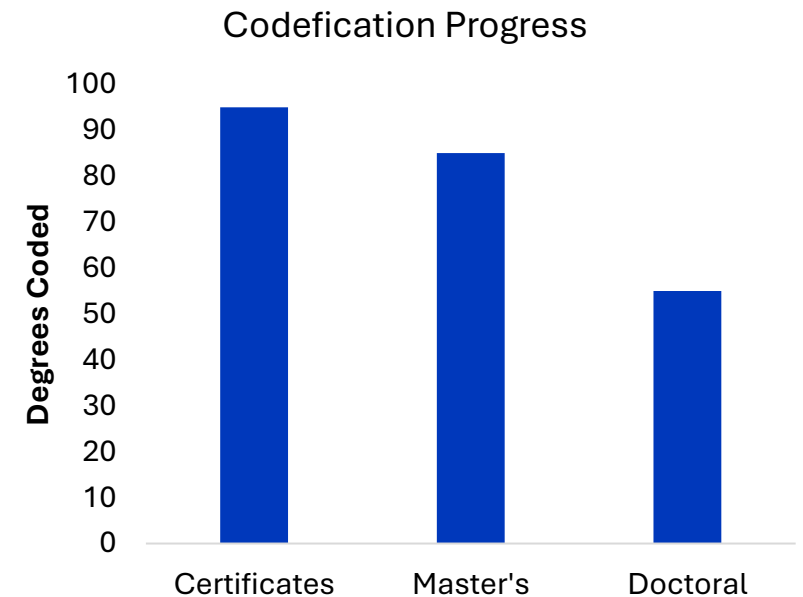
Graduate Codification Project Update

Current Status

- 95+ Certificates coded
- 85+ Masters degrees: most coded, resolving issues w/departments
- 55+ Doctoral degrees: coding started

Next

- Plan of study workflow will be initiated by student (similar to UG)
- Develop workflows to account for differences from UG
- Deliver workshops to train advisors in approval process.
- Testing with small rollout of select programs in Fall 2026
- Questions: Lisa.Pane@uconn.edu & Carl.Rivers@uconn.edu



New Global Partnership Agreements

Pathway Agreements

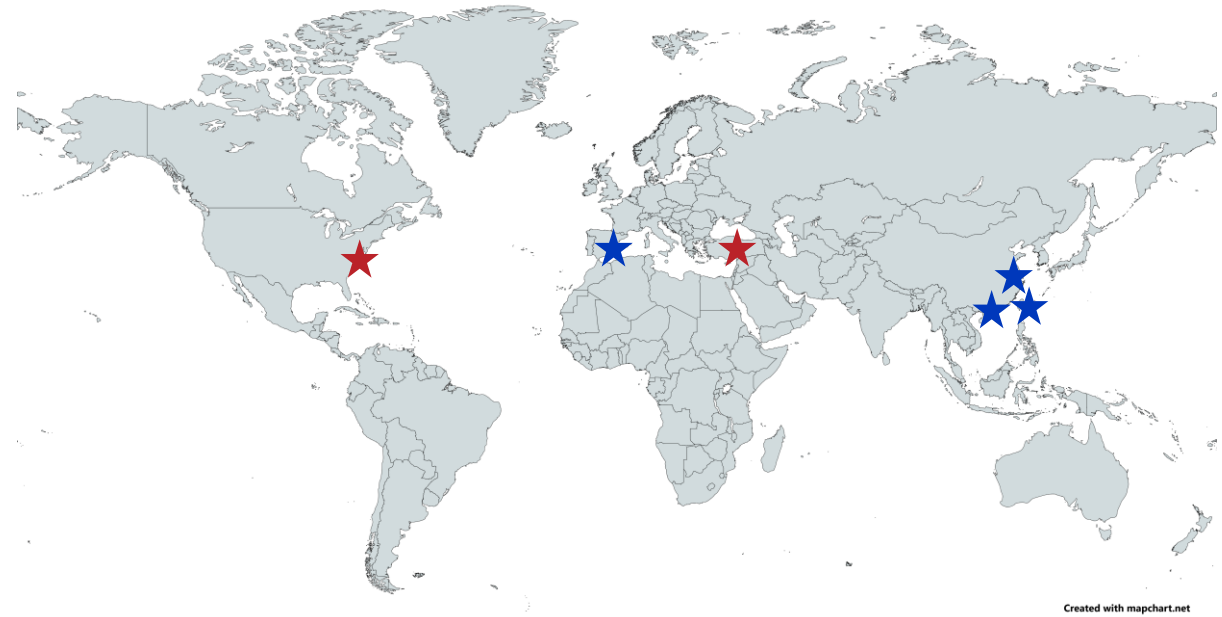
- South China University of Technology, China: 3+2 Pathway Program with MS Polymer Science
- Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan: MS Business Pathway

Graduate Research Mobility

- Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China: Faculty Mobility, Graduate Research Mobility
- University of Murcia, Spain: Graduate Research Mobility

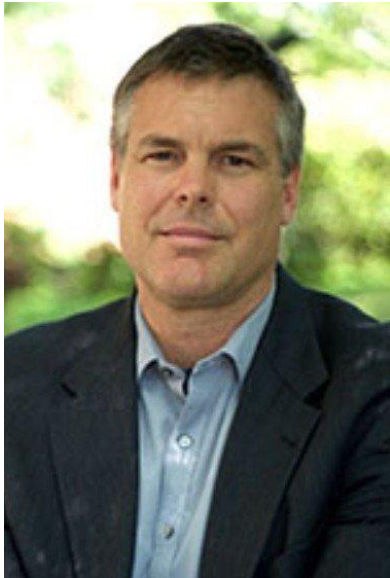
Graduate Scholarship Agreement

- Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C.



Created with mapchart.net

Program Visibility, Marketing, & CRM



Bill Page

Marketing & Engagement
william.page@uconn.edu



Paula Steele

Slate & CRM
paula.steele@uconn.edu



Brian Woodard

Enrollment Support Specialist
brian.woodard@uconn.edu

Program Visibility & Marketing Strengths

- **Market Demand & Search Activity Analysis**
- **Website Planning, Development, & Implementation**
 - Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
 - Strategy
 - Content Development
 - Program Attribute Conveyance
 - Analytics Implementation and Analysis
 - Content Maintenance
- **Search Engine Marketing (SEM)**
- **Marketing Best-Practice Training**

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

- **Contact & Applicant Data Management**
 - List Access and Segmentation
 - Data Filtering, Import, Export, and Hygiene
- **Communication Planning & Implementation**
 - Automated Outreach Facilitation
 - Calendar-Based Communications and Announcements
 - Email Content Development
 - Virtual Event Setup and Management
 - Individualized Personalized Contact
 - Enrollment Assistance and Support
- **CRM Best-Practice Training**

GFC Sub-Committees

GFC 1

**Assessment of
Graduate Student
Learning**

Lauren Schlesselman
laurens@uconn.edu

GFC 2

**Graduate
Recruitment and
Admissions**

Meg Buckley
meg.buckley@uconn.edu

GFC 3

**Graduate Student
Financial Support**

Leslie Shor
leslie.shor@uconn.edu

GFC 4

**Graduate Student
Life**

Kim Curry
kimberly.curry@uconn.edu

GFC 5

**Graduate Student
Success**

Melanie Sinche
melanie.sinche@uconn.edu

Thank you!

Seeking Applications for Director of the
M.S. in Data Science (MSDS) program



Half-time administrative position, open to current
UConn faculty at associate rank or higher.

Primary duties: manage operations, recruitment,
industry partnerships, staffing, and finances.

Application review starts March 12, 2026.

UCONN