



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS

General Assembly Meeting

November 5, 2025

12 -1pm

In person: Gatton Student Center – 330AB

Remote: <https://uky.zoom.us/j/83364843952>

1. Opening Remarks

2. Call to Order (President: Edward Olajide)

- Welcome everyone to the third General Assembly meeting of Fall 2025

3. Roll Call (Secretary: Chowdhury Azimul Haque)

a. Attendance



4. Guest Speaker – Student Government Association

- i) Sarah Shepherd, Director of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs

Funding Opportunities for Registered Student Organizations

- Funding Applications: Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) can now submit funding applications through BBNvolved.
- Multiple Grant Opportunities: Organizations are welcome to apply for more than one grant to support a range of activities or initiatives.
- Funding Limit: The maximum total funding available per organization is \$2,000 per fiscal year.
- Terms and Conditions: Detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, and funding requirements are available on BBNvolved. All applicants are encouraged to review these carefully before submitting.
- During the discussion, several members suggested exploring individual funding opportunities for graduate students, particularly in the form of academic or professional development resources (e.g., Bar Exam preparation support)
- A question was also raised about whether a portion of SGA funding could be specifically allocated to graduate student organizations to minimize competition with undergraduate groups.

Response: It was clarified that the current budget provides sufficient funding for all student organizations, and therefore no separate allocation is necessary at this time. All organizations, graduate and undergraduate alike, are encouraged to apply early, as funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

5. Executive Board Reports (as applicable)

a. President & Vice President

i. Funding Update

- Conference and travel awards, including those intended for individual students and the Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO), will not be offered this year. Another reason was that GSC is not an academic unit so would not be able to disburse such funds.
 - ❖ This decision is based on recent changes in government policies, particularly those emphasizing viewpoint neutrality.
 - ❖ Additionally, since the Graduate Student Council (GSC) is not classified as an academic unit, it does not have the authority to disburse funds for such individual awards.

ii. Decision on Funds reallocation

- Voting Process

- The General Assembly held a vote to determine how the available funds should be reallocated, prioritizing initiatives that most directly benefit the graduate student community.

Voting Result (highest to lowest):

1. Material resources supporting basic needs. Examples include hosting more events that provide essential supplies, food, and giveaways for graduate students.
2. Material resources supporting professional development (e.g., poster printing services and other tools that facilitate academic and career growth)
3. Leadership and campus engagement activities, such as opportunities that encourage student leadership and participation in campus-wide initiatives.

Note: Items #2 and #3 received equal priority votes, resulting in a tie for second place

iii. Start-to-Finish Mentor Program

Program Update: Mentor–mentee pairings should now be complete. Participants who have not yet been contacted or who have questions about the program are encouraged to reach out to the program coordinators for clarification or assistance.

b. Chief of Staff and Operations (Deepti Adhikari)

i. Committee Reports and Attendance

- A Postdoctoral Scholar will be joining the E-Board, and we look forward to increased collaboration and engagement by the postdoctoral community.

c. SGA Representative (Riccardo D'Amato)

General Assembly Meetings are open to the public.

Any questions or concerns – gsc@uky.edu

i. Activities update from the SGA.

- Members are encouraged to visit the SGA website for further details regarding current SGA funds.

d. Treasurer (Kameron Cox)

- Informed the General Assembly regarding the budget to be reallocated.

e. Professional Student Affairs Officer (vacant)

f. Postdoctoral Affairs Officer (vacant)

6. Committee Reports (as applicable) – **Chair and Co-Chairs**

a. Communications and Documents (Chowdhury Azimul Haque and Levone Li)

i. Plans to increase social media interaction.

ii. GSC Networking

- The committee will contact GSC representatives to connect with the officers responsible for managing their organization's social media platforms. This collaboration aims to enhance visibility and engagement for upcoming GSC events through coordinated promotion efforts.

b. Mental Health and Wellbeing (Eyitayo Akomolafe and Shabnam Ghorbani)

i. Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) report/appreciation

ii. Future events

- Preparations are currently underway for mental health related events in the spring. More information about specific programs, activities will be shared as planning progresses.
- The GSC President clarified that the Mental Health Committee is not restricted to hosting events only during a specific month. If the committee has clear goals together with available resources, mental health, and related events may be organized at any time throughout the year.

c. Professional Development & Networking (Ally Moseley and Victor Ugwuegbu)

i. Networking Events

- No report for now

d. Institutional Research (Megan Hall)

i. No new survey this academic year

ii. Focusing on analyzing Spring 2024 Report (**Volunteers needed**)

iii. Identify strategic plans.

e. Institutional Advocacy (Megan Hall)

i. Work in progress for Fall 2025 regalia closet

ii. Regalia application and distribution

- Details regarding regalia application should be available before the week runs out.

f. External Affairs (Adrienne Caudill)

i. Government Shutdown

ii. SNAP Benefits

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iii. Proposed Frankfort visit

Visa and Immigration: Despite the ongoing government shutdown, information and assistance related to visa and immigration processes remain accessible to students. Members are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate university offices for continued support.

SNAP Benefits: Distribution of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits has been temporarily delayed. At this time, there is no confirmed timeline for when regular distributions will resume. Students who rely on these benefits are advised to monitor official updates from SNAP and the university's support offices.

Frankfort visit: There are no recent updates available regarding the planned Frankfort visit. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Additional Support: Students seeking support or additional information about well-being and campus resources are encouraged to visit the "Resources" tab on the GSC website. A variety of programs and services are available to assist with academic, emotional, and personal needs.

g. International Student Concerns (Amanda Gyesi and Rabeya Tus Sadia)

i. International Grad Potluck

- On November 15. Flier ready for distribution

h. Professional Student Affairs (vacant)

i. Appropriations and Revenue (vacant)

7. Open Floor/Discussions

8. Meeting Close

- ❖ Next and final meetings for the Fall Semester - December 3, 2025; 12pm; Same location

Prepared by: Chowdhury Azimul Haque (Secretary)

Inviting all international grad students to join us for an evening of food, friendship, and flavors!
Bring your favorite board game for extra fun!

INTERNATIONAL GRAD POTLUCK



Date: November 15th, 2025

Place: Shawneetown Community Room

Time: 4.00 P.M.

EXPLORING CAREER PATHS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Series



Scan for
Zoom Link!

Abbie Wood, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Graduate/Professional
Student & Post-Doctoral Career Support



CAREER WORKSHOPS FOR **MASTERS** AND **PHD** STUDENTS

*Overview of each employment sector, careers in that field, required skills, & **strategies for breaking in!***

SEPTEMBER 10	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN INDUSTRY
SEPTEMBER 24	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT
OCTOBER 8	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN NON-PROFIT
OCTOBER 22	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN CONSULTING
NOVEMBER 5	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
NOVEMBER 19	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN WRITING & PUBLISHING
DECEMBER 3	1-2 PM EST	CAREERS IN EDUCATION

ALL WORKSHOPS ON ZOOM:
tinyurl.com/2025GradCareerSuccess
ATTEND ONE, SOME, OR ALL!

 The Graduate
School

Questions?
abbie.wood@uky.edu

 Stuckert
Career Center
Office for Student Success

General Assembly Meetings are open to the public.
Any questions or concerns – gsc@uky.edu

START-TO-FINISH

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM





BE A MENTOR
BE A MENTEE

A multi-tiered mentorship program helping students, staff, faculty, and alumni connect across all disciplines.



Program Kickoff on Oct. 14th

 Center for Graduate and Professional Services

 The Graduate School



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