

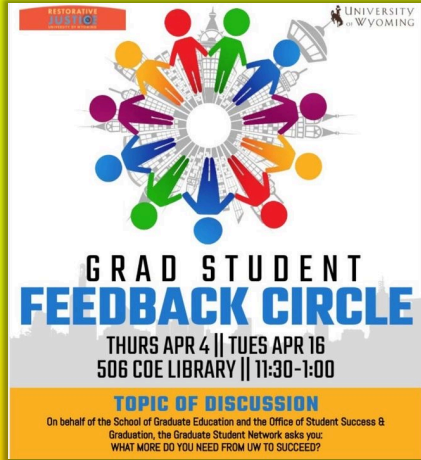
Graduate Student Feedback Circle Report (2023-2024) Onboarding

1



2

Graduate Student Feedback Circle Sessions



Address issues and barriers to graduate education:

How can UW best serve and onboard graduate students?

What is the current program in graduate students' respective departments?

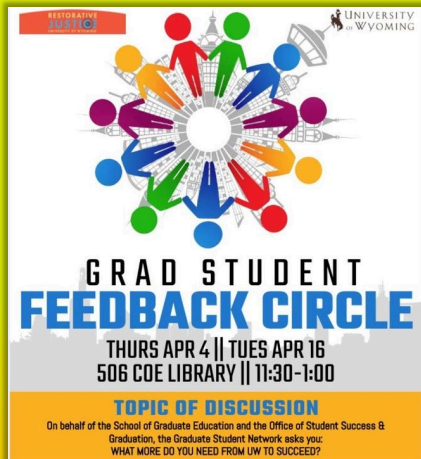
How have graduate students been onboarded to campus?

What do graduate students want or need to succeed in school?

What is missing in graduate education that UW can provide?

3

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4

Sample & Methods

Two Sessions:

Date	Number of Participants
Thursday, April 4 th , 2024	13
Tuesday, April 16 th , 2024	18



Facilitators: Connor, Enjo, and Victoria

3 rounds of open-ended questions

Graduate students from various departments

5

Round 1

We are focusing on questions pertaining to these areas: 1) Onboarding; 2) Program Culture; and 3) Graduate Student Needs. What is one thing that stands out to you from your program regarding the areas that helped you adjust to life as a graduate student at UW?

6

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"Building community through an orientation trip to meet new cohorts and bond with professors. This made the program feel inclusive and welcoming."

"Onboarding is better when we go out with professors or have social outings."

"Students who are new to a program are mentored and onboarded by older students. We receive love and support from department and cohort helps with welcoming me into the American System."

"The graduate coordinator went above to welcome students and walk them around campus."

7

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"They take us to lunch, introduce us to our main department and then throw us into the waters."

"When I came in January to join the cohort, it felt like it was on me to figure things out."

"Nobody knows what to expect in [my program]. Before, there were no advisors and students were left to figure it out on their own as much as possible."

"When onboarding was online during the pandemic, there were no departmental welcome."

8

Round 1 Summary

Positive feedback of
“onboarding” or welcoming
at a department level



Preference for social
outings and community
building



Left to figure things out on
their own afterwards



9

Round 2

When it comes to these categories, what needs were met or were not met?

“Onboarding is nonexistent. If a student starts in Spring, there is no onboarding provided.”
“There is no departmental welcome.”

“Graduate students have a hard time understanding the direction of graduate school, especially during the first year when classes are difficult. There are no resources for graduate students to get through their first semester. Trying to make friends is difficult.”

“Students do not know what to expect, we are not given advisors. Graduate school is already hard and overwhelming, and we feel we are left to fend for ourselves.”

“Where I do not feel supported is onboarding on a university level. TA symposium is not applicable to me.”

10

Round 3

What are some things that can be done either informally, departmentally, institutionally, to help either expand the work that is done that makes you feel supported (round 1) or what needs to be explored (round 2) to better thrive as a graduate student at UW?

“Need a Saddle Up program for graduate students.”

“Need more robust marketing and communication for graduate students.”

“Graduate students are separated. We should encourage building community across departments.”

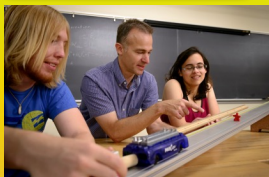
“Student mentoring is something we can figure out. Buddy program or Faculty mentoring.”

11

Round 2 and 3 Summary

Effective and proper onboarding must exist at a university level

Creates graduate student community and mentorship opportunities



Improves understanding of campus resources



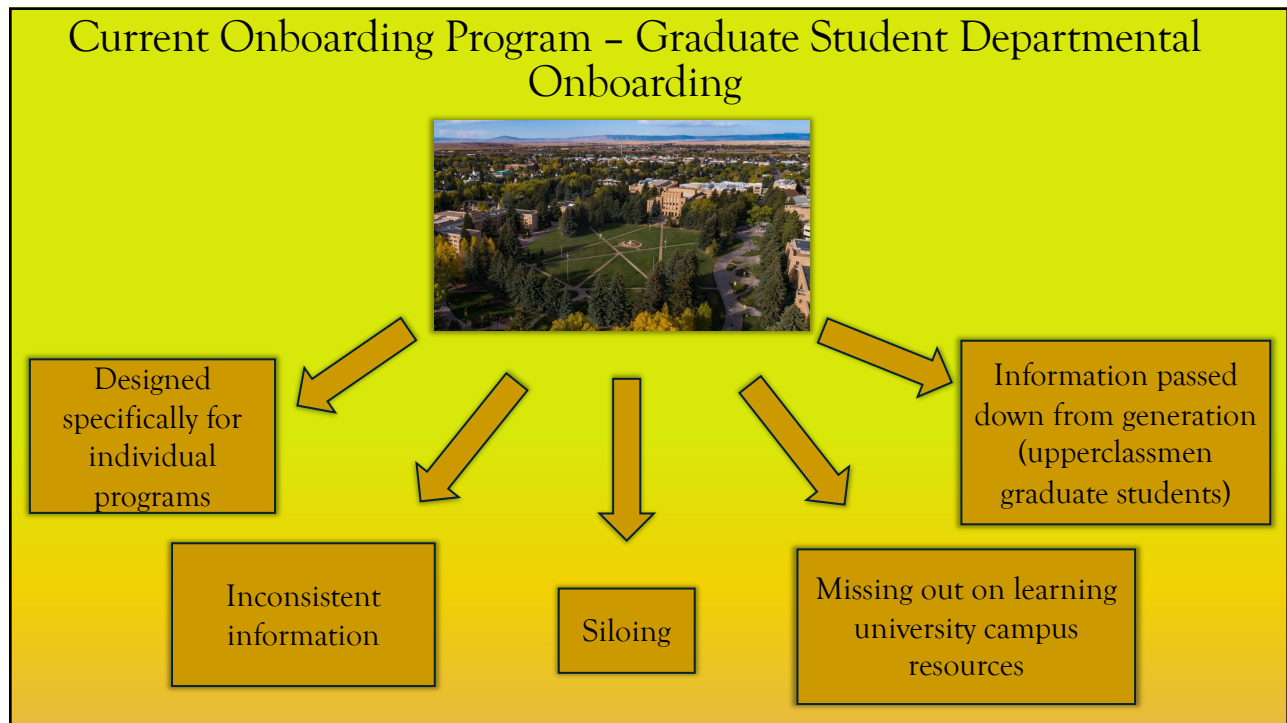
Tailors to different types of graduate students



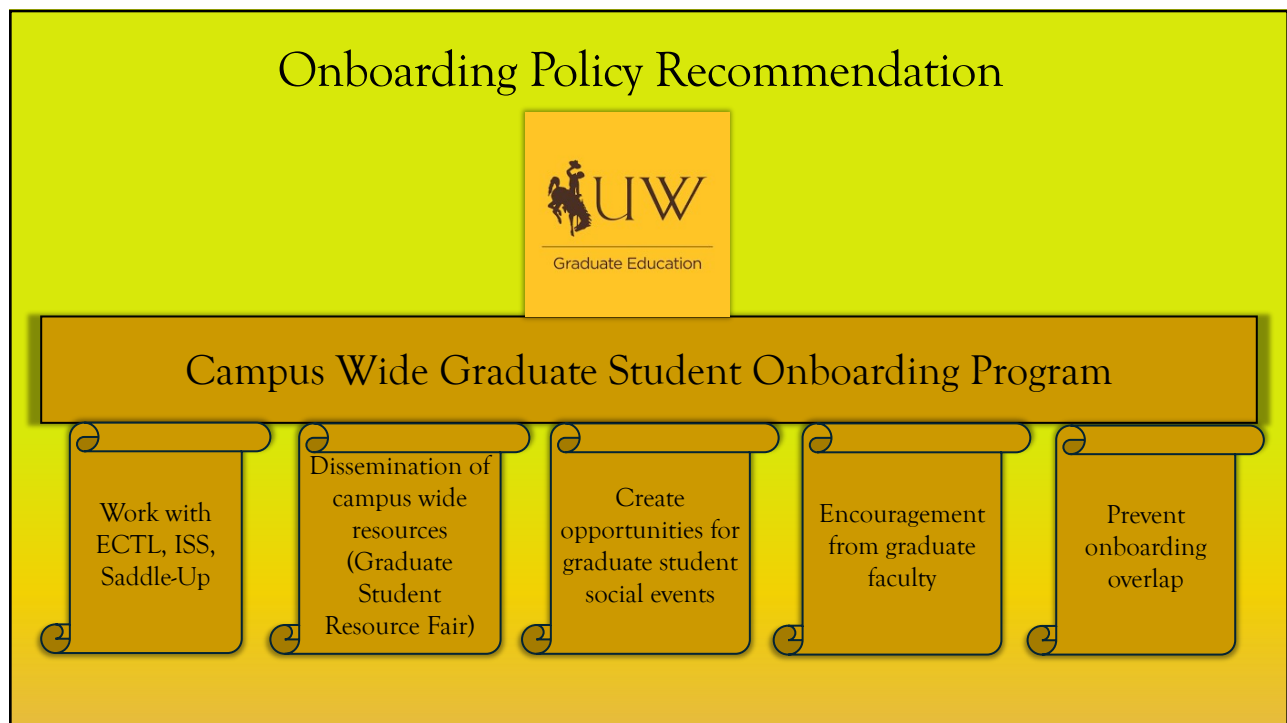
Sets specific university wide expectations and guidelines



12



13



14

Next Steps

Onboarding information from
Graduate Coordinators!

15



16