

School of Education- Six Year Plan - Spring 2019

Sara Alcalá

2019-03-09T06:17:13Z

A well-staffed Graduate Studies Center is extremely vital in providing access and support for our students success (from our *undergraduates* to our *graduates*). The Graduate Studies Center provides services to all undergraduate, credential and graduate students from all programs at CSUCI. Since the center has become institutionalized, in 2015, the Graduate Studies Center services have seen an increase in demand. Since 2015, the number of student visits & appointments has almost quadrupled. By having an FTE permanent counselor available to keep up with the increasing demand, the center is able to serve and support our students who want to know more about the possibility of graduate school and how to make informed decisions surrounding graduate and professional school programs. Through the graduate school counseling service, our students become better prepared and more informed about graduate school and their postbac options. They also become more engaged students, as they strive to prepare for graduate and professional programs, which leads to higher levels of student retention. As Ernesto stated, "students are encouraged to get involved in undergraduate research and to connect with their faculty on a deeper level." By having a graduate school/MA program counselor available to our students we are opening up and reviewing possibilities with our students and guiding them as they continue to invest in their futures. Students who are better prepared for postbac studies & their careers are setting themselves up for long term success. They are raising the bar for future generations and truly investing in themselves and our community's workforce. At the Graduate Studies Center we see many first generation students who were born and raised in Ventura County and want to find ways to give back to their communities, and as they continue to invest in themselves, they are able to, more fully, give back to their communities.

Through this position, and by having a fully staffed and well funded center, we are also supporting graduate students in their academic pursuits by providing them with a place to help build a sense of community on campus, which can lead to the retention of our graduate students and ultimately yield higher levels of academic and personal success. The Graduate Studies Center has seen so many who state that they feel more engaged as graduate students, just by providing them with a place and staff who understand and can support them at the graduate level. By having a counselor who can support our MA program, we are opening up more possibilities for those in our community to pursuit these programs. This counselor will track students, monitor their progress and provide support to those who may struggle to stick to the two year graduation timeline.

By funding this position, as a permanent FTE, the campus would enable the MA program to build the necessary infrastructure while also strengthening and supporting the pipeline to graduate and professional studies for our undergraduates.

Overall, the Graduate Studies Center requires more permanent, full time staffing and funding to better support the increasing demand and graduate studies needs of our students.

Monica Rivas

2019-03-04T18:16:05Z

Currently, the Graduate Studies Center is in the School of Education. The center has a director and no staff. The budget proposal only requests student assistants, who can assist but cannot replace full-time staff. The counselor position was cut at the end of fall 2018, and there are only graduate interns available on a part-time basis, which is frustrating for students who seek help. This is a service that all CI students across disciplines seek for assistance in graduate school planning. I think it's time for the campus to look at the center being moved outside of the SOE to better reflect the fact that it provides needed services to the entire campus community.

Ernesto Guerrero

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An active and well-staffed Graduate Studies Center is a vital piece of the student success puzzle, particularly for our predominantly first-generation population. Encouraging graduate and professional school programs for our students naturally encourages greater engagement in their coursework, particularly upper division work. It encourages them to get involved in undergraduate research and to connect with their faculty on a deeper level as they will need this to apply to programs. The end result is a more engaged and involved student.

A longer-term result is that more first-generation and historically underrepresented students in our region go on to complete graduate degrees which eventually results in more of these students becoming faculty and administrators. Universities with more faculty and administrators that look like their students tend to have better retention and time to degree outcomes. This is a long-term investment in our students' futures. Everyone from President Beck on down talk about how we change lives here at CI, which I completely agree with. We can do this at a more profound level with a strong Graduate Studies Center.

Claudia Sitlington

2019-03-05T17:05:25Z

As a collective, we here at the university have dedicated our lives to scholarship and contributing to the success of students as they pursue their bachelors degrees and seek the opportunities to further their education beyond a bachelors degree to pursue post-graduate work. The necessity and vitality of maintaining a Graduate Studies Center with professional staff who have obtained master's degrees creates a sense of expertise and first-hand knowledge of the research that is crucial in choosing the right master's program for students. Location, programs offered, cost, financial assistance, entrance exams and requirements are only some of the items that need to be considered when seeking the right school and

program. The specific request to employ student assistants without an FTE professional staff member can not be conducive to the goal of teaching our students to further their education at the post-graduate level which will create even richer opportunities for career and life in the long-term. Here at the Academic Advising Center we have data to prove this necessary service. Since Fall 2015, Academic Advising has referred at total of 671 students to seek services through the Graduate Studies Center. This is an average of 134 referrals per semester.

Blake Buller

2019-03-08T19:30:23Z

Having an effective Graduate Studies Center at CI is vital in helping our largely (60%) first-generation student population to become aware of the graduate school-related possibilities that are available to them after completing their undergraduate careers here. Having a Graduate Programs Counselor would serve students by helping them navigate through the graduate school research, preparation, and application process. Thus, I fully agree with and support the request for funding for this area and position.