Supporting Graduate Student Success

NC State Graduate Student Association
Adam Schmidt, GSA VP of External Affairs

Overview

go.ncsu.edu/grad-success

- NC State's GSA
- Graduate student concerns
- Resources that support success
- How faculty can support success
- Graduate vs. undergraduate concerns
- How GSA supports graduate student success

The Graduate Student Association

- Represent all graduate students at NC State
- Made up of 55 smaller GSAs and 8 executives
- Represent graduate students at the University level
- orgs.ncsu.edu/gsa

Graduate Student Concerns

Finances

Advising

Work-Life Balance

Other

Graduate Student Concerns

Mental Health

Specific Issues

- Being able to survive on a graduate student stipend
- Advisor/Advisee power dynamic
- Unclear expectations and graduation timelines
- Navigating university power structures
- Visas/Declaring NC residency
- Social isolation and support system

Resources that Support Success

- Money!
- Clear expectations
- Mentorship and tailored advising
- Frequent feedback
- Campus resources
  - Pack Essentials
  - Counseling Center
  - Student Legal
  - Wellness and Recreation
  - Student Ombuds
  - Libraries

Faculty Can Make a Difference

- Use P-Cards to prepay
- Statement of mutual expectations
  - General example, specific example
- Graduation timelines/milestones
- Be a good manager and mentor
- Know your campus resources!

Graduate vs. Undergraduate

- Graduate school is a job
  - Financial
  - Workload
- More ambiguous graduation requirements
- Advising power dynamic
- Social setting
- “Nontraditional” students

GSA Supports Student Success

- Advocate for and represent graduate students
  - Stipend database
- Funding (travel, for GSAs, poster competition)
- Build community
  - Social events

Graduate Student Association Contacts

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Questions and Discussion