

# GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State



September 2, 2025

Issue 7

## 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 1st: Labor Day
- September 5th: Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (1<sup>st</sup> 7-Week Session)
- September 10th: Fall 2025 Convocation
- September 13th: Dissertation Workshop Series Begins
- September 18th: Research Reading Club Begins
- September 19th: Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of 'W' or Audit (1<sup>st</sup> 7-Week Session)



@BSUGradCenter



GRC@bowiestate.edu



Center for Business & Graduate Studies  
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185

# WELCOME FROM OUR DEAN



Welcome to THE Graduate School at Bowie State University — where bold minds are empowered to transform lives.

At Bowie State University, Maryland's oldest HBCU, we don't just offer graduate degrees — we deliver exceptional, future-ready programs that challenge, inspire, and equip you to lead in an increasingly complex global landscape. Our graduate programs are designed with rigor, relevance, and real-world solutions in mind, preparing you to address 21st-century problems with creativity, critical insight, and cultural awareness.

Research is central to who we are. Here, you'll find cutting-edge faculty scholarship, opportunities for applied research, state-of-the-art facilities including our celebrated VR lab, and support structures including our Graduate Research Center, that position you to be a knowledge creator, not just a consumer.

At BSU, we believe graduate education is more than a credential — it's a powerful catalyst for personal transformation and societal progress. As one of the nation's leading HBCUs and a rising research institution, Bowie State is home to high-impact programs and a supportive community that nurtures ambition and drives achievement.

But perhaps what truly sets us apart is our commitment to the transformational graduate experience. You will be challenged to think critically, act ethically, and lead boldly. At BSU, you are not just a student, you are part of a community that sees your potential, nurtures your leadership, and supports your aspirations from enrollment to graduation and beyond. Our faculty and staff are deeply invested in your success and are here to ensure that your time at BSU is a launchpad for lifelong impact.

Whether you are returning to graduate school to advance your career, change direction, or pursue a long-held dream, know this: you belong here — and your bold future begins now.

We invite you to explore our programs, connect with our faculty, and join a legacy of excellence and purpose. THE Graduate School at Bowie State is ready to partner with you on your journey to the next level.

With pride and purpose,

**Ofosuwa M. Abiola, PhD**

Dean, THE Graduate School  
Bowie State University





# 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:

Starting September 13, THE GRC will offer a Dissertation Workshop Series focused on guiding 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 Advising: Ms. Williams**

**Doctoral/Certificate Program Advising: Ms. Oji**

**Master's Program Advising: Ms. Bradford-Yancey**

## STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Resource 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](#)



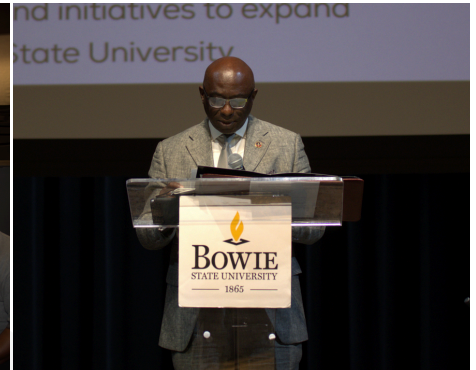
# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS AT THE INAUGURAL GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

On August 16, 2025, THE Graduate School proudly welcomed new and returning graduate students at its first-ever Graduate Student Orientation.

The day-long event provided students with valuable resources to prepare for academic and professional success. From an engaging morning plenary to interactive afternoon breakout sessions and an information fair, students had the opportunity to learn more about graduate school expectations, available support services, and ways to get involved on campus.

Orientation also fostered community, giving new graduate students a chance to connect with peers, faculty, and staff as they embark on their academic journey.

THE Graduate School is excited to support the newest members of the graduate community and looks forward to a year of growth, discovery, and achievement.





# Graduate Writing Services

Fall 2025

*Research editors at the Graduate Research Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines.*

AVAILABILITY  
MONDAY-  
THURSDAY

## Brainstorming Consultations

Students use dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and clarify approaches for assignments or drafts.

AVAILABILITY  
MONDAY-  
THURSDAY

## Read Ahead Consultations

Students receive constructive feedback and strategies on a draft after an editor reads their work in advance.

AVAILABILITY  
MONDAY-  
THURSDAY

## Final Dissertation Review

Doctoral candidates receive copyediting and formatting feedback on individual dissertation sections in scheduled 30-minute sessions.

DISSERTATION  
MONDAYS @  
12PM

THESIS  
TUESDAYS @  
12:15PM

## Writing Support Communities

A weekly group offering dedicated writing time, peer support, and workshops on revision and writing strategies for dissertating and thesis students.

EVERY THIRD  
SATURDAY  
STARTING  
9/13

9-11AM

## Dissertation Workshops

Workshops guide doctoral students in drafting and refining key sections of the dissertation.

EVERY THIRD  
THURSDAY  
STARTING  
9/18

12-1PM

## Research Reading Club

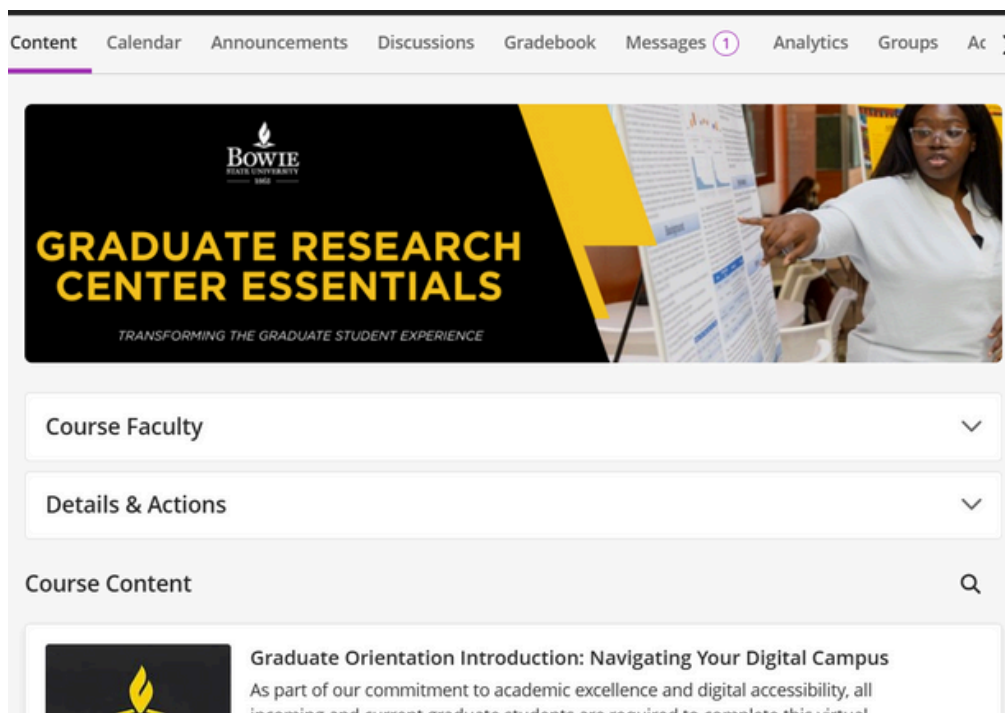
A discussion group that explores research texts focused on socially just, community-engaged methodologies.

**SCHEDULE AN  
APPOINTMENT TODAY!**





# GRC ESSENTIALS COURSE NOW AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard Course is now open to all graduate students. This course is designed to orient 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 Courses. Within the GRC Essentials course, students will complete a brief orientation and earn a digital badge to recognize their participation.

The course 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.



# LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABORAD?

*Apply for the Fulbright Program!*

## **Opportunities for U.S. College Graduates and Grad Students**

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers unparalleled international educational and cultural exchange experiences to talented and accomplished graduating college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals of all backgrounds and academic disciplines. Fulbright U.S. Student Program participants pursue graduate study, conduct research, or teach English in over 140 countries worldwide.

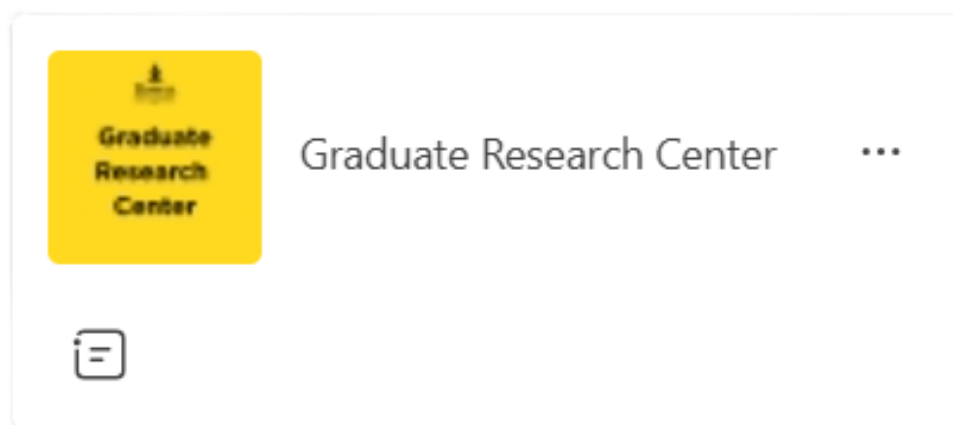
Fulbrighters join a network of thousands of alums serving as leaders and changemakers across the globe. Through Fulbright, participants enrich their educations, advance their careers - and make meaningful contributions to their fields.

[Click here to apply!](#)

**2026-2027 COMPETITION DEADLINE: TUESDAY OCTOBER  
7, 2025 AT 5 PM EASTERN TIME**

# GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER TEAMS HUB NOW AVAILABLE

The Graduate Research Center is 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  
HERE!**



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Hosted by Dr. McElroy at THE Graduate Research Center

# **DISSERTATION WORKSHOP SERIES**

Online | Every 3rd Saturday | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
Starting September 13

**We're Here to Help You Cross the Finish Line!**

**Join us for a focused, monthly virtual workshop series designed to help you write and refine the most critical components of your dissertation.**

**Each session will dive into essential topics such as:**

- **Writing a Clear Problem Statement**
- **Crafting a Comprehensive Literature Review**
- **Describing Your Research Methodology**
- **Presenting Your Findings**
- **Highlighting the Significance of Your Study**

**Register Today!**

# SPOTLIGHT

## COMFORT ADEGBOYE

### Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology



Meet Comfort Adegboye, a master's student studying Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology.

Adegboye's research tackles *Naegleria fowleri*, also known as the "brain-eating amoeba," a pathogenic free-living amoeba that causes primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)—a nearly 100% fatal brain infection. Current treatments are nonspecific and largely ineffective, emphasizing the urgent need for novel therapeutic strategies. Her project focuses on repurposing FDA-approved drugs to inhibit nucleoside diphosphate kinase (NDPK), a key enzyme in the parasite's purine metabolism. By using *Naegleria gruberi*, a non-pathogenic but genetically related species, as a surrogate model, she aims to validate NDPK inhibitors that could disrupt parasite metabolism and viability while minimizing cytotoxicity to human cells.

Adegboye is preparing to submit a first-author review paper to *Pharmacological Reviews* as a key research milestone. Her methodologies include bioinformatics analysis of NDPK using comparative sequence analysis, structural modeling, and phylogenetics; computational drug screening through molecular docking and dynamics simulations; and in vitro validation of inhibitors through enzyme assays, viability testing, cytotoxicity screening, and MIC determination.

In addition to her research, Adegboye has expanded her expertise through professional development opportunities, including the Biopharma Manufacturing Program at BioHub Maryland-Bowie State University (06/2025), where she earned an employer-recognized certificate, and Bio-Rad Droplet Digital PCR Training at Bowie State University (08/2025), where she gained hands-on experience in advanced molecular quantification techniques.

Her leadership extends across campus: as a Graduate Student Researcher and Research Assistant in Dr. Supriyo Ray's laboratory, where she manages lab operations, develops reproducible protocols, and contributes to peer-reviewed manuscripts; as Co-Anchor of the MCAT Preparation Seminar, she mentors peers by sharing strategies for academic success; and as a Teaching Assistant/Tutor in the Department of Natural Sciences, she supports student learning in chemistry and biology through tutoring, lab demonstrations, and classroom instruction.

Adegboye exemplifies Bowie State University's commitment to advancing impactful scientific research while uplifting peers through teaching, mentorship, and leadership.



# A CONVERSATION WITH COMFORT ADEGBOYE

*Master's Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology Student*

**Kamryn Kiser:** What inspired you to focus your research on *Naegleria fowleri* and its role in causing primary amoebic meningoencephalitis?

**Comfort Adegboye:** My prior lab experience was mostly bench research on intestinal stem cells and intestinal diseases. When I joined Dr. Ray's lab at Bowie State University, this was the only project that directly focused on human disease, which I really wanted to pursue. Most of the other projects were more microbiome-based. Another reason I chose this project is because the research was still in its early stages. That gave me the opportunity to help establish and develop it further, which has been both interesting and challenging.

**Kiser:** What do you find most fascinating—or most challenging—about working with such a rare but deadly pathogen?

**Adegboye:** What fascinated me most when I started reading about *Naegleria fowleri* was the high mortality rate—about 90 to 99 percent. Almost all patients who contract the disease die, and often within just two weeks of exposure. By the time they're diagnosed, it's usually too late. What struck me even more was that the infection disproportionately affects children. Their anatomy makes them more vulnerable since the parasite can more easily travel from the nose to the brain. And the few drugs available are extremely aggressive, making it difficult for children to tolerate them. That urgency is what motivates our work—looking for alternative treatments that target the parasite's metabolic functions.

The challenge is that there isn't much existing research to draw from. Many of the protocols date back to the 1980s or 1990s. Most of the newer work is clinical rather than focused on developing therapies. So, in the lab, a lot of what we're doing feels like starting from scratch—testing, troubleshooting, and hoping the methods work. Something that works today might not work tomorrow, so there's a lot of trial and error. But we're determined to keep going until we find answers.





# A CONVERSATION WITH COMFORT ADEGBOYE

*Master's Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology Student*

**Kiser:** What approaches are you using to study the organism, given its biosafety level?

**Adegboye:** *Naegleria fowleri* is a biosafety level 3 pathogen, but our lab is only BSL-1 certified. That means we can't work directly with it. Instead, we study a closely related species, *Naegleria gruberi*. It's non-pathogenic but genetically similar—about 60 percent overlap—so it serves as a safe and effective surrogate model.

My thesis has two main facets. The first is computational: bioinformatics, sequence analysis, and structural modeling to identify potential drug targets. The second is experimental: testing inhibitors against *N. gruberi* in vitro to validate their effects on viability and metabolism. By combining both approaches, we can identify FDA-approved drugs with potential to be repurposed against *N. fowleri*.

**Kiser:** Outside of your research, how have you contributed to mentoring or supporting other students?

**Adegboye:** Mentorship is very important to me. I've had the privilege of bringing in an undergraduate I also mentor for the MCAT to work with me in the lab. I want students to feel like research opportunities aren't out of reach. If professors or administrators feel intimidating to approach, I encourage undergraduates to reach out to graduate students like me—we're here to help them take that first step.



# Join the **RESEARCH READING CLUB: ENGAGING WITH SOCIALLY JUST RESEARCH METHODS!**

Hosted by Dr. Cox & Dr. McElroy



OPEN TO ALL  
DOCTORAL  
STUDENTS

## **Are you passionate about equity in research?**

Our research reading club operates like a book club but focuses on a single research article or chapter per meeting. This club provides a space for scholars to explore texts that challenge traditional paradigms and center socially just, community-engaged research methods.

**Each session dives into thought-provoking readings that spark critical conversations about power, ethics, inclusion, and transformative research practices.** Whether you're working on your dissertation or just beginning your doctoral journey, you'll find inspiration, connection, and thought provoking ideas. Come read, reflect, and reimagine research with us—one reading at a time.

**Our first reading will be Eve Tuck's *Suspending Damage: A Letter to Communities*.** "In this open letter, Eve Tuck calls on communities, researchers, and educators to reconsider the long-term impact of 'damage-centered' research—research that intends to document peoples' pain and brokenness to hold those in power accountable for their oppression."

# 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

**RESERVE THE  
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Required  
for Entry



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**YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!****GRC Feedback Survey****INTERESTED IN BEING  
FEATURED?**