

STRATEGIC PLAN
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

MISSION

The Graduate School is the central administrative unit for LSU graduate education and the hub of all graduate programs. The Graduate School ensures quality educational programs, quality faculty mentors, and quality administrative support. As reflected in the Flagship 2020 mission, the mission of The Graduate School is to lead and support LSU to become a leading research-extensive university, challenging graduate students to achieve the highest levels of intellectual and personal development.

The Graduate School is committed to:

- supporting a broad array of graduate degree programs and extensive research opportunities designed to attract, educate, and graduate highly qualified students;
- supporting faculty who are excellent teacher-scholars, nationally competitive in research and creative activities, and who, with staff and students, contribute to solving economic, cultural, environmental, educational, and social challenges via development of new resources.

VISION

The Graduate School will become “output” driven in accordance with the Flagship 2020 agenda by diversifying support funding, advertising our success, and pushing into the top tier. The Graduate School will become an open hub supporting a network of colleges and departments to promote diverse growth and the highest level of scholarship.

VALUES:

- Service – efficiency and courtesy to faculty, students, and staff;
- Quality – monitoring graduate programs and faculty and the health, development, and mentoring of graduate students;
- Quantity – bringing LSU to the level of its peers in terms of our graduate/undergraduate ratio;
- Diversity – raising the cultural diversity of the graduate and faculty population;
- Engagement - engaging the community in LSU’s graduate programs and research initiatives.

GOALS:

SERVICE: The Graduate School will be more streamlined and efficient, a model service component.

Performance Indicators:

- Quality of audits of our services;
- Number of applicants/students served;
- Effectiveness of meetings/trainings held for faculty and staff;
- Customer comments on Virtual Systems;

Strategies:

- Implement the use of processing software so that The Graduate School becomes a fully online operation (e.g., recruiting and records processes);
- Implement changes to streamline processes as recommended by Policy and Procedures Review Committee;
- Implement “customer comment forms” for students, faculty and staff to receive feedback on service.

QUALITY: The Graduate School must work closely with programs to improve quality while also maintaining sufficient flexibility to accommodate the differences among disciplines.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of probational admits relative to total number of graduate students admitted – spring and fall;
- Number of “academic actions” per semester relative to total number of graduate students enrolled;
- Annual external research funding per graduate student enrolled;
- A better ratio of graduate students with stipends as part of the total number of graduate students.

Strategies:

- Employ the Graduate Council in periodic program review of our graduate degree programs;
- Coordinate recruiting visits with colleges to seek outstanding students;

- Promote programs at national meetings so that visibility is enhanced;
- Utilize the proposed Graduate School Dean's Advisory Committee to seek endowments and usable funds to support graduate students, targeting multidisciplinary programs;
- Develop more campus-wide multidisciplinary programs as minors or concentrations;
- Continue working with LSU Public Relations to promote The Graduate School.

QUANTITY: The number of graduate students must increase at LSU to be favorably comparable to our peer institutions. Thus, The Graduate School enrollment should be 20 percent of the total student population, or approximately 6,000 students, by 2020.

Performance Indicators:

- Increase enrollment by 100 additional students each year for next 10 years;
- Increase the number of graduate degrees, especially in STEM disciplines;
- Increase the number of undergraduates engaged in research;
- Increase retention rates of graduate students;
- Target the number of masters and doctorates awarded at 1200 and 300 respectively per year.

Strategies:

- Continue coordinating recruiting programs with colleges and departments, with focus on minority serving institutions especially in the South-Central US area;
- Promote STEM discipline programs and work with ORED to obtain federal funding for STEM program support;
- Support all graduate student associations on campus;
- Provide resources to enhance the graduate school experience (e.g., thesis/dissertation workshops, etc.);
- Continue collaboration with ORED and Cain Center for undergraduate research experience funding;
- Continue development of China and Korea dual-degree programs and promote exchange in those programs.

DIVERSITY: In collaboration with colleges and departments, The Graduate School seeks to double the population of underrepresented groups across the campus, and work with STEM discipline programs to improve gender and racial balance.

Performance Indicators:

- Increasing the percentage of African-American graduate students to 15% of total graduate student population;
- Increasing numbers of women in STEM disciplines;
- Establishing target numbers for other underrepresented groups;
- Increasing the number of students engaged in international dual-degree programs.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote financial and mentoring support for underrepresented groups, and seek additional funds;
- Continue to build the Dean's Advisory Committee to promote diversity;
- Establish networks with regional HBCUs to increase enrollment of their undergraduate students in The Graduate School;
- Continue to host on-campus programs for undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to introduce them to the University and their programs of interest;
- Continue working with Public Relations to "brand" The Graduate School, increasing its visibility at minority serving institutions and internationally.

ENGAGEMENT: The Graduate School will promote the incorporation of community, business and industry engagement within LSU's graduate programs, faculty, and students.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of graduate programs having direct ties with business and industry;
- Number of online programs and programs with accommodation for professionals;
- Establishment of an Entrepreneurship concentration campus-wide, initially in conjunction with the College of Engineering;

Strategies:

- The proposed Dean's Advisory Committee of The Graduate School will be tasked with providing increased links to industry, business, and the community;
- The Graduate School will promote and support online programs and adjustment of programs to meet the needs of working professionals, in concert with departments housing those efforts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES: All are Council of Graduate Schools, Washington, DC, publications.

- *Organization and Administration of Graduate Education*, 2004.
- *Graduate Education in 2020*, 2009.
- *Research Student and Supervisor*, 2009.
- *Graduate School and You*, 2010.
- *Joint Degrees, Dual Degrees, and International Research Collaboration*, 2010
- *The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States*, ETS and CGS, 2010.