



EMORY | LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL



2025 Dean's Address

April 2, 2025

Kimberly Jacob Arriola, PhD, MPH

Dean, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies

Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement



Land Acknowledgment

Emory University acknowledges the Muscogee (Creek) people who lived, worked, produced knowledge on, and nurtured the land where Emory's Oxford and Atlanta campuses are now located. In 1821, fifteen years before Emory's founding, the Muscogee were forced to relinquish this land. We recognize the sustained oppression, land dispossession, and involuntary removals of the Muscogee and Cherokee peoples from Georgia and the Southeast. Emory seeks to honor the Muscogee Nation and other Indigenous caretakers of this land by humbly seeking knowledge of their histories and committing to respectful stewardship of the land.

University Leadership & LGS Executive Council



Gregory Fenves
President, Emory University



Lanny Liebeskind
Interim Provost, Emory University



Walter Rucker
African American Studies & History



Jessica Wells
Nursing



Lynne Huffer
Philosophy



Tamara Caspary
Genetics and Molecular Biology & Neuroscience



Danielle Jung
Political Science



Thomas Rogers
History



Dorian Arnold
Computer Science & Informatics



Sara McPhee
Art History



Cari Jo Clark
Global Health and Development

Honoring the Legacy of President Carter

President Jimmy Carter attends breakfast at the Houston Mill House with Emory President James T. Laney in 1983. (Emory Photo/Video)



Emory Mission

To create, preserve, teach, and apply knowledge in the service of humanity

LGS Vision

Laney is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in advancing academic excellence through innovative scholarship, research, teaching, and programming that prepares a diverse and inclusive graduate student body for success as leaders and in service to the global good.

James T. Laney

President Emeritus, Emory University

“...our institutions are made up of intricate congeries of relationships and networks that sustain them like the capillaries do the body, and there must be a flow among them, a reciprocity and a willingness to share the burdens as well as the success.”



Graduate Education

A changing federal landscape



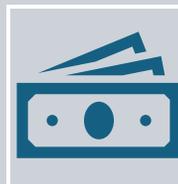
682 doctoral students received support from sponsored grants this fiscal year



75 doctoral students are supported by F30/F31 and F99 grants



36 doctoral students have active National Science Foundation – Graduate Research Fellowship Program grants



94 doctoral students are supported by T32 institutional training grants

"The place in which I'll fit
will not exist
until I make it."

- James Baldwin



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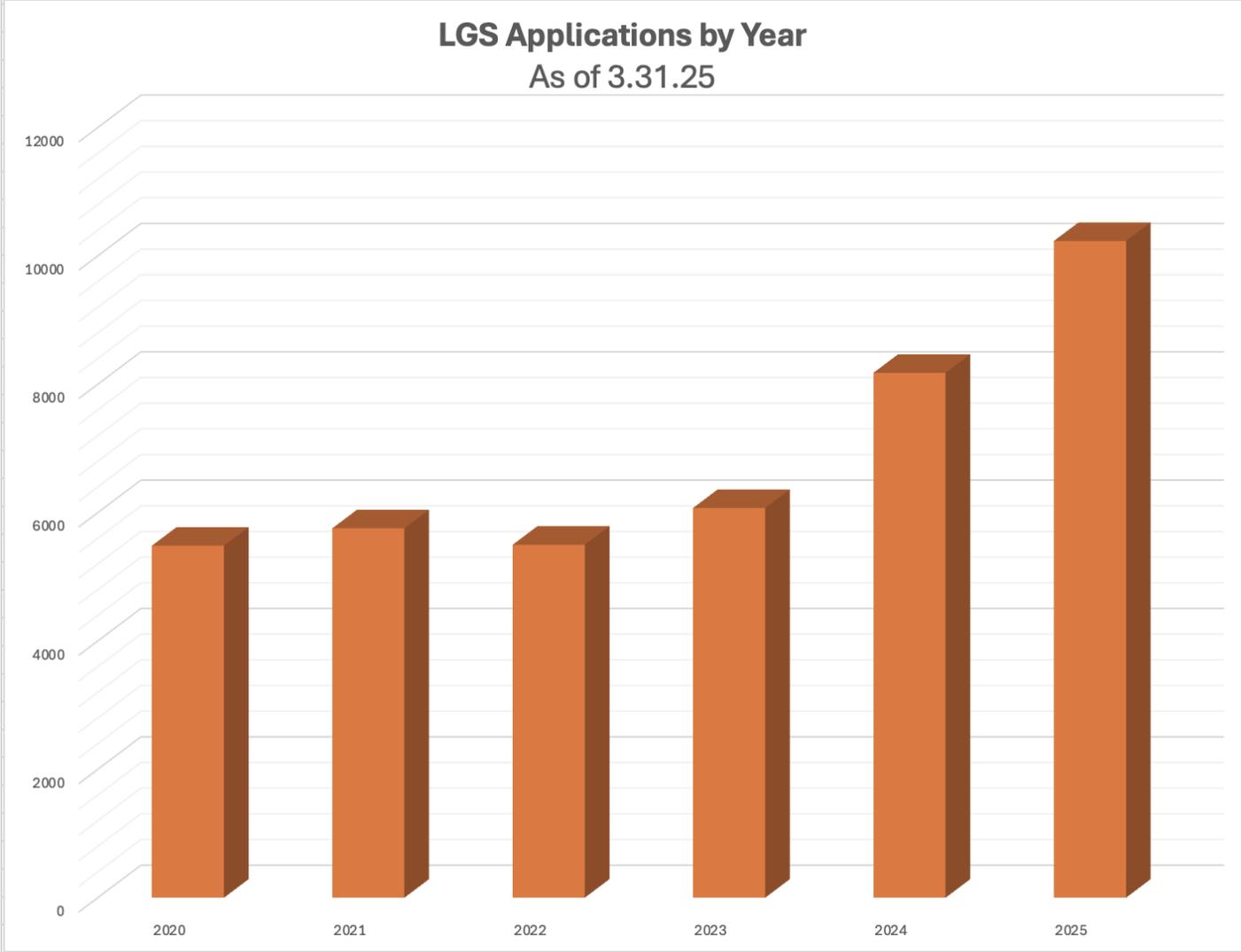
Our Foundation, Our Future: Reaffirming our Commitment



Doctoral Student Unionization



Applications on the Rise





New Degree Program

Environmental Science and Society



2025 Dean's Address



The Ridge Graduate & Professional Student Housing



Strategic Framework



WHO WE ARE: OUR VISION

Laney is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in advancing academic excellence through innovative scholarship, research, teaching, and programming that prepares a diverse and inclusive graduate student body for success as leaders and in service to the global good.

WHAT WE CARE ABOUT: OUR MISSION

The mission of the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies is to promote discovery and enduring knowledge by preparing innovative, thoughtful leaders in research, scholarship, teaching, and practice in service to the global good.

Promote Interdisciplinary Academic Opportunities

Expand our delivery of quality master's education programs as well as certificate programs and other types of credentialing

Support the shared methodological foundations of graduate programs to strengthen the student academic experiences

Enable Inclusive Environments

Implement a faculty mentoring initiative that facilitates inclusive graduate student mentoring

Implement comprehensive preparation to support the academic success of students from historically underrepresented and underserved communities

Develop and implement a graduate student flourishing initiative

Create a formalized pipeline with Atlanta University Schools to LGS for masters and doctoral education

Facilitate Impactful Scholarship

Foster interactions across students and faculty from different intellectual communities

Develop and implement a comprehensive grant writing program that prepares students to successfully compete for federal and foundation grant opportunities

Formalize a program that offers opportunities for experiential learning globally and domestically



Promote Interdisciplinary Opportunities



69 Master's Students

Bioethics	Biomedical Innovation & Development – Advanced Therapeutics	Cancer Biology & Translational Oncology	Concentrated areas of growth in master's students		
			 Computer Science	 Economics	 Quantitative Theory and Methods
Clinical Research	Computer Science	Development Practice	New Program In Development		
Economics	Mathematics	Quantitative Theory and Methods	 MS in Economics	 MS in Economics & AI	

Enable Inclusive Environments



Dawn Comeau, PhD
Research Associate
Professor



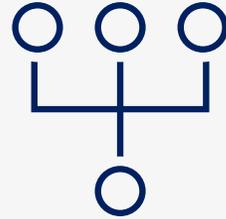
A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a red sweater and a pearl necklace, is leaning forward and laughing heartily in a classroom. She is surrounded by other students seated at desks. The background is slightly blurred, showing a typical classroom setting with students and papers on desks.

Facilitate Impactful Scholarship: The Importance of Grant Writing

Strategic Framework : How we Do It



Incorporate Students Voices



Achieve Operational Excellence



Create a Culture of Collaboration



Staff Engagement and
Development



Foster Alumni and Donor
Engagement

Outstanding Laney Alumni



Amelia Conrad, 2016
Master's in Development Practice
Director of Impact, Frontier Design
Atlanta, Georgia



Morgan Z. Faison, 2016
PhD in Educational Studies
Clinical Associate Professor
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia



Sam Friedlander, 2018
Master's in Development Practice
Senior Manager, Advocacy & Policy,
Humanitarian Programs
Sesame Workshop
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Esther Joe, 2013
Master's in Development Practice
Foreign Service Officer
(U.S. Diplomat)
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC



Chelsea A. Jackson, 2018
M.A in Political Science
Founder of Equity Architects
Oxford, England

Celebrating the Laney Graduate School Community



Gerri Thomas, Senior Accountant
30-year anniversary



Tamika Hairston, Director of Enrollment & Record Processes
25-year anniversary

Rahimjon Abdugafurov, 2020
Muslim Chaplain and Director of
Interfaith Academic Partnerships
at Emory, graduated from Laney
with a PhD in Islamic Civilizations
Studies.





Celebrating our Students



Haley Roy

History
Fulbright Award



Yemko Pryor

Genetics & Molecular Biology
Kharen Fulton Award



Alex Soltoff

Health Services Research & Health Policy
Published in JAMA



A photograph of a graduation ceremony. In the center, a young woman with a joyful expression is wearing a blue graduation cap and gown with a gold stole. She is holding a white smartphone. Surrounding her are other graduates in similar regalia, some in focus and others blurred in the background. A sign with the number '114' is visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is celebratory and bright.

Looking Forward
to the Future

Thank You!

Questions:

lgdean@emory.edu





2025 LGS AWARDS

4:30 - 6 p.m.

April 10, 2025

Convocation Hall

