

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dean's Charges to the Committee on Graduate Studies
2017-2018

Introduction

Each year the Dean of the College provides a set of charges to the Committee on Graduate Studies. These charges represent areas of pressing concern to the future of graduate education in the College. This year's charges are focused on the mentoring of graduate students: what values inform graduate mentoring in the College and at KU, how do we know when mentoring is successful, and what policies should we have in place to support the mentoring relationship?

Charges

1. Practice and Evaluation of Graduate Student Mentoring

a. Develop a College "Position Statement" on graduate mentoring

The statement should:

- Draw upon departmental best practices, previous work of the CGS on the mentoring of GTAs and GRAs, and policy, guidelines, and position statements from other institutions;
- Provide a point of reference for any future policy or programs related to graduate mentoring;
- Be general enough to speak to the practice of mentoring across a range of disciplines, for both master's and doctoral students;
- Clearly communicate the contribution that good mentoring makes to individual students, disciplines, and the College;
- Address the contributions of both mentor and mentee to a positive mentoring relationship.

b. Develop a set of recommendations for the evaluation of graduate mentoring in the College.

The guidelines should:

- Be grounded in an understanding of current practice in the evaluation of graduate mentoring at KU and the resources and information available through other KU units (e.g., CTE, Office of the VP of DEI)
- Incorporate finding from research on mentoring and innovative practices from other institutions
- Outline a set of specific steps that the College could take to improve the mentoring of graduate students

2. Changing Graduate Advisors

Develop guidance for departments to facilitate the creation of department-specific policy on changing graduate advisors, and determine whether or not such policy should be required of departments by the College or only recommended.

The guidance should:

- Provide an explanation of the need for such policy and the kinds of scenarios that a department may encounter in the absence of such policy;
- Outline a range of policy options, ideally drawing from existing College department policy or practice;
- Specify the key elements that should be included in the policy (e.g., the policy should make it clear to the student how to initiate the process).