

There are more graduate students enrolled at the U of M than at other public universities in the region, including UTHSC, Ole Miss or MTSU. Does that surprise you? Given that graduate students are at the core of research activity, it is important that our faculty, and our community, understand how far we have come in graduate programs during the last twenty years since the change in our name (from Memphis State) and the corresponding focus on becoming a great metropolitan research university. Including our law students, more than one out of five U of M students on campus today is pursuing a Masters or doctoral degree. This contributes to both a deeper intellectual and research culture plus it ensures that the U of M is a great environment for those undergraduates who are interested in going beyond the Bachelor degree level in educational attainment.

Fall 2013 Graduate Enrollment					
Degree Type	U of M	UTHSC	Vanderbilt	Ole Miss	MTSU
Certificate	75	5	26	88	*
Master's	2506	448	2,588	1,283	2,159
Doctorate	1,391	2,243	3,215	1,318	423
Non-degree	285	14	93	65	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,897</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>5,922</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>2,719</b>

\*MTSU does not separate certificate program enrollment from Master's degree program enrollment

**SOURCES:**

U of M – Office of Institutional Research

UTHSC - C. Judith Nyabando, Ed. D., Associate Director, Institutional Effectiveness

Vanderbilt - [https://virg.vanderbilt.edu/virgweb/2013\\_Fall\\_Enrollment.pdf](https://virg.vanderbilt.edu/virgweb/2013_Fall_Enrollment.pdf), Joann Burnum

Ole Miss - [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/university\\_planning/quick\\_facts/Mini%20Fact%20Book%202013-14%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/university_planning/quick_facts/Mini%20Fact%20Book%202013-14%20FINAL.pdf)

MTSU - <http://www.mtsu.edu/records/docs/ECF.pdf>, Teresa Thomas

Tennesseans with advanced degrees will be employed in higher paying professional jobs and are key to the growth of our region and state, especially in emerging industries. Consider these statistics from the Tennessee Conference on Graduate Schools:

1. By 2018, one in every seven new jobs will require at least a Master degree.
2. Every \$1 million of investment in graduate education yields 22 jobs and \$76,859 in state and local taxes annually.
3. Annually, Tennessee needs 10,213 graduate degree holders to fill workforce demands, but only supplies 7,882 currently.
4. To catch up with national averages, 81,000 Tennesseans with bachelor degrees need to pursue graduate degrees.

“We’re relying on other states to provide advanced expertise because we’re not producing enough graduate students,” says Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal, interim dean of the graduate school and vice provost for academic affairs. “We left the old Memphis State days 20 years ago, and there has been a shift in our internal culture. Research is also becoming more important to the state and the region. Our younger faculty have much stronger research backgrounds. That’s driving a lot of good students to come here.”

It is important that our community on-campus, and external stakeholders nationally, realize how far the University of Memphis has grown as the primary research and graduate education hub of this region. As employers and students realize that the chances to secure good jobs with career advancement increasingly include a work force with graduate degrees, our present and future success addressing their needs will be tied to the continued success of our graduate programs, and telling the story about how very far we have come.

The university remains fully committed to adding to the more than 1000 Ph.D. students and close to 4000 graduate students that it currently enrolls.

Go Tigers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. David Rudd', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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