

Focus Group Work Plan for 2024

Name of Focus Group: **Graduate Directors Focus Group**

Chair/Co-chairs: **Alan Taylor**

Chair/Co-chairs email: **tayloral@ecu.edu**

1. Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during at the next NCFR Annual Conference?

Yes No

2. If Yes, please list or attach tentative agenda.

We plan to hold our regular focus group meeting during the conference.

- (a) Introductions
- (b) Graduate Program Successes and Challenges
- (c) Tools for effectively provide an inclusive education
- (d) Tools to access quality applications for admissions
- (e) Graduate program assessment tools and suggestions.

3. Please list 2023 focus group goals/projects/aspirations.

2023 Goals:

- 1. We plan to meet 2 times throughout the year as a group of Graduate School Directors to support, bounce off ideas with each other, and to discuss successful program practices.
- 2. Provide a safe and effective environment for directors to share their successes and frustrations – without feeling like they have to be competing with other universities for students and resources. We want to continue to be like a “Support-Group” for each other at our meetings.
- 3. We had planned to change the chair in 2023, but the person most interested in being the chair did not show up at our Focus Group Meeting. We will be looking to change the Focus Group Leader in November 2024

4. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions, or concerns regarding the role of this focus group in furthering NCFR’s inclusion and diversity initiatives.

This focus group is an opportunity for our Graduate Program Directors to gather to discuss how we can improve and strengthen graduate education in the areas of Human Development & Family Science and Marriage & Family Therapy. Our conversations regularly are centered on how to meet the needs of our diverse graduate student populations and how to bring in more diversity within each of our programs. We have discussed ways to increase program admissions practices for BIPOC students to increase inclusion and equality of diverse student populations

5. Please list any areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.

None at this time.

6. Are there any other concerns or questions that have come from the 2023 focus group annual meeting?

We had a good discussion about the role and effectiveness of recruiting at the University Reception. We would like to talk to the 2024 program chair about locations and ways to have recruiting discussions with prospective students. (See some comments below in minutes)

Attach your **2023 annual meeting minutes** to this form and return by **December 1, 2022** to the membership manager, Maddie Hansen – maddiehansen@ncfr.org.

[NCFR 2023: BASIC MINUTES of the Graduate Program Directors Meetings](#)

10 people attended all or part of our focus group

Directors of Graduate Programs Focus Group

November 9, 2023

Welcome - Introductions

Name, Institution, programs directing, number of years in position

University Reception

This is really set up for showcasing universities and graduate programs- what can be done to make it better? Any suggestions I can give to the Board and 2024 Program Committee? It has been about the same for 15-20 years

Three program directors said they didn't pay for a table – too expensive based on ROI. Usually not getting many potential applicants.

Ashlie - it is important - could we do more to support undergraduates to come.

How could we get more UG to come - Could a portion of our reception fees go towards

Could we include a UG poster session that would funnel potential graduate students and NCFR members?

Potential employers? University position (developing professional development skills).

Is there another room to do interviewing? Large room with tables a designated time outside of the reception time – for a more quiet discussion (like the roundtable format)

Meet a graduate director or search committee chair - using Whova

Could Whova be used to help potential graduate students

Listing faculty at each university – with the grad director mark to be able to set up a meeting?

Maybe set up a Mentorship/Grad Director event??? - - sign up to sit at specific table - -

Maybe a Session on Friday UG or MS students can register/sign up. - - meet with Grad Directors

Sign in sheets for drawing are not helpful to recruiting - we spend time describing our programs to those who have no interest in our program. They just want our signatures for the drawings.

Collect data - Could those who attend NCFR indicate WHY they care coming and what they hope to get from it. Can they indicate that they are interested in enrolling in a PhD graduate program or seeking a job for spring or fall.

Ted asked a question a few months ago -

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Many program directors shared their process and gave suggestions to make them more of an effective tool.

New Topic:

- AI/CGT. - what are your programs doing to work with AI or prohibit AI use?

We discussed this topic and brought out concerns, but also ways to effectively utilize it in our programs.

We read an excerpt from a journal article that discussed the trend of AI collecting human-like research data that replaces the need for human responses. We express our need to be cautious with the validity of graduate student research

- New Focus Group Chair
 - WE DIDN'T GET TO THIS POINT - Dr Erika Grelesky (VT) offered to take over this section as the new Focus Group Chair - ANYONE ELSE INTERESTED? Do we want to set terms or just let it go until Chair gets tired?!?!