

TIMELY TOPICS

Fall 2026 Faculty & Administrative Tracks



TIMELY TOPICS

Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to graduate education. Every session is open to all who wish to attend, however, The Graduate School highlights three tracks (student, faculty, and administrative) to help registrants identify which sessions may be most relevant to their interests. This flyer includes sessions designed for faculty and for staff and faculty who hold an administrative role. Sessions for the student track are listed on the [Timely Topics](#) webpage, along with slides, recordings, and resources from past sessions.

REGISTRATION

All sessions are virtual. To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics sessions, click the registration link below.

[REGISTRATION](#)

AT A GLANCE

FACULTY TRACK

- Utilizing the New Graduate Program Metrics Dashboard* (September 3)
- Graduate Assistants: What Supervisors Need to Know* (September 17)
- Strategies for Providing Timely, Effective Feedback to Graduate Advisees (October 15)
- Graduate Admissions: Reading and Reviewing Applications in the Slate Reader (November 5)
- Whose Responsibility Is It? Graduate Students and Career Readiness* (November 12)*

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

- Utilizing the New Graduate Program Metrics Dashboard* (September 3)
- Graduate Assistants: What Supervisors Need to Know* (September 17)
- Graduate Admissions: Program Application Processing in Slate and Admissions Cycle Kick Off (September 24)
- Graduate Admissions: GPA Calculation Workshop (October 1)
- Whose Responsibility Is It? Graduate Students and Career Readiness* (November 12)*

**session appears on multiple tracks*

CONTACT

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

UTILIZING THE NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM METRICS DASHBOARD

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

Certain metrics or "key performance indicators" (KPIs) related to graduate program demand, graduate student experience, and graduate student outcomes were endorsed by the Graduate Faculty Council in April 2025. Institutional Research has developed a new four-page dashboard that tracks the selected KPIs program-to-program. This session will give a demonstration of the dashboard and describe how the KPIs included can support departments in identifying areas of strength and improvement, managing enrollment, and collecting data for internal or external accreditation review.

DATE: Thursday, September 3, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Joseph Daniels, IR ETL Team Lead, **Joseph Fontanarosa**, Data Analyst & **Laura Yahn**, Data Analyst, Institutional Research

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS: WHAT SUPERVISORS NEED TO KNOW

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

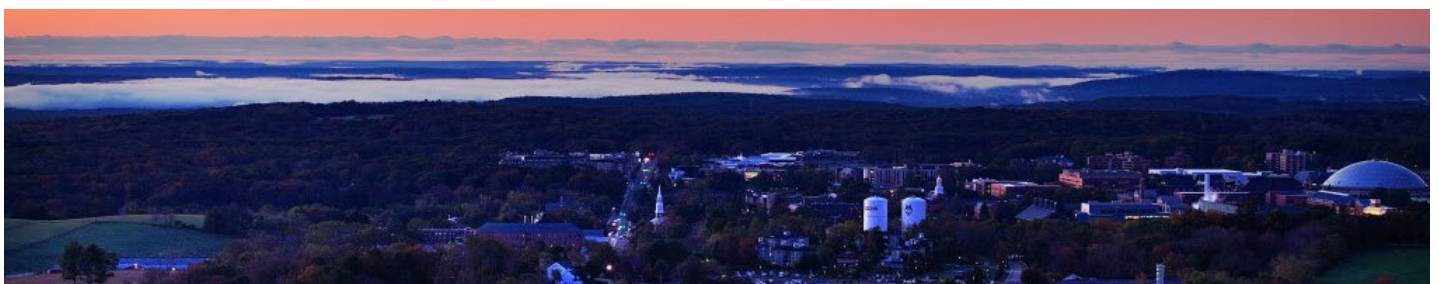
This session will discuss the intersection of the employee role and the academic role for graduate students appointed as GAs that are a part of the Graduate Employee Union; important items GA supervisors should be aware of; best practices to address employee performance and misconduct; and ways to connect a struggling GA with assistance and support. For those supervising RAs, we will also discuss the differences between employment and academic effort and how both detailed Supplemental Description of Duties forms and annual academic reviews can help delineate RA duties from the grad's own research.

DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Alison Cutler, Labor Relations Manager & **Ryan Gribbin-Burket**, Labor Relations Specialist, Department of Human Resources





GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESSING IN SLATE AND ADMISSIONS CYCLE KICK OFF!

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

Join us for a deep dive into application requirements as part of the graduate admissions process. This session will go over updates, the process The Graduate School uses before programs see their applications (Initial Grad Audit bin), and what programs should be looking for in their program review process (Program Audit bin). This will include the difference in accessing graduate admissions requirements versus program requirements, how to upload recommendations, and checking materials on the checklist. Please bring your questions, as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, September 24, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

The Graduate School's Graduate Admissions and Slate Core Teams



GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: GPA CALCULATION WORKSHOP

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

The goal of this workshop is to provide you with an overview of how to interpret GPA data from transcripts to perform GPA calculations. As of September 2025, applicants are required to self-report their cumulative GPA(s) and scale (e.g., 3.63/4.0). Programs may wish to verify self-reported GPAs during their review process. We will cover how to calculate domestic and international GPAs, how to perform a last two-year GPA calculation, and more. Note that TGS remains responsible for verifying GPAs upon admission. Anyone involved in the processing and/or review of graduate applications may find this session helpful. Bring any GPA related questions you might have! This session will not be recorded to ensure student data privacy.

DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2026

TIME: 2:00 PM - 3:00 pm

FACILITATORS:

The Graduate School's Graduate Admissions Team





STRATEGIES FOR PROVIDING TIMELY, EFFECTIVE FEEDBACK TO GRADUATE ADVISEES

FACULTY TRACK

Timely, specific feedback is essential to graduate student progress and success. This session will highlight why timely feedback matters, provide practical strategies for delivering clear and constructive guidance, and discuss tools and supports (including the annual review template offered by TGS) available to support faculty in their advising relationships.

DATE: Thursday, October 15, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Kimberly Curry, Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, The Graduate School

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: READING AND REVIEWING APPLICATIONS IN THE SLATE READER

FACULTY TRACK

During this training, we will cover updates and how to review applications in the Slate reader. This presentation will include best practices for application review, including how to fill out reader review forms, queue applications to others, and enter final program admission decisions. We will discuss timelines for application review and official admission decisions, along with why it is important that all applications have program admission decisions entered by the end of the admission cycle. Please bring your questions as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, November 5, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Holly Brunette, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Meg Buckley, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

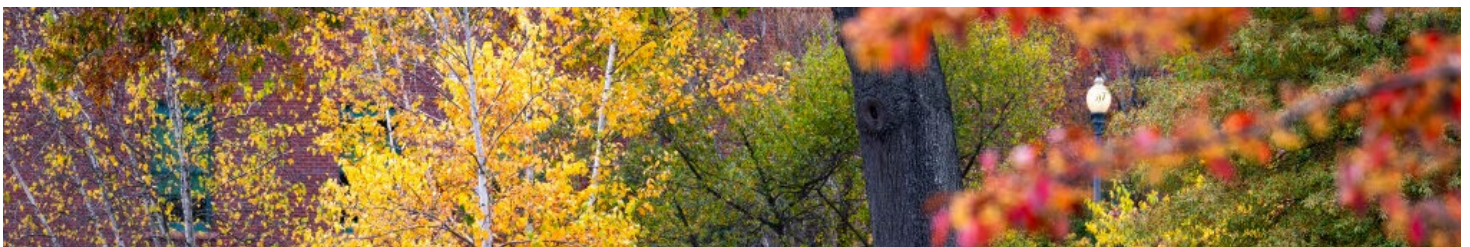
Shirley Fiasconaro, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Lisa Pane, Director of Graduate Enrollment, The Graduate School

Sarah Shore, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

Paula Steele, Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School

Katie Wood, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School





WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT? GRADUATE STUDENTS AND CAREER READINESS

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

In Spring of 2025, the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills surveyed graduate students to better understand their awareness, needs, preferences, and expectations related to career development. The survey also explored student engagement with the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills as well as career preparation in their academic departments. Respondents represented 50 departments across 11 colleges/schools with race/ethnicity and gender generally aligning with UConn's Demographic Fact Sheet (2024). Join this session to gain insights into where, how, and from whom graduate students seek to engage in their career development and explore what the findings suggest about the shared roles of faculty, departments, staff, and career services in preparing graduate students for career readiness.

DATE: Thursday, November 12, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Kay Gruder, Associate Director, Graduate Student and Postdoc Career Programs and Services, Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills

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REGISTRATION



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