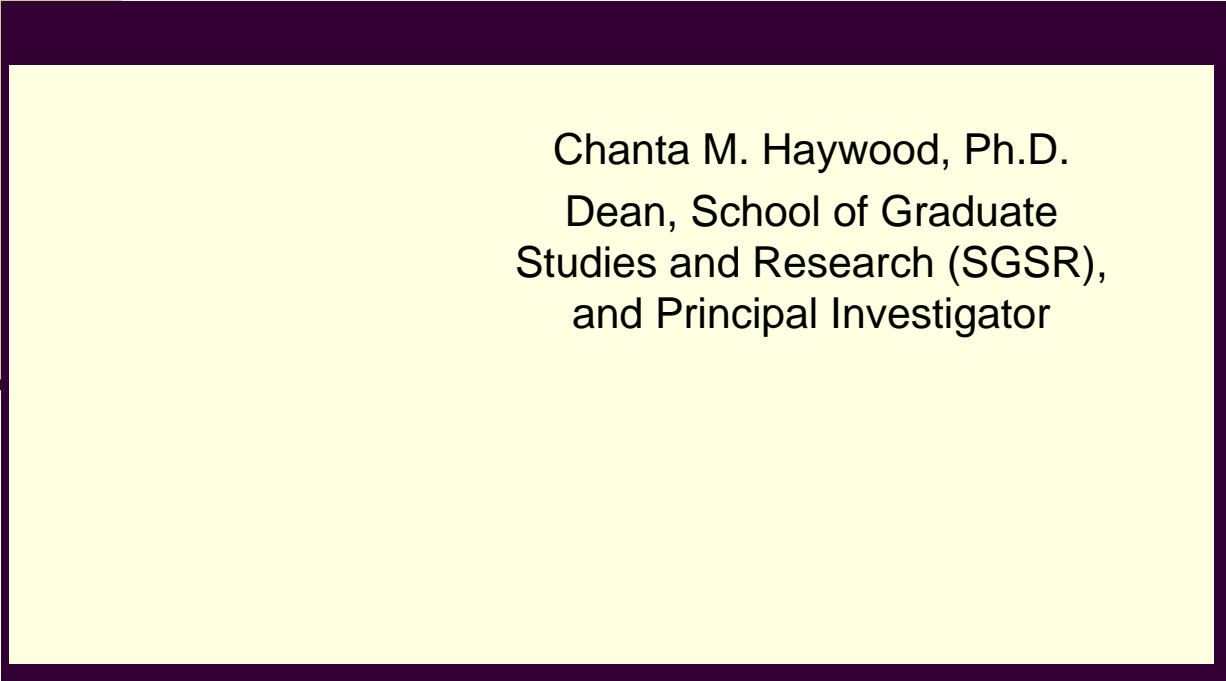


Institutional Commitment & Successful GAANN Grant Management at Florida A&M University (FAMU)



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Dean, School of Graduate
Studies and Research (SGSR),
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Great success rate attributed to:

- FAMU's Program
G.R.A.D.
- The Institution's
Commitment to the
GAANN Program

Program G.R.A.D.

- Was implemented in 2003
- It is based on one of SGSR's strategic initiatives of seeking talented and motivated students and exposing them to an enriched environment that emphasizes academic professional and personal growth and development
- Uses C.M. Haywood's "Success Points Achievement Model" (SPAM).
- SPAM is conceptually organized around the notion that graduate success is an incremental process.
- This means that achievement can come in doses.
- At any stage in the graduate program, students can reach a "success point" – an important milestone on their trek towards that Ph.D.
- A success point can be such a feat as being accepted into the Ph.D. program, forming a committee, identifying an advisor, passing a difficult class, publishing an article, presenting at a conference, passing the qualifying exam and defending the thesis or dissertation.

Program G.R.A.D. Components

- Monthly mandatory seminars on conference presentations, dissertation writing, professional behavior, etc.
- Completion of Annual Progress Towards Completion Reports (APTC), which are used to determine where the fellows are in the program, identify specific problem areas (if any) and put in place action plans where necessary. Meet with the students annually about this report.
- Examples: (1) Identified consistent problems with writing process, so we conducted a writing seminar. (2) Student was having problems with advisor. Spoke with GAANN director in that department, who spoke with the advisor.
- Mentoring Program where we encourage strong faculty relations.

GAANN Fellows
Bi-Annual Report of Progress Towards
Completion of the Graduate Degree

Today's Date: _____
 Fellow Name _____ Department _____
 Ph.D. or Master's _____ Year Studies Began _____
 1st Year _____ 2nd Year _____ 3rd Year _____ 4th Year _____ 5th Year _____ 6th Year _____ 7th Year _____
 Current GPA _____ Type of Fellowship or Assistantship _____

Please respond to each question. Check N/A if the question does not refer to you this year.

A. Advisor/Professor Relationship

Advisor _____	Yes	No	NA
Are you receiving regular guidance from your major advisor or other professors?			
Do you meet with your advisor on a weekly basis?			
Do you meet with your advisor or other professors on a monthly basis?			
Are you assisting your advisor or other professors with their research?			
Do you communicate regularly with your advisor or other professors via e-mail?			
Do you have a good rapport with your advisor?			
Do you have a bad rapport with your advisor?			
Comments or explanations:			

B. Research & Professional Development

Research Topic _____	Yes	No	NA
Are you currently engaged in independent research?			
Are you currently engaged in collaborative research?			
Are you currently working on a conference presentation?			
Have you presented your research at a conference this academic year?			
Are you currently working on a publication in which you are the lead or only author?			
Are you currently working on a publication as a secondary author?			
Has any of your research been published this academic year?			
Comments or explanations:			

C: Course Work

	Yes	No	NA
Have you taken all of the required coursework for this year?			
Are you on track with all of your coursework?			
Are you off track with your coursework?			
Have you completed all of <u>your</u> coursework?			
Comments or explanations:			

D: Thesis / Dissertation

	Yes	No	NA
Have you selected a research topic?			
Have you formed a thesis/ dissertation committee?			
Has your major professor/ advisor approved your topic?			
Have you collected all the data for your project?			
Have you collected 50% of the data for your project?			
Are you encountering barriers to collecting the data for your project?			
Have you written an abstract for your project?			
Have you begun the writing process for your project?			
Are you encountering any barriers to the writing process?			
Are other people besides your committee members reading your material?			
Comments or explanations:			

E. Qualifying Exam

	Yes	No	NA
Have you met all of the requirements to qualify?			
Have you set a date to take the exam?			
Have you taken the exam?			
Did you pass the exam?			
Did you fail the exam?			
Do you have to retake the exam?			
Comments:			

F. Defense

	Yes	No	NA
Have you met all of the qualifications to defend?			
Have you set a defense date?			
Has your committee members approved the defense date?			
Has all of the proper paperwork been submitted to the department and Graduate Studies?			
Did you successfully defend?			
Did you fail the defense?			
Do you have to defend your project again?			
Comments or explanations:			

In the space below, please provide any additional comments or information about your progress towards completing your degree that may not have been addressed in the above survey.

Institutional Commitment

(IC) Critical for GAANN/Program

G.R.A.D. Success

- Executive Level
- Academic Dean Level
- Departmental Level
- Faculty
- Student Level

IC on the Executive Level

- President Ammons and the Board of Trustees have approved a policy which allows GAANN fellows and other graduate students to receive health insurance when they are teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs). Healthy students are productive students.
- Provost Harris is providing the funding for the insurance.
- The Vice President for Research has increased the amount of indirect costs to the principal investigator (PI), and those funds are being used to support research related travel, presentations and consultants (i.e., CPA who spoke to the fellows on filing taxes, dissertation writing consultant, etc).
- The VP for Research has a division of research services, which conducts grant management seminars, which our GAANN directors are strongly encouraged to attend.
- The SGSR works closely with the financial aid office to strategize on maximizing students' budget.
- The Financial Aid office has also set up a code for our fellows which helps monitor their FAFSA submission and helps determine their budget limit.
- The Graduate Dean publicly promotes the GAANN program in newsletters and other venues to ensure university-wide awareness.

IC on the Academic Dean's Level

- The SGSR works with the different academic deans in each GAANN area to collaborate on issues such as assignment of responsibilities for the GAANN coordinators in their units.
- The SGSR is currently working with deans and directors in each GAANN area to create a cross-disciplinary research methodology course that will be team taught.
- The Graduate Dean is working with the Graduate Council to devise language for the new admissions criteria that give departments more say in the weight placed on the GRE score.
- The Graduate Dean, as PI, commits a percentage of her time in-kind towards the management of the GAANN grant.
- The Graduate Dean has built cross-disciplinary alliances to address graduate student needs.

IC on the Academic Deans

- Through university funds provided by the Provost, the SGSR covers tuition, fees and assistantships to other students to meet the GAANN matching requirement.
- The Graduate Dean and the VP for Sponsored Research have established an account, which partially supports the new F.A.C.T.O.R. Program, which provides faculty with funds to recruit GAANN students at conferences that promise a large student turn-out.
- The SGSR and other academic areas provided complete funding for fellows, when the GAANN funding ended.
- The SGSR has GAANN fellows display their research at the Annual Graduate Student Reception, which usually draws 400-450 graduate students, graduate faculty and undergraduate students.
- In fact, for this reception, the Provost suspends all graduate classes on this evening and encourages the professors to escort the classes to the reception.

IC on the Departmental Level

- Each GAANN area has a GAANN coordinator
- Each GAANN area is involved directly with recruitment of GAANN fellows. This year funds for the F.A.C.T.O.R. program will be used.
- Each GAANN area hosts one of the required monthly seminars.
- Each GAANN area assists with the assessment of the Progress Toward Completion Reports.
- Each GAANN area has a coordinator, who collects data and assists in the writing process for each grant.

IC on the Faculty Level

- Faculty members work closely with the graduate dean to write the discipline-specific components of the proposal.
- Faculty members actively recruit GAANN fellows.
- Faculty members ensure that the progress reports are completed and assessed.
- Faculty members monitor GAANN fellow progression in the programs.
- Faculty members assist students with conference presentations and publications.

IC on the Student Level

- Each student is committed to adhering to the compliance standards.
- Each student is committed to attending seminars.
- Each student is committed to completing the APTC each semester.
- Each student is committed to mentoring undergraduates when possible.
- Each student is committed to receiving the Ph.D.

Commitment is Key

- DOE's commitment to graduate education
- GAANN program's commitment to ensuring graduate studies in areas of national need
- The institution's commitment to graduating top scholars who meet these national needs
- GAANN Program Director and Coordinators' commitment to carrying out program goals