

GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State

September 1, 2026

Issue 19



ABOUT THE GRC

The Graduate Research Center's mission is to transform the graduate student experience. We cultivate a dynamic academic environment in which graduate students engage in innovative research, receive tailored academic support, and leverage resources for both academic and professional development. We are dedicated to nurturing emerging scholars, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and empowering individuals to excel in their academic pursuits through mentorship, fellowship opportunities, and transformative services.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- September 4th: Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (15-week session)
- September 7th: Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)
- September 8th: Blackboard Orientation Due
- September 9th: Fall 2026 Convocation
- September 18th: Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of 'W' or Audit a Course (1st 7-week session)



@BSUGradCenter



GRC@bowiestate.edu



Center for Business & Graduate Studies
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185

WELCOME FROM OUR DEAN



Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to Bowie State University and to the Graduate School! I am delighted that you have chosen Bowie State University as the place to pursue the next stage of your academic and professional journey.

Graduate education is an opportunity to deepen your expertise, expand the way you think, and prepare yourself to make meaningful contributions within your profession, your community, and the broader world. Whether you are beginning a master's or doctoral program, you are joining a community of scholars, researchers, practitioners, innovators, and creative thinkers committed to excellence and impact.

The Graduate School is here to support you throughout that journey. Your success will depend not only upon the work you do in the classroom, laboratory, studio, or field, but also upon the relationships you build, the opportunities you pursue, and your willingness to become an active participant in the intellectual life of the University. I encourage you to connect with your faculty, engage with your peers, participate in research and professional development opportunities, and take full advantage of the resources available to you.

At Bowie State, we want our graduate students to do more than earn advanced credentials. We want you to discover, question, create, lead, and contribute. Graduate education should challenge you, but it should also open possibilities—new ideas, new collaborations, new professional pathways, and new ways of understanding the impact your knowledge can have.

You belong to an important community at Bowie State University, and the Graduate School is invested in your progress from your first semester through graduation and beyond.

I look forward to seeing what you will accomplish.

Welcome to graduate education at Bowie State University. Your journey begins now.

Ofosuwa M. Abiola, PhD

Dean, Graduate School
Bowie State University



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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS AT THE SECOND ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

On Saturday, August 15, 2026, the Bowie State University Graduate School hosted its second annual Graduate Student Orientation, welcoming new and returning graduate students for a full day of connection, learning and preparation for the academic year ahead.

The program opened with remarks from University President Breaux, Provost Amoussou and Dean Abiola, who welcomed students to the Graduate School and encouraged them to make the most of their graduate experience.

This year's orientation centered on the theme L.E.A.D. — Leverage opportunities and resources, Elevate your academic and professional profile, Act to take charge of your future, and Discover your full potential. The theme reflected the Graduate School's commitment to equipping students with the knowledge, resources and confidence needed to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Throughout the day, students participated in workshops, breakout sessions and informational programming designed to familiarize them with graduate school/GRC services, resources, academic offerings and graduate programs. Sessions provided opportunities for students to connect with faculty, staff and peers while gaining valuable insight into navigating graduate school and maximizing the opportunities available to them.

The second annual orientation set the tone for an engaging and successful academic year, reminding graduate students that their journey is not simply about earning a degree—it is about leveraging opportunities, building their professional identities, taking ownership of their futures and discovering their full potential.



CALL FOR PAPERS

HARMONIZING THE FUTURE: INTERDISCIPLINARY PATHWAYS FOR A RESILIENT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 8 - 10, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Hotel at the University of Maryland

7777 Baltimore Ave 4th Floor, College Park, MD 20740

Discounted rates are available for conference attendees

Proposal acceptance notification
Early September, 2026

Conference
November 8-10, 2026

In an era defined by rapid technological shifts, political instability, global health challenges, and social evolution, the traditional silos of academia are no longer sufficient. To build a truly resilient society, we must find the "Transformative Synergies" where the precision of STEM, the soul of the Arts, the necessity of Health, the strategic scale of Business, and the foundation of Education converge.

This conference serves as a dynamic forum for faculty, scholars, and graduate students to showcase cutting-edge research that transcends disciplinary boundaries. We invite submissions that explore how these diverse fields can harmonize to create innovative solutions for the complex problems of the 21st century.

REGISTRATION FEE

[Register Here](#)

[Submit a Proposal Here](#)

Bowie State University \$100

Students, Faculty, and Staff Conference and Gala

Organized by

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
AT BOWIE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Conference Only \$75

Gala Only \$50

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IS **HIRING**

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING INTERN



- 20 HOURS A WEEK (IN-PERSON)
- \$18/HOUR
- SUPPORT GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND OFFERING
- MUST BE ENROLLED AS A GRADUATE STUDENT
- MUST BE PROFICIENT IN CANVA AND ADOBE APPLICATIONS

[APPLY HERE](#)

[VIEW JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

EMAIL KKISER@BOWIESTATE.EDU FOR ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS POSITION

SPOTLIGHT

OLUWATOYIN KODE

Computer Science



Meet Oluwatoyin Kode, a Computer Science doctoral student whose research explores how artificial intelligence can support earlier detection of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Her work focuses on using machine learning and deep learning to analyze EEG data and identify patterns associated with neurodegenerative conditions, while emphasizing accuracy, reliability, and interpretable results.

A significant milestone in Kode's doctoral journey was the publication of her research article, "Machine Learning and Deep Learning for EEG-Based Dementia Prediction: A Comprehensive Survey," in MDPI's J. Conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Soo-Yeon Ji, the study examines advances in EEG-based dementia prediction, including data processing, machine learning and deep learning models, model evaluation, and explainable artificial intelligence.

Kode has also presented her research at the International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering, which led to a publication in the International Journal on Cybernetics & Informatics. She is an institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing scholarly research and undergraduate research opportunities.

Beyond her academic work, Kode serves as a Program Management Specialist with Bowie State University's Office of Undergraduate Research, where she supports the planning and implementation of research programs designed to increase student engagement and success. Her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification further strengthens her ability to manage research initiatives and programs effectively.

Through her research, scholarship, program leadership, and mentorship, Kode is Boldly Forward, using innovation to advance healthcare while creating pathways for the next generation of researchers.



A CONVERSATION WITH OLUWATOYIN KODE

Kamryn Kiser: Can you tell me about your research and what inspired you to explore the intersection of artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and healthcare?

Oluwatoyin Kode: My research was initiated by my mentor, Dr. Ji, who encouraged me to consider artificial intelligence and neurodegenerative disorders as a potential area for my dissertation. Initially, my research was focused on operating systems and synchronization, so this was a completely different direction for me. I started reading research papers in the area and quickly became interested in the possibilities of using AI to address challenges in healthcare. That interest ultimately led me to pursue research focused on dementia and neurodegenerative diseases.

Kiser: Your research article, “Machine Learning and Deep Learning for EEG-Based Dementia Prediction: A Comprehensive Survey,” was recently published. What does this accomplishment mean to you as a doctoral researcher?

Kode: The publication has built a strong foundation for my dissertation. Conducting such a comprehensive survey allowed me to learn about different machine learning and deep learning methods, data processing techniques, and the current state of dementia research. It helped me understand what researchers are currently doing, identify challenges within the field, and recognize opportunities where I can contribute. My dissertation will also focus on dementia, including conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease and frontotemporal dementia. The publication has given me a clearer understanding of the field and helped shape the direction of my future research.

Kiser: What were some of the most interesting or surprising findings you encountered while conducting your research on EEG-based dementia prediction?

Kode: One of the biggest surprises was the availability of data. Considering how significant dementia and neurodegenerative diseases are, I expected there to be a large amount of publicly available data for researchers. However, there is not as much EEG data available as I anticipated. Historically, researchers have relied more heavily on MRI data. Although this presented a challenge, it also highlighted an important area for future research. Identifying these gaps helps researchers understand where additional work is needed and where new contributions can make a difference.

Kiser: As a Program Management Specialist with Bowie State’s Office of Undergraduate Research, you also help support and mentor other student researchers. What have you learned from working with students and helping them bring their research ideas to life? What advice would you give students who are interested in research but may not know where to begin?



A CONVERSATION WITH OLUWATOYIN KODE

Kode: Mentoring students has been incredibly rewarding. I've worked with students who initially came in unsure of themselves or even timid about sharing their ideas. Our programs run for nine weeks, and throughout that time, you can see students gradually come out of their shells and become more confident. There have been students who struggled during their first presentations, but by the end of the program, they were presenting their research confidently and demonstrating how much they had learned. Seeing students become proud of their accomplishments is incredibly fulfilling. My advice to students is simple: take the first step. There is help available. Bowie State has the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Graduate Research Center, and faculty members who are willing to support students. You just have to step into the water and get started.

Kiser: Looking ahead, what do you hope your research will ultimately contribute to the fields of artificial intelligence, computer science, and neurological healthcare?

Kode: Ultimately, I want to explore how artificial intelligence can help detect dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases as early as possible. Early detection can give individuals and their families an opportunity to begin treatment or manage the condition sooner. I also want to explore approaches that are more accessible and cost-effective. That's one reason we are interested in EEG. Compared with MRI, EEG is less invasive and has the potential to provide a more accessible approach to collecting information that could support earlier detection. My goal is to use computer science and AI to contribute to research that can ultimately improve lives and support individuals and families affected by neurodegenerative diseases.



SPOTLIGHT

DAMILOLA SARUMI

Counseling Psychology

Meet Damilola Sarumi, a Counseling Psychology graduate student whose academic interests focus on mental health counseling and the factors that contribute to psychological well-being and effective treatment. Her work explores evidence-based approaches for supporting individuals experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, and life stressors, with a long-term goal of becoming a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and providing culturally responsive, compassionate care.

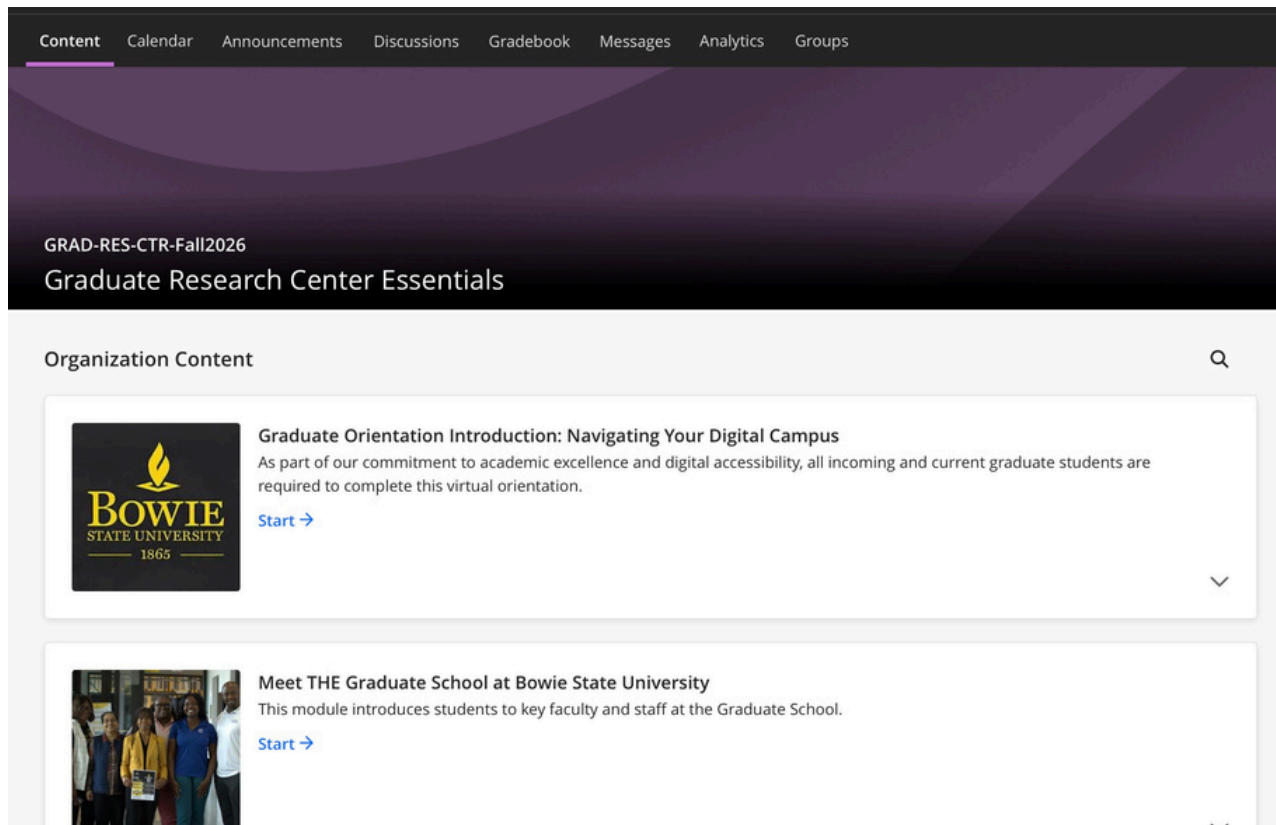
At Bowie State University, Sarumi has completed graduate-level coursework and presented on topics including ethical considerations in video-based therapy, substance use and addiction, assessment tools, and counseling delivery systems. She also developed a mock private practice, "Sarumi Counseling Services," and completed a site-visit analysis of REACH Health Services, gaining practical insight into counseling and behavioral health settings.

Her professional experience further complements her academic preparation. As a Rehabilitation Specialist with Agile Healthcare LLC, Sarumi has contributed to policies and procedures, staff training materials, onboarding systems, and clinical documentation processes designed to strengthen the quality and consistency of services. She is also a Certified Rehabilitation Specialist serving both adults and children and has completed professional training in DLA-20, Narcan administration, CPRP, CFRP, and Person-Centered Care Planning.

Through her academic preparation, professional service, and commitment to behavioral health, Sarumi is Boldly Forward, preparing to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and communities through compassionate and evidence-based counseling.



GRC ESSENTIALS ORIENTATION NOW AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard orientation is now open to all graduate students. This mandatory orientation is designed to acclimate students to GRC services while also providing access to essential Graduate School resources.

Students can easily access the course by visiting [Blackboard](#), logging in, and selecting “Organizations”.

The orientation will remain available throughout the academic year, serving as a convenient point of reference for all things related to the Graduate Research Center and the Graduate School.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NSF HBCU-UP TIP AWARD TEAM!

The Graduate Research Center is pleased to congratulate **Dr. Hamdan Alabsi and the project team** on receiving funding through the **National Science Foundation's HBCU-UP Targeted Infusion Projects Program** for *"Leveraging Emerging Technologies to Advance STEM Automation and Cultivating a Talented AI Workforce."*

This innovative initiative aims to expand opportunities for students by leveraging emerging technologies to advance STEM automation while cultivating the next generation of AI professionals. As a collaborative partner, the Graduate Research Center will support graduate students in their role as research and writing mentors for undergraduate students.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the project leadership and look forward to contributing to this important work that will enhance research capacity, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and prepare students for success in an evolving AI workforce.



Graduate Writing
Services

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

*Guiding Doctoral Students Through Writing and
Refining Key Sections of the Dissertation*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Via Zoom

Every last Saturday
of the month!

Saturday, September 12th – Chapter 1: *Introducing Your Study*. Learn how to define your research problem, justify its importance, and position it within the broader academic context

Saturday, October 10th – Chapter 2: *Crafting a Comprehensive Literature Review*. Discover how to synthesize existing research, critically evaluate sources, and build a literature review that supports your study.

Saturday, November 14th – Chapter 3: *Detailing Your Research Design* Get expert guidance on writing a well-structured research methodology description, explaining your methods, and justifying your choices.

SIGN UP TODAY!



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Tailored Academic Support

GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES



Research editors at the Graduate Research Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines. We support students at any stage in the writing process. We provide feedback on a range of work including research papers, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant proposals, and conference presentations.

Offerings:

Brainstorming Consultations

Students talk through approaches they are considering for starting an assignment, drafting sections of longer manuscripts, or even working through structural issues in a current draft. The consultation focuses on using dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and gain clarity. Brainstorming consultations are scheduled 24 hours in advance and require an assignment sheet or a short project description.

Read Ahead Consultations

Students will identify a specific challenge that they are facing in a current draft. An editor will read student work before the consultation. The consultation centers on using dialogue to provide constructive feedback, potential strategies, and resources for overcoming the challenge. Consultations are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Requirements for making the appointment include an assignment sheet or a short project description in addition to 5-8 double-spaced manuscript pages or slides.

Thesis/Dissertation Support Groups:

Weekly, noncommittal groups will offer a supportive, flexible space for writers to meet the demands of revising manuscripts and take advantage of dedicated writing time. Sessions will also feature brief workshops focused on enhancing your writing process, trying new revision strategies, using feedback effectively, maximizing writing time, and more.

Dissertation Workshop Series:

The Dissertation Workshop Series guides doctoral students through writing and refining key sections of the dissertation. Workshops will focus on writing a clear problem statement, crafting a comprehensive literature review, describing research methodologies, presenting findings, and highlighting a study's significance.

[Schedule a GRC Service](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING



Academic advisors at the Graduate Research Center support new and continuing graduate students through the enrollment and registration process, help them understand program requirements, and provide ongoing guidance throughout their academic journey.

Offerings:

In-person and online advising sessions by appointment only.

New Student/Doctoral/Certificate Program Advising:
Ms. Oji

New Student/Master's Program Advising: Ms.
Bradford-Yancey

STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Research Center provide academic support to graduate students by assisting with statistical concepts, data analysis techniques, and software applications. We help students understand probability, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and other advanced statistical methods. Services include one-on-one or group sessions, guidance in applying statistical methods to research projects, and clarification on complex topics to enhance comprehension and confidence.

Offerings:

One-on-One or Group Sessions to address challenges directly related to coursework.

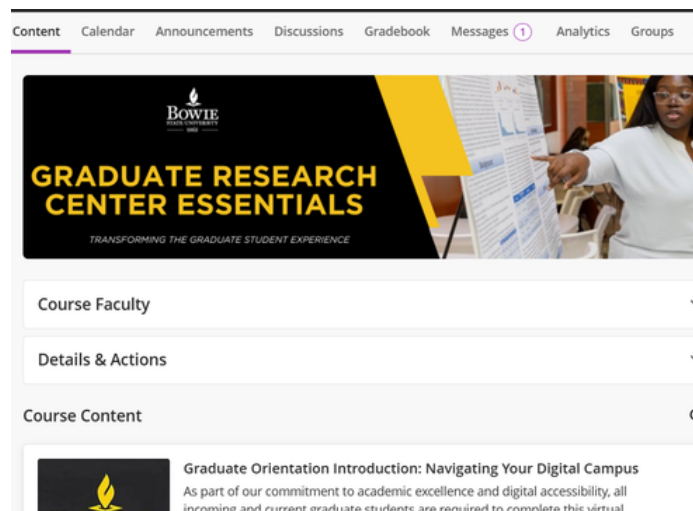
Need to Print?

Graduate programs or students in need of printing large images for conference presentations, abstract presentations, posters, etc., may complete the request form below. Materials will be ready for pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays in room 1185 of the Thurgood Marshall Library.

[Print Services Submission Form](#)



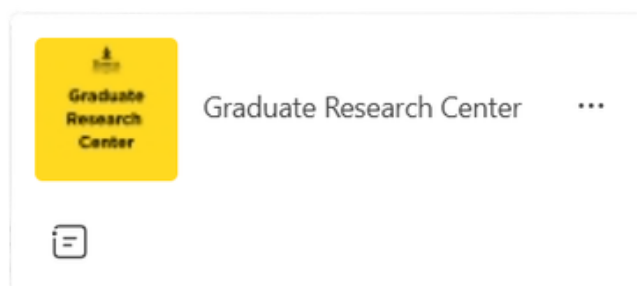
GRC ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE ON NEW PLATFORMS



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard organization is now open to all graduate students. This module is designed to orient students to GRC services while also providing access to essential Graduate School resources.

Students can easily access the organization by visiting [Blackboard](#), logging in, and selecting “organization” on the navigation pane located on the left. Within the GRC Essentials module, students will complete a brief orientation and earn a digital badge to recognize their participation.

The module will remain available throughout the academic year, serving as a convenient point of reference for all things related to the Graduate Research Center and the Graduate School.



In addition to Blackboard, we are excited to announce the launch of the GRC Team Hub, now available to all graduate students and faculty. The hub serves as a centralized resource, offering easy access to pertinent information about GRC services, university personnel, policies, and more. By streamlining these resources into one convenient space, the Team Hub is designed to support academic success, strengthen communication, and foster engagement across the graduate community.

**JOIN THE
HUB
HERE!**



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VISIT THE GRADUATE LOUNGE!

Looking for a space to study, collaborate with peers, or work on assignments? Visit the Graduate Lounge in **Thurgood Marshall Library (Room 1185)**. This modern space features seating for 30, 7 computers, 3 private study pods, and a large 80" interactive screen with virtual and touchscreen capabilities.



Thurgood Marshall Library, Room 1185



Bulldog
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for Entry

RESERVE THE
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LOUNGE



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