Unique Library Services for Graduate Students: Support over the Graduate Lifecycle

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University of North Texas Libraries
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Introduction

By the end of this presentation, we hope to have answered the following questions:

- How does the understanding of the graduate student life cycle inform the services that the library provides?

- How are the University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries and the Toulouse Graduate School transforming in order to better serve graduate students?

Before March 2015: UNT Libraries services for graduate students

The same as for undergraduates EXCEPT:

- Semester long book check out privileges
- Graduate students could reserve study carrels

- We were already meeting most of the graduate student's daily needs such as printing, interlibrary loan, and spaces for individual and group study .
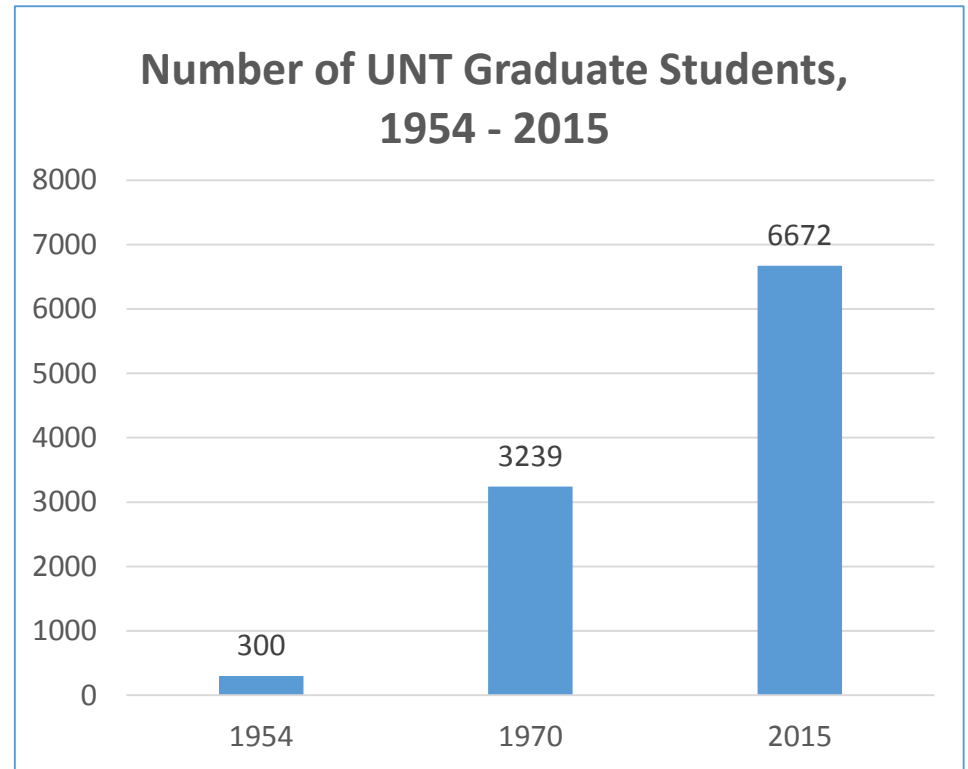
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Growth of the Toulouse Graduate School at UNT

Enrollment
- 1954 = 300
- 1970 =3,239
- 2015 = 6,672

Programs offered
- 83 master's degrees
- 37 doctoral degrees

Number of UNT Graduate Students, 1954 - 2015

Year	Number
1954	300
1970	3239
2015	6672

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Initial Experiences with Graduates as a Group

- Eagle Dissertation and Thesis Boot Camp
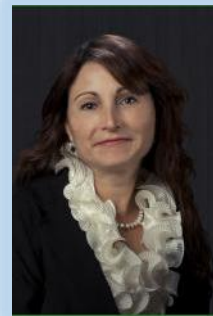
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Initial Experiences with Graduates as a Group

- Graduate Student Library Advisory Board

The Department Formerly Known As...

A Big Step: Creation of the Library Research Support Services Department (LRSS)

Dr. Susan Smith
New LRSS Department Head, Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism Librarian

Jo Monahan
Education Librarian

Rebecca Barham
Art, Dance & Theatre Librarian

Erin O'Toole
Science Librarian

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LRSS Mission and Principles

MISSION

The Library Research Support Services (LRSS) department provides research support to enrich the scholarly experience and success of the University of North Texas graduate students and faculty.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

• Focus on serving the distinctive needs of graduate students and faculty

• Integrate the library into the lives of graduate students and faculty

• Collaborate with other people and departments from within and without to create innovative services for graduate students and faculty

• Provide professional, experienced Librarians who can respond to the specific needs of graduate students and faculty

LRSS Long Range Goals

- Demonstrate the value of LRSS to student and faculty success via the development and implementation of a departmental assessment plan.

- Develop more specialized library services, spaces and programming for graduate students and faculty.

- Increase collaboration with university faculty, administration, programs and departments to support and improve scholarship and research.

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Research and Development Plan

Graduate Student Life Cycle?

- Life Cycle Needs
- Daily Needs

Our graduate students

(Potential) campus partners

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Academic Life Cycle

Definition

…an extension or elaboration of career development or professional attainment theory (Tinto, 1994).

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Academic Life Cycle

Stages Versus Life Cycle or Life Course:

Career stages research: evolution of people and careers over a life time.

Life cycle or life course approach: psychological view of adult development, the total life of a person, addresses factors associated with various areas of life (not just work) (Sonnefeld & Kotter, 1982).

Graduate Student Life Cycle According to Librarians

- Reader and learner
- Teacher
- Researcher
- Analyzer and synthesizer

- Writer
- Proto-author
- Archiver
- Job hunter

(Covert-Vail & Collard, 2012)

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Beeler's 4 Stage Framework of Graduate Student Adjustment to Academic Life

Consciousness

Competency

Stage 3

Stage 4

Stage 4: They know they know.
not know.

Stage 1

Stage 2

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Tinto's (1994) Model of Doctoral Student Persistence

Transition ⟶ **Developing Competence** ⟶ **Completing Research**

First Year ⟶ **Completing Coursework** ⟶ **Graduation**

More ⟵ **Interactions** ⟶ **Less**
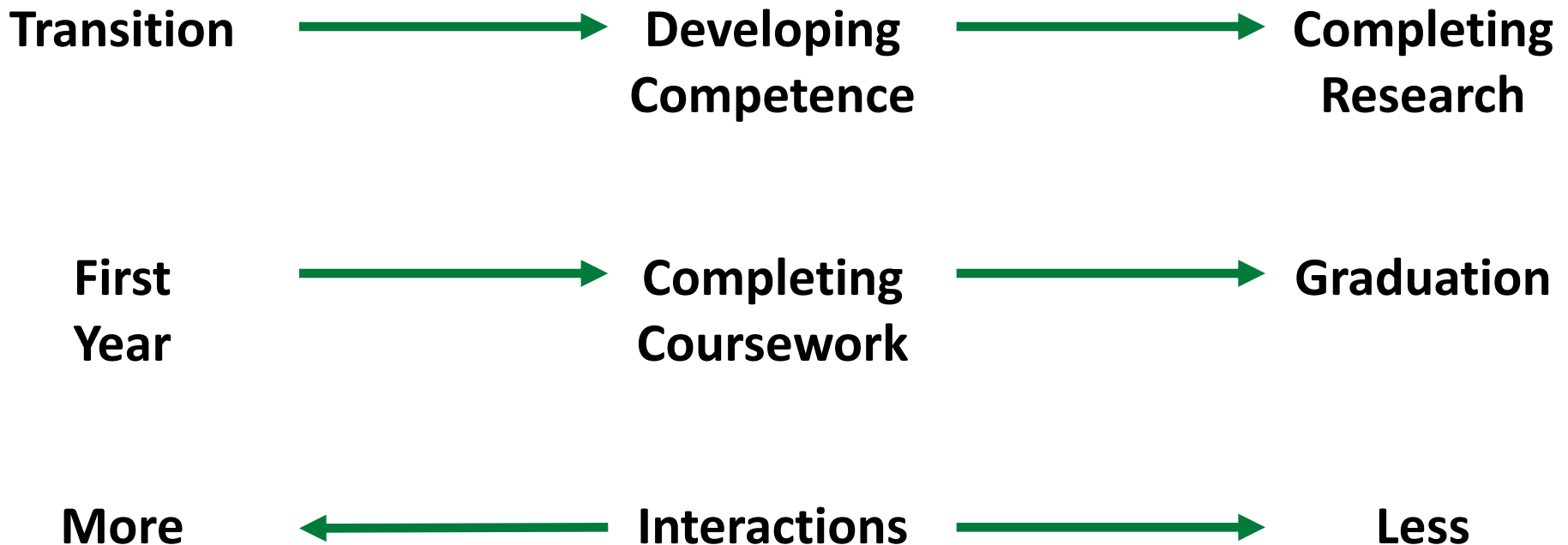
Tinto's (1994) Model of Doctoral Student Persistence
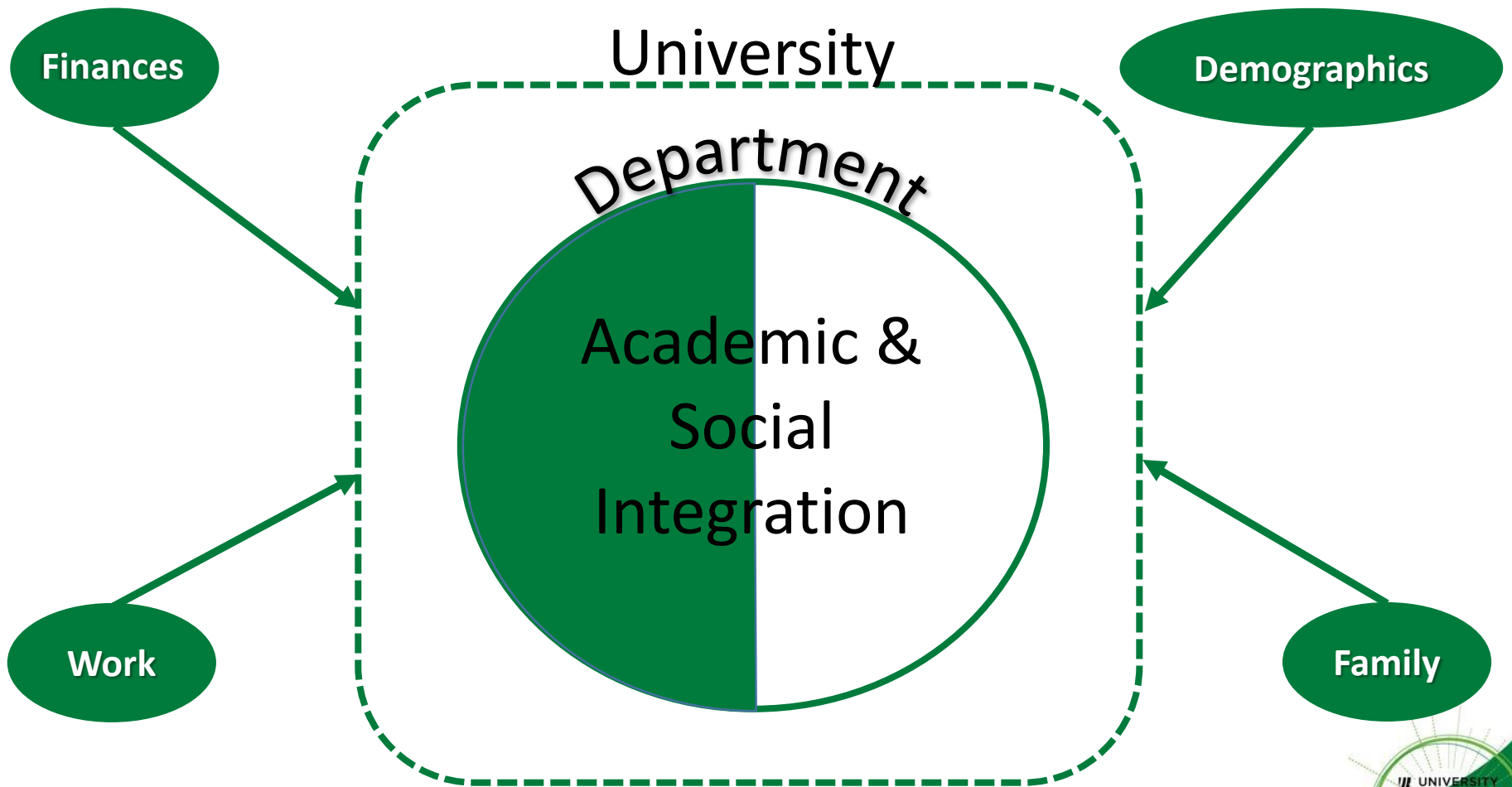
Life Cycle Needs of Graduate Students

- Resources, services and spaces graduate students need at specific points in their academic lifecycles

- Timing is important in fulfilling these needs

- Can vary widely by discipline, degree, program and level

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Life Cycle Needs: Emotional

Graduate students need . . .

- To be socially and academically integrated into their programs (Tinto, 1994).

- Social interaction for intellectual and skill development necessary to complete the doctoral degree (Tinto, 1994).

- To form close ties with those on their committee and their advisor (Tinto, 1994).

- Support and encouragement to move from not knowing what they do not know to knowing they know (Beeler, 1991).

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Meeting Needs of New Students

- New Graduate Student Orientation

- New Graduate Student Mini-Boot Camp

- New International Student Mini-Boot Camp

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Meeting Needs of Students as Writers

- Proposal Mini-Boot Camp

- Eagle Dissertation and Thesis Boot Camp

- Graduate Writing Help

- RefWorks Workshop

Meeting Needs of Students as Scholars

- Graduate Exhibition
- Biology Graduate Research Day
- Three-Minute Thesis Competition
- Scholarly Impact Workshop

Variety Among Graduate Students

- 1/4 graduate students are international
- Space "haves" and "have nots"
- Master's vs. doctoral students
- Course vs. writing students
- On-campus vs. distance students
- Traditional vs. nontraditional students

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Next Plan: A Graduate Student Space!

- Estimated construction start – January 2017
- Input from shareholders and site visits

Graduate Student Commons
UNLV Libraries

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Transformation of Services

- Solo → collaboration
- Student and faculty input → input from many stakeholders
- Individual student → groups of students
- Primary provider → facilitator
- Discrete points in time → stages in lifecycle

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Benefits of Transformation

- Combined resources
- Effective service
- Awareness of barriers
- Coherent programs and services

Transformation Team

All subject librarians   Library department support

Administrative support

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Questions?

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