

# Steven Matson, Ph.D.

Dean, The Graduate School, Professor, Biology at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Dean, The Graduate School,

Professor, Biology Department

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Steve Matson has served as dean of The Graduate School since 2008. He joined the UNC-Chapel Hill faculty in 1983.

Matson also is a professor in the Department of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, where he served as chair from 2002 to 2008. A biochemist by training, his research focuses on DNA repair, conjugative DNA transfer and the enzymatic mechanisms and biological roles of DNA helicases.

A recognized leader in the administration of graduate education, Matson is president elect of the North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools and chair elect of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Board.

He is a recipient of the American Cancer Society Faculty Research Award and has served as a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the American Cancer Society, in addition to a wide range of journals including the Journal of Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the Journal of Biological Chemistry, where he was an editorial board member from 2000 to 2005.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, Matson has taught a variety of courses, including Current Topics in Biology, Advanced Molecular Biology, Advanced Cell Biology and honors sections of Genetics and Molecular Biology. A past recipient of UNC-Chapel Hill's Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Matson has served on a number of campus committees.

As dean of The Graduate School, he has led interdisciplinary efforts focused on extending critical support to graduate students, including creation of a Summer Research Fellowship program focused on academic areas where summer funding is limited and creation of the Richard Bland Fellowship Professional Pathways Program, for student internships that explore specific non-faculty career paths.

Matson and his graduate dean colleagues across North Carolina implemented Graduate Education Day at the Capitol in 2011.

A native of Coos Bay, Ore., Matson earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Colgate University. His master's and doctoral degrees are from the University of Rochester, both in biochemistry.

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Biotechnology, Research, Education/Learning, Professional Training and Coaching

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Biology, Cells, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Graduate Education, Professional Development

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American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Microbiology, Sigma Xi

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**Colgate University**  
B.A. Mathematics

**University of Rochester**  
M.S. Biochemistry

**University of Rochester**  
Ph.D. Biochemistry

**Harvard Medical School**  
Postdoctoral Biological Chemistry

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**UNC Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**

The award was established to recognize excellence in inspirational teaching of undergraduate students, particularly first- and second-year students.

**Chair Elect, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Board of Directors**

The GRE Board, an independent board, is affiliated with the Association of Graduate Schools (AGS) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). The GRE Board oversees GRE tests, services and research in consultation with its committees. The Board establishes all policies for the GRE Program, administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

**President Elect, the North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools**

The North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools includes 22 campuses and offers more than 800 master's, doctoral and first professional degree programs in a wide variety of fields, including degrees in high-need areas such as education, social work, engineering, nursing, biomedical and pharmaceutical fields, among others,

**Past Member, Council of Graduate Schools Board of Directors**

Made up of more than 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada and 25 universities outside the United States and Canada, the CGS's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, through advocacy in federal policy, research and the development and dissemination of best practices.

**Member, TOEFL Board**

The purpose of the TOEFL Board is to advise the Educational Testing Service (ETS) on the policies related to the TOEFL program and to provide insights on trends in international higher education. The TOEFL test is an English-language test recognized by more than 9,000 colleges, universities and agencies in more than 130 countries, including Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the United States.

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