How Does Graduate Education Compare to Undergraduate Education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Education</th>
<th>Undergraduate Education</th>
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<td><strong>Education Depth</strong></td>
<td>Takes a student deeper into a subject with a level of intensity that cannot be found in a textbook</td>
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<td><strong>Program Requirements</strong></td>
<td>Customized program of study</td>
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<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td>Produce original scholarly products and research that advances knowledge, enables innovations, and enhances culture</td>
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<td><strong>Defending Research</strong></td>
<td>Must take a comprehensive exam to show mastery in the field of study. Must defend the research/scholarly product</td>
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<td><strong>Communication Skills</strong></td>
<td>Their technical communication skills are tested by the peer reviewed journal process and conference contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Funding Their Education</strong></td>
<td>Few federal programs are in place to fund graduate education. Students rely on teaching and research assistantships, merit-based fellowships, and their own resources to fund their education</td>
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THE IMPACT OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

On the Montana State University Campus

- Graduate students play an essential role at Montana State University by conducting cutting edge research, assisting in teaching, and making significant contributions to their field of study.

- Montana State University’s research enterprise is fueled by the scholarship of skilled graduate students and has helped Montana State University earn a “very high research activity” classification by the Carnegie Foundation.

- A strong graduate student body plays an important role in faculty recruitment and retention as faculty rely on graduate students to teach and to serve as research assistants in their laboratories.

Throughout Montana

As a land-grant institution, graduate research extends beyond the Montana State University campus. Graduate students are growing sustainable foods and contributing to advances in energy, health care and education impacting communities throughout Montana.

Around the World

Montana State University graduate research extends to all corners of the globe. Students are doing everything from building components for NASA satellites to producing films for National Geographic to studying glacial lakes in Antarctica.

What Our Alumni Have to Say...

“I am enormously grateful for the inspiring field geologists I worked with at MSU, and I am thankful for the positive impact graduate school had on my career.”

Jeannette Wolak, Ph.D., 2011, Earth Sciences Geology Professor, Tennessee Tech University

“What I learned in graduate school helped me make decisions on the job.”

Randall Mullen, Ph.D., 2012, Ecology & Environmental Sciences Statistician & Researcher, E&J Gallo Winery

“I’ll never forget the exquisite memories or how vividly my life changed after one phone call to the MSU Graduate School 25 years ago. I wish I could do it again!”

G. Stan Meloy, M.S., 1992, Marriage & Family Therapy Counselor, Soldiers & Military Families

“I would never have made it through the program without financial support in the form of teaching and research assistantship. Every dollar you give to The Graduate School has the potential to make a positive impact.”

Jeannette Wolak, Ph.D., Earth Sciences, 2011

“Supporting graduate education is a win – win situation for you, the community, and the students who are helped. There are few endeavors in life that give so much to both an individual and society as making graduate education more accessible for every student that has the desire and the aptitude.”

Randall Mullen, Ph.D., LRES/Ecology & Environmental Sciences, 2012