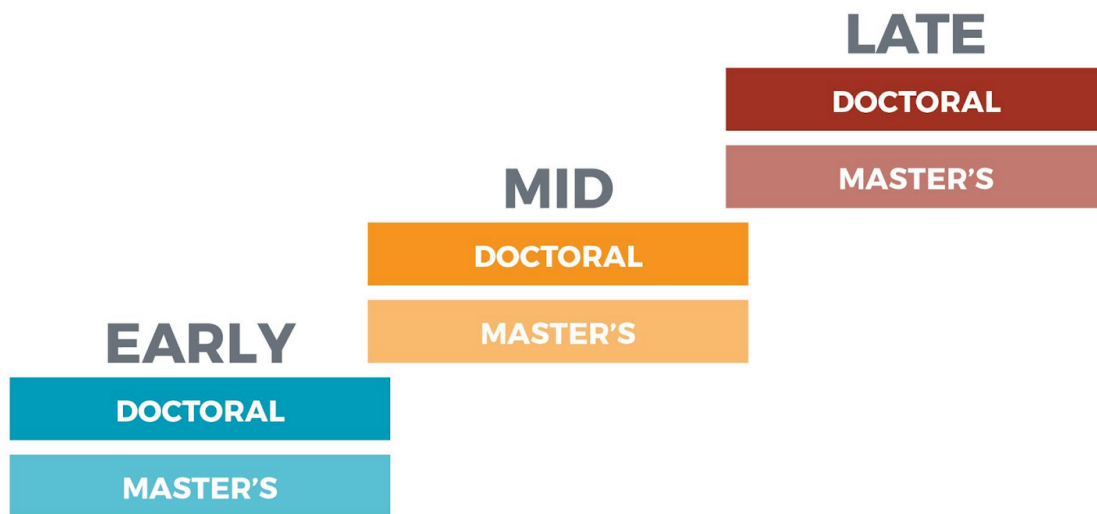




Professional Development Academy



Issue & Background

The Graduate College Professional Development Academy (formerly known as the Graduate College Student Success Institute) is currently a virtual center, which began in 2015 and included one certification, several events and workshops, and non-academic advising. Since then the virtual center has expanded to offer skills support, career support, and a number of professional development opportunities including 4 academic support certifications, 7 Grad Rebel programs, and over 60 events and workshops annually. We continue to grow. Summer 2018 will mark exciting new changes and growth for the Professional Development Academy, including the roll-out of our new Pillars of Success & Student Lifecycle models.

Key Info and Tips

- **Summer 2019 marks the transition of the Professional Development Academy from a virtual center to a designated space in the Gateway Building.** In Summer 2019, we will move into the Gateway Building where the Professional Development Academy will have its own designated space, including a library, 24-hour computer lab, quiet area, as

well as space for collaborating, hosting workshops and events, and a conference room which can be used for thesis and dissertation defenses and group meetings.

- **Why was the name changed from the Student Success Institute to the Professional Development Academy?** The new name reflects our commitment to graduate student professional and career development and research informed training. We are organizing the Professional Development Academy around several pillars -- called the Pillars of Student Success.
- **Pillars of Graduate Student Success.** The pillars, informed from literature on key skills graduate students need to be successful in their professional and career pathways, are designed to help our workshops be more user-friendly, relevant, and intentional. In addition to the pillars, all workshops will have a legend, which includes information on appropriate stage of the student lifecycle, time commitment, and learning experience type (lecture, panel, or interactive). Both the pillars and legend will be incorporated into all Professional Development Academy messaging. While all graduate and professional students will be able to attend any of the workshops, we hope to help students prioritize those experiences and resources that are most useful to them.
- **Two new programs:**
 - **Post-Master's Career Pathways Program.** The Post-Master's Career Pathways Program is a year-long professional development program designed to help master's students explore and prepare for a variety of career options. Once accepted into the program, participants must complete a number of requirements. Benefits of participating in the Post-Master's Career Pathways Program include networking with local employers, preparing for the real-life challenges and opportunities that await post-graduation, and exploring and finding career pathways. This program is co-sponsored by the UNLV Graduate College and UNLV Career Services. Our first cohort is comprised of 21 participants.
 - **Grad Rebel Advantage Program.** The Grad Rebel Advantage program provides annual cohorts of UNLV undergraduate students with mentorship, workshops, and professional development opportunities designed to build their base of knowledge about educational options after the bachelor's degree and prepare them for graduate study. The program will select 60 students to participate in the inaugural cohort in academic year 2018-2019, and 100 undergraduates per year after that. Each Grad Rebel Advantage participant will be expected to participate in a number of workshops and activities throughout the year, and they will each receive a \$800 scholarship to help pay for the time that they spend in the program and reward their full participation. The Grad Rebel Advantage Program will help prepare UNLV undergraduate student participants for graduate studies, whether at UNLV or elsewhere.

- **Coffee and cookies at Graduate College/GPSA sponsored workshops.** GPSA will be providing coffee and cookies at all Graduate College/GPSA sponsored workshops starting in Fall 2018. Workshop attendees will also be entered to win Book Scholarships.

Action Items

- Begin encouraging students to check out our workshop schedule, programs, free certifications and other activities to develop their transferable skills.
- Encourage students to participate in and attend all Graduate College events, such as the the Rebel Grad Slam 3MT Competition. We hope to make this event even larger than last year. The [Registration Form](#) is now open and will close Monday, October 22 at 11:59 p.m. The call for faculty judges will hit your inboxes in mid-September.

Project Timeline & Important Dates

- Complete applications for the Grad Rebel Advantage Program, including a faculty/advisor endorsement, must be submitted by Aug. 20, 2018. Decision letters will be sent to your RebelMail by Sept. 7, 2018.
- The new Professional Development Academy website, calendar, and student lifecycle model will be rolled-out early in the fall semester.

Who to Contact with Questions

- Name(s): Graduate Student Services
- Email: grad.rebel@unlv.edu
- Phone: 702-895-5773