



GTA reductions in the College of Arts & Sciences

From Office of Communications & Marketing <ocm@louisville.edu>

Date Fri 2/20/2026 10:41 AM

To Office of Communications & Marketing <ocm@louisville.edu>

Dear University of Louisville Community,

We are writing to correct misinformation circulating publicly regarding recent Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) reductions in the College of Arts & Sciences.

All graduate student-serving colleges at the university were affected by mandated GTA reductions, announced with extremely limited lead time. Across the institution, only open GTA lines were eligible for reduction, significantly constraining available options.

Within Arts & Sciences, decisions were based on a comprehensive review of program performance data, impact on undergraduate instruction and strategic academic needs. This analysis and the resulting decisions were communicated transparently and in full to all department chairs and directors of graduate study at the time of the announcement.

As explained then, temporary admissions pauses were additional considerations for three PhD programs. One program had paused admissions in 2025 to focus on curriculum adjustments and was protected from GTA cuts in 2026 so they could reopen admissions. For 2026, given the required reductions, performance data and the need for similar strategic planning, two doctoral programs paused admissions.

Public claims that the pause of doctoral admissions in Pan African Studies (PAS) reflects an effort to close or undermine the department are categorically false. The PAS PhD program has faced several years of low applications and enrollments, resulting in all allocated GTA lines for 2026 being unfilled. While seven students were admitted in 2025, only one accepted, and that student was ultimately unable to enroll. Because only unfilled GTA lines were eligible for reduction, these lines were returned to the Graduate School for 2026.

The announcement to A&S departments openly communicated that this admissions pause was intended to be used strategically, particularly to address enrollment declines in the undergraduate PAS major — from 30 majors in 2020 to 7 majors in spring 2026 — and the associated budgetary pressures. Strengthening undergraduate enrollment is central to the department's long-term vitality and mission.

It is also important to note the harmful impact of misinformation on our students. Public calls for students interested in Black Studies to avoid the university, as have been widely and frequently communicated in recent months, will only serve to further depress enrollment in this historic program, undermining the growth necessary to sustain its impact.

At the time of the college-wide GTA communication, the department chair of PAS was also contacted directly and invited to meet individually and with the department to plan enrollment growth and program development. While an individual meeting occurred, a department-level meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The College of Arts & Sciences remains fully committed to supporting student engagement in Pan-African Studies, particularly at the undergraduate level which represents the heart of our institutional mission. These decisions were made with the long-term health of our academic programs and students squarely in mind.

Sincerely,

Gerry Bradley
President

Katie Cardarelli
Executive Vice President and University Provost

Dayna Touron
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences