My response to this question is yes, and focuses on the critical work graduate students from Humanities and Social Science graduate programs do in relation to our undergraduates here at the College. The graduate student population at William and Mary includes 500 stalwart souls in the Arts and Sciences, several cohorts from the School of Education, and professional students in the Law and Business Schools and VIMS.

The work that graduate students do with undergraduates is not always in the context of graduate programs. For instance graduate students serve as Teaching Assistants for larger survey courses in History, American Studies, and Anthropology, and they also serve as adjunct instructors in non-graduate programs like English, Film Studies, Literary and Cultural Studies, among others. Also, graduate students are central to the operations of other campus entities in which undergraduates are deeply involved - these include the National Institutes for American History and Democracy program that is during the summers a pre-collegiate venture enabling the College to recruit some of the finest Virginia students to our institution and during the academic year is a space for our undergraduates to take courses in material culture and early American history, do research in these classes, and potentially earn certificates in recognition of such study. Many humanities and social sciences graduate students work in these programs as advisors, instructors, and resources for the undergraduates throughout their research projects. [http://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/?svr=web](http://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/?svr=web)

There are numerous other examples I could offer and will reprise at the forum but the bottom line is that our graduate and professional students are vital contributors to the climate of life and learning at the College. They are mentors and students and they play a central role as teachers, advisers and learners in the “liberal arts” education that defines our College community.

Graduate students in Arts and Sciences are also critical members of the Sharp Community Scholars Program whose mission statement begins: "The Sharpe Community Scholars Program strives to support the development of select first-year students through the integration of academic studies, research and community engagement." This program is run out of the Charles Center (another "non-graduate" program).

Respectfully, Leisa Meyer