

SMU Moody School of Graduate
& Advanced Studies

The Moody School *of* Graduate and Advanced Studies:

**A Gateway to World-Changing Research, Competitive Funding,
& Professional and Community Engagement**

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY



Our **Mission**

The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies partners with other SMU schools to advance graduate education and research, to advocate on behalf of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, and to enhance the University's stature through the promotion of a culture of excellence and the support of SMU faculty, students, and visiting scholars engaged in innovative, interdisciplinary, and impactful studies.

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SMU Is Investing in Graduate Students: Get to Know the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

It's more than just a name change; we're going all-in on our investment in graduate students. Formerly known as the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at Southern Methodist University, the new Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies joins the other seven degree-granting schools at SMU to enhance our graduate programs and position the University to recruit outstanding graduate students, retain and hire the most distinguished and innovative faculty and researchers, and expand research.

This landmark \$100 million commitment from the Moody Foundation does more than create a new school;

it signals our
SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT
in the **CURRENT AND FUTURE**
graduate students of SMU.





WHAT IS THE MOODY FOUNDATION?

William L. Moody, Jr. and his wife, Libbie Rice Shearn Moody, laid the groundwork for the family's dedication to community involvement and philanthropy when they established the Moody Foundation in 1942 in Galveston, Texas. The Foundation benefits present and future Texans, and awards grants throughout the state, often focusing on capital projects for private colleges and universities, among other worthy causes.

Now, the great-granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Moody, Jr. and a 1992 graduate and trustee of SMU, Frances Moody-Dahlberg, along with her brother, Ross Moody, and niece, Elizabeth Moody, leads the Foundation as Chairman and Executive Director.

SMU and the Moody Foundation have enjoyed a decades-long partnership. This most recent seminal gift to establish the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies is in keeping with the Foundation's long-standing tradition of support for institutions and communities in the state of Texas. It is yet another way the Moody Foundation has demonstrated its enduring values that have led to more than seven decades of impactful generosity.



WHERE DID THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES GO?

The name of the Office of Graduate Studies may be changing, but its mission and reach have only grown. With the establishment of this new school, and through the support of this endowment, the new Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies will absorb all the duties and responsibilities of the old office, and charge forward, empowering graduate students at SMU through new initiatives and opportunities.

HOW WILL THE MOODY SCHOOL OPERATE?

The Moody School will join the other degree-granting schools at SMU and enhance the graduate student experience by supporting them through three main avenues: an increased focus on research, competitive funding and financial assistance, and intentionally connecting and nurturing the graduate school community at SMU.



MOODY MEANS

A Rise in Cutting-Edge Research and Research Funding

The creation of the Moody School will draw leading scholars who are conducting world-changing research across all disciplines to SMU. This substantial gift allows the University to enhance support for faculty and thus to entice high-caliber faculty into tenured and tenure-track positions at SMU, while sustaining a steady flow of renowned visiting faculty members who will bring their expertise to our community.





“

The gift establishing the Moody School is an unprecedented investment in SMU, providing essential tools to dramatically elevate the University’s reputation in graduate education and powering its advance among research universities.

”

JAMES QUICK,
*Inaugural Dean of the Moody School of
Graduate and Advanced Studies*



MOODY MEANS

An Increase in Student Funding and Graduate Fellowships

The creation of the Moody School will dramatically increase funding for graduate fellowships reducing financial barriers to earning a graduate degree at SMU. The new **Moody Endowed Graduate Fellowships** and **Moody Endowed PhD Dissertation Fellowships**, in addition to the existing [University PhD and Mustang Fellowships](#), will be under the dedicated direction of the inaugural Director of Student Fellowships, a new position whose sole purpose is to advocate for graduate students as they navigate their funding options.

MOODY ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship provides a tuition waiver, health insurance, and a **stipend of \$30,000** for up to five years. It is meant to recognize outstanding PhD applicants who show exceptional promise for academic success and are a mark of the University's commitment to excellence in graduate education.

MOODY ENDOWED PHD DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship is reserved for PhD students in the dissertation-writing phase of their degrees whose research shows exceptional promise for impact in their field of study. This award provides a tuition waiver, health insurance, and a **stipend of \$30,000** for one year. Recipients commit to complete and defend their dissertations in the fellowship year.



The Moody School will also bring new funding for professional development opportunities, such as networking events and travel grants to support graduate students presenting their research at academic conferences. By partnering with other offices at SMU and with members of the SMU community, the Moody School will connect graduate students with enhanced professional development resources. For example, graduate students often seek assistance with academic writing, and the Moody School will provide support in this area by overseeing SMU's Graduate Writing Center.

By working closely with the Director of Student Fellowships, doctoral students at SMU will have more support when applying for external funding resources needed to propel their research, enhancing their graduate school experience and positioning themselves to succeed professionally.

Meet the Fellows

UNIVERSITY PHD FELLOWS



HANG CHEN
PhD, Economics



NUSAIBA CHOWDHURY
PhD, Anthropology



DEVON LOCKARD
PhD, Education

MUSTANG FELLOWS



SARAH GOBRIAL
PhD, Psychology



EUGENE ALVIAR
PhD, History



ALEXA JIMENEZ
PhD, Psychology

MEET ALL OUR FELLOWS

“

Now at the mid-point of our current 10-year strategic plan, there are many accomplishments within Academic Affairs that will have tremendous and lasting impact on our R-1 aspirations. Chief among these is the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. The \$100 million commitment from the Moody Foundation positions SMU to provide research with impact in response to the talent and research needs arising regionally, nationally, and globally.

”

ELIZABETH G. LOBOA,
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



MOODY MEANS

A Stronger Professional Network and Graduate Community

Step into the future of graduate education with Moody Hall, a revolutionary building that brings new opportunities and support to graduate students. A game-changer for the graduate student community, Moody Hall provides innovative spaces and unparalleled opportunities for graduate students.





Key Features of Moody Hall:

- **UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING**

The Moody Foundation's landmark \$100M gift makes this the largest single contribution in SMU's history dedicated to graduate education.

- **A HUB OF EXCELLENCE**

Moody Hall is the first building in a planned complex of five, reinforcing SMU's commitment to enhancing graduate education for years to come.

- **SPACIOUS AND ADVANCED**

Boasting approximately 45,000 square feet over three floors, this state-of-the-art facility accommodates 65 offices, the graduate writing center and a high-tech seminar room, ensuring a cutting-edge learning environment





The Moody School also exists to enhance the graduate student culture at SMU by building a global graduate population of the highest caliber and connecting them with the broader Dallas-Fort Worth community. Through this initiative, our graduate community will strengthen ties with the influential industries that have taken up residence in Dallas — a partnership that benefits local industries, the state of Texas, and the world.

To further enhance graduate students' quality of life, the Moody School is committed to helping alleviate the financial burden that comes with obtaining health insurance, by overseeing the PhD Health Insurance Program, which provides funding for insurance premiums to eligible students.

By integrating all elements of graduate student life under the Moody School, there is a new central hub dedicated to celebrating accomplishments and milestones from orientation to PhD completion ceremonies, and everything in between during a graduate student's academic career.

“

The Moody Foundation exists to strengthen the future of Texas and Texans through big ideas like this one... We all know that transformative discoveries come when people from different disciplines and broad perspectives are free to collaborate in unique ways. SMU's Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies will encourage and support such innovative connections. I am eager to see what the combination of world-changing students and faculty coupled with exceptional resources will produce on this campus, in the region, and across Texas.

”

FRANCES MOODY-DAHLBERG,
Executive Director and Chairman at the Moody Foundation



How Does the Moody School Impact Future SMU Graduate Students?

With the creation of the new Moody School at SMU, you can be confident that your experience as a graduate student will be supported, through both funding and community, as you work with top-tier faculty on leading research to change our world.

With a dedicated space and competitive resources, the community of graduate students is stronger than ever and resoundingly committed to our promise that “World Changers Are Shaped Here.”

Connect with the Moody School of Graduate & Advanced Studies

Your success in graduate school isn't just our goal; it's our mission and our passion. As we rally together in anticipation of the great things to come at Southern Methodist University, we encourage you to consider joining our graduate school community.

You can begin by [browsing our list of our master's degrees](#) and [doctoral degrees](#). We also have a [Guide to Choosing, Applying for, and Thriving in a PhD Program](#) if you would like to learn more about what it takes to earn a graduate degree.

THERE'S A PLACE *(and resources)* at SMU for all who aspire to change the world — **WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!**

ABOUT US

REQUEST MORE
INFORMATION

VISIT OUR
RESOURCE LIBRARY

INFORMATION FOR
INTERNATIONAL PHD STUDENTS

BEGIN AN APPLICATION