



Graduate Directors Meeting

December 11, 2025

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Graduate Directors Meeting was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

Present on Teams: Dean Lara Lomicka Anderson, Aaron Marterer, Lucy Yu, Dale Moore, Wanda Barr, Anne Bezuidenhout, Brandon Applegate, Christine Blake, Agnieeszka, Bolinska, Kenneth Campbell, Kate Flory, Sarah Gassman, Michael Bizmis, Beth Barnes, Melodie Capole, Kesha Clavon, Holly Gentry, John Gerdes, Shana Harrington, David Hitchcock, Andrea Henderson, Whitney Dobek, Robin Dawson, Christine Sacco-Benne, Kevin LeBlanc, Paul Toriello, Edie Goldsmith, Wayne Carver, Peter Duffy, Brea Hudson, Danny Jenkins, Matt Klopfenstein, Lydia McCartin, Robert Moran, Fabienne Poulain, Garrick Queen, Kristen Seay, Christy Smith, Susan Steck, Jill Stewart, Steffan Strauch, Myriam Torres, Hong Wong, Nicholas Watanabe, Donna Watson, Sheryl Wiskur, Gretchen Woertendyke, Nikki Wooten, Mark Yancey, Tessa Hastings, Rhonda Dinovo, Kathy Luchok, Diana Lorenzi, Fang Meng

Welcome and Introductions - Lara Lomicka Anderson

International Credential Evaluation Mandate Clarification - Aaron Marterer

- International academic credentials must be submitted with a course-by-course credential evaluation by a third-party credential evaluation service recognized by NACES.
- **Exemptions:**
 - Previously matriculated USC graduate students with international credentials on file.
 - International MOUs and Contracts (e.g., Shorelight, HBKU, ESSEC, etc.)
 - International Coursework Transferred to Domestic Institutions (including study abroad)
 - Qualifying Degree(s)
- **Spring/Summer 2026 Flexibility**
 - All applicants have been notified of the mandate – limited case-by-case flexibility for spring and summer 2026 applicants.
 - Beginning fall 2026, international students will not officially be admitted without an international credential evaluation.

GRAD 700 - Matt Klopfenstein



Grad Launch
Report (Fall 2025).ppt



Grad 700 Syllabus
-SP 2026.docx



Grad Launch
Faculty Flyer v2.pdf



Grad Launch Spring
2026 Flyer.pdf

- A pilot initiative meant to support a successful transition to graduate school – provide structured programming for new graduate students to address key needs identified by the Graduate Student needs Survey and campus partners
- **Goals:**
 - Orient new graduate students to the University of South Carolina and its resources.
 - Equip students with key cocurricular skills for success in graduate study and their future endeavors.
 - Improve student persistence by revealing the hidden curriculum of graduate education.
 - Help graduate students develop a sense of belonging within the larger university.
 - Identify outcomes by following cohorts longitudinally.
- **Format:**
 - A 7-week, 1 credit hour, part-of-term course
 - Co-instructor
 - Includes campus visits and guest presentations
 - Activities and assignments focus on reflection and planning.
- **Fall 2025 Inaugural Cohort Report:**
 - Pre and Post course assessment data showed notable improvements in self-reported levels of confidence in key academic and professional skills, and campus connections and belonging.
- **Spring 2026**
 - Offering 2 sections: In-person and virtual
 - Target Audience: new spring cohorts, new students who deferred admission from fall to spring, and any first-year graduate student

Feedback - Lara Lomicka Anderson

Next Meeting: January 29, 2026

Minutes by Kamirah Williams