



PPOHA

"PROMOTING GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING"

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Since October 2024, we have been blessed with the approval of our PPOHA proposal, Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Graduate Opportunities through Distance Learning, supported by a \$3 million budget originally scheduled for implementation from 2024 to 2029. During this first year of execution, our institution has successfully achieved the proposed objectives, and we remain profoundly grateful to God for this opportunity and for the support received from our university community.

Regrettably, in this newsletter corresponding to the July-September 2025 quarter, we must announce that we have received an official Notice of Discontinuation of the Title V grant. This decision, communicated on September 11, 2025, by the U.S. Department of Education under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) program for Title V, Parts A and B, applies to all federally subsidized proposals under this initiative. Consequently, our project will formally conclude in March 2026, following a six-month closing phase.

Despite this unexpected development, we wish to highlight the significant progress and achievements accomplished through the PPOHA project. Over the past year, we have strengthened graduate opportunities and enhanced the institution's capacity for distance learning, aligning with our mission and vision. Looking forward, as the Project director, I will dedicate the closing phase to implementing a structured plan of action, which includes documenting outcomes, finalizing reports, and ensuring the sustainability of selected initiatives beyond the grant's life.

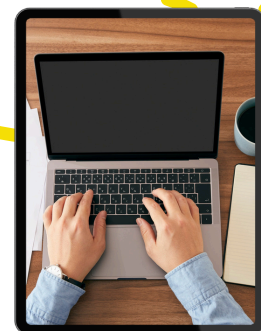
We express our deepest gratitude to God for allowing us to serve through this project.



TAKE A BREAK, CONNECT!

The Lord demands uprightness in the smallest as well as in the most significant matters. Those who are accepted at last as members of the heavenly court will be men and women who here on earth sought to carry out the Lord's will in every particular, who sought to put the impress of heaven upon their earthly labors. (CT 59.1)

Although the discontinuation of funding represents a challenging transition, we remain firmly committed to the values and goals that inspired our work from the outset. It is our prayer that during this six-month closing period, we continue to serve faithfully and lay the groundwork for future opportunities that will benefit our students, faculty, and broader community.



Blessings to all,

Zilma E. Santiago Pabón, PhD

PPOHA PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS, NON-COST EXTENSION ACTION PLAN, AND INSTITUTIONAL FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Since its approval in October 2024, the PPOHA project *Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Graduate Opportunities through Distance Learning* has played a transformative role in expanding graduate education and strengthening institutional capacity at Universidad Adventista de las Antillas. With a \$3 million award originally spanning 2024–2029, the project has successfully advanced key objectives during its first year, laying a strong foundation for the future.

Achievements to Date

The accomplishments of the PPOHA project reflect a broad impact across academic programs, student services, faculty development, and infrastructure:

- Graduate Academic Programs: Approval of the MSN in Critical Care and Elderly Care (July 2025), the MBA in Human Resources (April 2025), and the Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology (June 2025), all launching in November 2025. The Graduate Certificate in Skin & Wound Care was submitted to the Puerto Rico Board of Postsecondary Institutions in September 2025.
- Graduate Student Services: Completion of the Graduate Student Needs Assessment (Spring 2025), leading to the development of a Comprehensive Student Support Plan.
- Faculty Development: A comprehensive needs assessment led to the launch of the Faculty Professional Development Initiative. Faculty completed training in AI-enhanced learning, prompt engineering, and online teaching, with an overall 70% completion rate by September 2025.
- Graduate Center Modernization: Phase I modernization completed, including technological infrastructure upgrades, relocation of the Graduate Center to the library (CREG), and procurement of key academic resources such as Cengage, ClinicalKey, Zoom, and ProQuest databases.

These accomplishments, achieved with dedication and collaboration, highlight the institution's commitment to graduate excellence and student success.

Non-Cost Extension Action Plan

Following the federal Notice of Discontinuation of Title V grants, the project was granted a six-month non-cost extension through March 31, 2026. This extension will ensure the orderly completion of activities and full accountability for resources. Key priorities include:

- Curriculum Development: Finalizing three graduate programs—Graduate Certificates in ABA Clinical, ABA Educational, and Elderly Care—aligned with accreditation standards and delivered through Moodle.
- Graduate Center Modernization: Completing physical upgrades, addressing technological infrastructure needs, and equipping the Skin and Wound Care Simulation Lab.
- Student Support and Scholarships: Awarding 20 scholarships for the first cohort of students enrolled in the newly approved graduate programs beginning November 2025.
- Faculty Development: Increase overall completion rate from 70 % to 75%.
- SIS/CRM Implementation: Installing the Orbund Einstein platform to centralize student services, improve data management, and strengthen retention and success strategies.
- Accountability and Evaluation: Ensuring compliance through external evaluation, inventory finalization, and submission of all financial, performance, and programmatic reports.

Future Institutional Directions

Although the discontinuation of federal funding represents a challenge, the institution remains steadfast in its mission to prepare competent, values-driven graduate professionals.

Gratitude

We extend our deepest appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, and administrators whose dedication has made these achievements possible. Above all, we give thanks to God, whose providence and guidance have sustained us throughout this journey. While the closure of the PPOHA project in March 2026 marks the end of one chapter, it also signals the beginning of new opportunities. The seeds planted through PPOHA will continue to bear fruit, strengthening the university's mission to serve as a hub of innovation, inclusion, and graduate education for years to come.

With gratitude and hope,
Dr. Zilma E. Santiago Pabón



PPOHA ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024-2005

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MSN in Critical Care and Elderly Care → Approved by BPI July 2025 Launching Nov. 2025

New MBA in Human Resources → Approved by BPI April 2025 Launching Nov. 2025

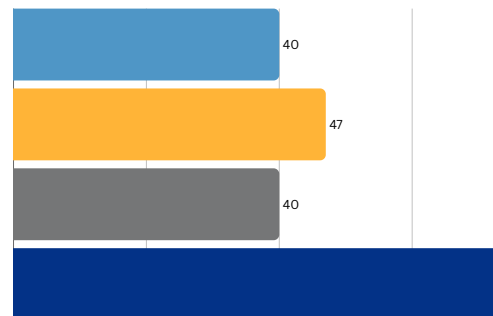


Educational Technology Approved by BPI June 2025 Launching Nov. 2025

Skin and Wound Car Submitted Sept. 2025

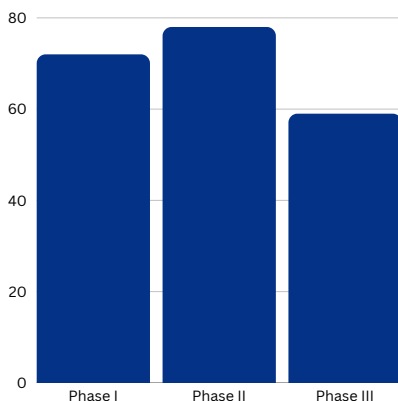
GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES FINDINGS

● Isolation ● Anxiety ● Unaware Psychosocial Services
● Value Faculty Accessibility and Inclusivity



Action Plan:
Comprehensive Student Support Plan (CSSP) prepared → Psychosocial, legal aid & financial counseling begin Nov. 2025 through Optimind services.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

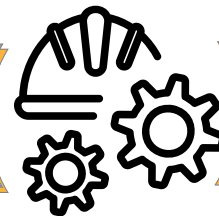


Faculty Needs Assessment IRB approved
AI Certification and Prompt Engineering Workshop and Certification

70%
Overall
Completion
Rate

GRADUATE CENTER & TECHNOLOGY

Phase I of Technological Infrastructure modernization completed .



Graduate Center relocating to CREG (library) → modernization with advanced technologies, and support areas .

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Criteria & processes established (100%) .
- Target: **20** scholarships for first cohort in Nov. 2025 .
5 students per new program.



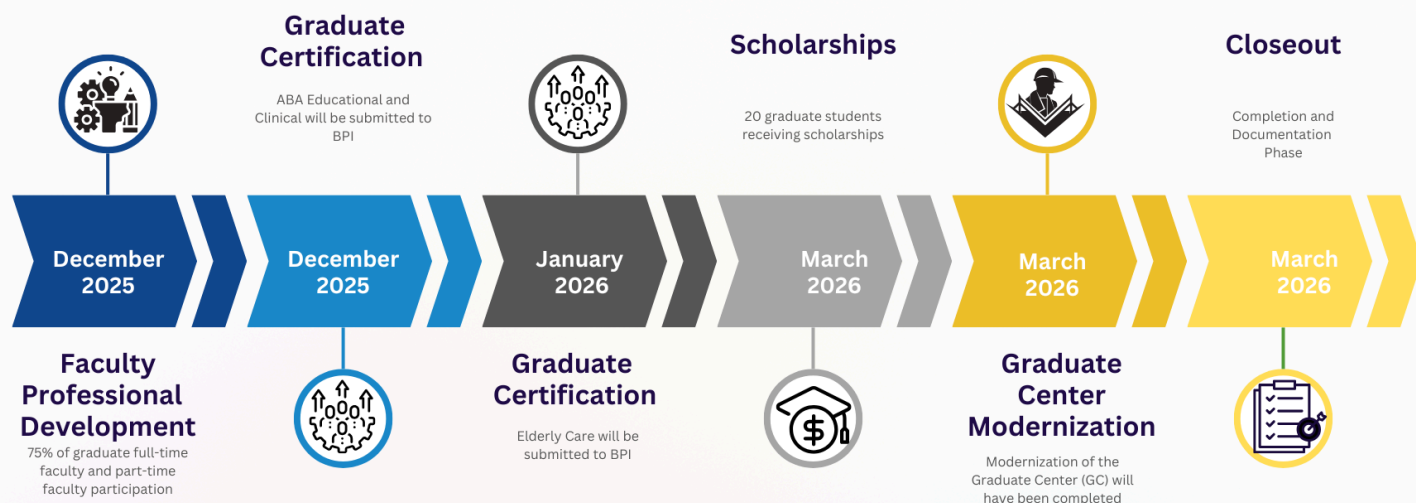
***It is hard to fail,
but it is worse
never to have
tried to
succeed!***

Theodore Roosevelt

Antillean Adventist University Plan for the PPOHA NON COST EXTENSION TIMELINE

"Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Graduate Opportunities Through Distance Learning"

P031M240020
Oct 1, 2025-March 31, 2026



Scholarships Available!

Are you pursuing a master's degree or graduate certification at Antillean?

The PPOHA Project is offering special scholarships of **\$626** for eligible graduate students enrolled in our new PPOHA online programs.

- Scholarship applies to the trimester from November to January/ February to April enrollment only.
- Available exclusively for graduate students who meet eligibility requirements.

Who Can Apply?

- Hispanic students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Those who meet specific eligibility requirements (outlined in the application form).

What We're Looking For?

Your application will be evaluated based on:

- GPA
- Financial need (FAFSA)
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

How to Apply

- Fill out the eligibility form.
- Submit your GPA, recommendation letters, and personal statement.
- The PPOHA Scholarship Committee will review your application and notify you if selected.

Don't miss this opportunity to support your graduate studies!



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www.uaa.edu/proyecto-ppoha



GRADUATE CENTER *modernization*



Due to the closure of the project and the subsequent reduction in the allocated budget, the modernization efforts will be focused exclusively on the entrance area of the Graduate Center, located in the annex on the second level of the library.



This decision reflects the need to optimize the available resources while ensuring that the main access to the center presents a renewed and functional appearance, thereby achieving a significant improvement within the constraints of the limited scope.