

SSSA Divisions of Interest

Our Divisions are specialized groups of interest, giving you the opportunity to develop focused peer networks and information resources. You may be a member of as many Divisions as you have an interest in:

Fundamental Soil Science Group

- Pedology
- Soil Biology & Biochemistry
- Soil Chemistry
- Soil Mineralogy
- Soil Physics

Agricultural Soil & Food Systems Group

- Nutrient Management & Soil & Plant Analysis
- Soil & Water Management & Conservation
- Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition

Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group

- Forest, Range, & Wildland Soils
- Soils & Environmental Quality
- Urban & Anthropogenic Soils
- Wetland Soils

Education & Practicing Professionals Group

- Consulting Soil Scientists
- Soil Education & Outreach

Learn More about Membership and Join Today!

www.soils.org/gradstudents



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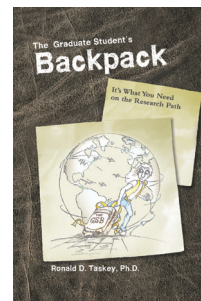
Heading to Grad School?

This is a must read!

Graduate Student Backpack

As a graduate student, you must select a graduate committee, plan course work, find an original research topic, and design a research plan that ultimately leads to a defensible thesis or series of publishable research articles. Whether a you plan a research career or not, you typically must complete an original, independent, analytical study. This process-oriented manual holds the fundamentals needed to trek the graduate school path—it is a “backpack” filled with the requirements, tips, warnings, and enough humor to help students make the most of the journey.

Ronald D. Taskey, author. 208 pages, 2012



Join today and take advantage of your member discount!



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Graduate Student Membership

Your Future



Your Career

Your Success



The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is the premier organization for Soil Science and Soil Scientists. As a graduate student member, you join more than 6,000 scientists from around the globe, including more than 1,500 graduate students.

With your membership, you have access to resources and services that will open doors and help build your career!

Everything you need to build your career...

- Free, confidential CV/resume posting on the Career Placement website,
- Membership in SSSA Divisions of Interest,
- Listing in the membership directory, which is searched by potential employers,
- Notification of scholarship, fellowship, and award opportunities,
- Access to the leading certification program for soils professionals,
- Student rates for the Digital Library, books, and meeting registrations,
- Opportunities to publish in our journals and present at our Annual Meeting (visit acsmmeetings.org), and
- Building your resume through service on Society committees, publishing (subject to editorial review), and presenting at meetings.

**Graduate students are highly encouraged to join divisions and become involved in committee service.

Scholarships & Fellowships

Francis and Evelyn Clark Soil Biology Scholarship—recognizes a student working in the field of soil biology, biochemistry, or microbial ecology.

Congressional Science Fellowship—The recipient of this prestigious fellowship spends one year in Washington, DC, applying their professional and scientific expertise as a special assistant on the staff of a member of Congress, or Congressional Committee. \$60,000 stipend. **Opens October 1**

Future Leaders in Science Award—Selected graduate students participate in Congressional Visits Day—visiting the staff and members of Congress in Washington, DC. Travel, hotel, and meal expenses are covered.

Contests & Competitions

SSSA Divisions of Interest encourage graduate students to build and sharpen their presentation skills while presenting their research. Most take place at the SSSA Annual Meeting.

- Soil Chemistry—*Oral and Poster*
- Soil Physics and Hydrology—*Lightning Orals with Poster Presentations*
- Soil Physics (joint with ASA Community—Biophysical Measurements and Sensors)—*Poster*
- Soil Biology & Biochemistry—*Poster*
- Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition/Nutrient Management & Soil & Plant Analysis—*Oral and Poster*
- Pedology—*Oral and Poster*
- Soil and Water Management and Conservation—*Paper and Poster*
- Forest, Range and Wildland Soils—*Poster*
- Soil Mineralogy—*Oral and Poster, Travel Grant*
- Urban and Anthropogenic Soils—*Poster*
- Wetland Soils—*Oral and Poster*
- Soil & Environmental Quality—*Paper*

Graduate Programming at the SSSA Annual Meetings

In addition to contests, competitions, and scientific talks at the Annual Meeting there are special sessions - developed by graduate students, for graduate students - such as :

- Graduate Student Leadership Conference (via application process)
- Career Opportunities in NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)
- Graduate Student Networking Session - Building Professional Relationships
- So What's Next? A Panel Discussion on Career Opportunities
- Symposium-Soil Science Research in the 21st Century
- Science Policy in Action!

The Early Career Professionals Committee also encourages students to attend their sessions at the Annual Meeting. Past topics have included:

- Secrets to Surviving Your First Year on the Job
- Tips from the Experts on the Job Application and Interviewing Process
- Writing Manuscripts for Publication
- Good Mentors are Made, Not Born
- Grant Writing Workshop for Early Career Members



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