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Needs Assessment of Graduate Student Support Services at Western Washington University


Megan Spiegel

Western Washington University, megan.spiegel@wwu.edu

Trista Truemper

Western Washington University

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Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Residency 2017 Project Summary

Authors

Megan Spiegel and Trista Truemper

Project Title

Needs Assessment of Graduate Student Support Services at Western Washington University

Project Description

While there is a growing interest in graduate and professional programming, there is a paucity of research that specifically addresses the needs of master's students. Our research aims to understand what graduate students need professionally and personally to enhance their academic experience and help them meet future goals, and how Western can better address those needs.

Project Design

Qualitative data sources will include focus group sessions and one-on-one interviews with currently matriculating graduate students at Western Washington University. We will be using Grounded Theory methods and inductive reasoning in our approach to understanding graduate student experiences. Our team will also incorporate secondary data sources including a comparison of Exit Survey data from recent undergraduate and graduate student cohorts.

Next Steps

Report for the Associate Dean and Dean of the Graduate School, Graduate Council and the Graduate Student Advisory Council. Our objective is to accurately assess graduate student needs, identifying areas for enhanced programming and/ or resources for both short term and long-term initiatives.