Preparing Students for Success

HOW DO WE BEST PREPARE OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS for their professional futures? How do we prepare them for teaching that increasingly relies on digital technologies, for professional positions that are outside of the academy, for careers that may move between the academy and other sectors? At the Laney Graduate School, not only are we considering these questions, we also are developing an integrated set of resources and programs to help ensure that our students are prepared for the professional realities they will face.

Over the last five years, we have greatly expanded our offering of professional development programming for graduate students. Some of this programming includes:

- Professional Development Support funds, providing support for research, training, and conference participation;
- the Grant Writing Program, offering support to students in the humanities and social sciences at every stage of grant writing;
- the Program for Scholarly Integrity, for training in professional ethics and the responsible conduct of research;
- networking and mentoring programs;
- Pathways beyond the Professoriate, a speaker series that connects students to successful alumni who have chosen career paths outside of the academy; and
- the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity, providing lessons in the art of teaching.

Additionally, we offer Interfolio, a premier academic dossier service, and The Versatile PhD, a web-based service to help students identify and prepare for non-academic careers. In collaboration with the Woodruff Library and the Emory Center for Interactive Teaching, we present workshops and conference-style events that prepare graduate students in the use of technology to have an innovative impact on pedagogy, research, and scholarship.

At the Laney Graduate School, we expect our students to discover the unexpected, create new knowledge, and leave Emory as leaders in their fields. As we witness this time of great change in the world and in the global economy, our commitment to providing students with the support they need to succeed is more important than ever. We thank you for being a friend to the Laney Graduate School and for your resolve to ensure that our students find success at Emory and beyond.

Lisa A. Tedesco
Dean, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies

Alumni and friends interested in investing in the Laney Graduate School will find meaningful opportunities within the school’s professionalization programs. Gifts to the following programs help prepare students for lives of leadership and service.

Professional Development Support
These funds give students opportunities to enhance their professional development by participating in conferences, seeking out specialized training unavailable at Emory, and conducting research that incurs extraordinary costs. Together with support available through the Grant Writing Program, this preparation can greatly enhance students’ prospects for securing external funding for their research.

Grant Writing Program
The Grant Writing Program helps students develop the skills to secure funding for research and post-doctoral projects. Students at all stages of their careers may attend informational sessions, and students who are developing actual proposals benefit from working sessions.

Program for Scholarly Integrity
Research integrity in graduate education is a national concern, and recent National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health mandates have highlighted the importance of going beyond simply informing students of rules and regulations. The Program for Scholarly Integrity strengthens ethics education across the graduate curriculum. As part of their professional development, graduate students benefit from robust training in the deliberative skills that will help them sort through the complicated ethical questions of professional life.

Networking Nights
The Laney Graduate School launched a new series of quarterly networking nights in the Atlanta area in 2011. Laney Graduate School alumni are invited to meet with current students to create connections and expand professional networks. This opportunity allows alumni to share their experiences and students to connect with a diverse group of professionals to learn about the many ways alumni have used their degrees.

“Professional development funds allowed me to attend a groundbreaking conference in Toronto last year, which created publication opportunities and new collaborations.”
Whitney Peoples

“Not only are these programs professionally encouraging, but I also have truly enjoyed meeting some of our distinguished alumni.”
Maureen McCarthy 11G

Giving Opportunities

Lola A. Tedesco
Dean, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
Giving Opportunities continued

Alumni Mentor Program
In collaboration with the Emory Alumni Association, the Laney Graduate School matches alumni and students to provide a deeper level of engagement. As students put finishing touches on dissertations and begin navigating the job market, alumni provide guidance on areas such as preparing curriculum vitae, managing work/life balance, negotiating salaries, and much more.

Pathways Beyond the Professoriate
In this competitive job market, students need an understanding of the multiple career opportunities available to them. Pathways Beyond the Professoriate connects students with alumni who have chosen career paths outside of the academy. These alumni visit Emory’s campus to discuss their professional experiences, network with students, and create excitement about nonacademic careers and unique ways to use graduate degrees.

Digital Scholarship Commons
The Digital Scholarship Commons (DiSC) offers graduate students and faculty space, expertise, and project management assistance to develop innovative multidisciplinary projects. Located in the Research Commons of the Robert W. Woodruff Library, DiSC enables students and faculty to use the latest digital scholarship tools and software, partner with staff to add depth and insight to works of scholarship, and connect with a community of scholars.

Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO)
TATTO ensures that each student’s education is balanced with thoughtful and thorough preparation in the art of teaching. A degree requirement for all doctoral candidates, TATTO prepares Emory graduates to enter professional life with the skills of competent and confident educators.

“For professional development funding has allowed me to strengthen my research, enhance my professional experiences, and expand my scholarly contributions.”
Sarah Vitorino

For more information or to support any of these professionalization programs at the Laney Graduate School, contact Director of Development Katie Busch at 404.727.1521 or kbusch@emory.edu.

graduateschool.emory.edu