

The University System of Georgia

VISION AND MISSION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

VISION

The vision of graduate study in the University System of Georgia is to be at the forefront of best practices in graduate education, providing exemplary learning environments in which to educate our next generation of scholars, teachers, professionals and global leaders.

MISSION

The mission of the University System of Georgia's Graduate Education is to contribute to the educational, cultural, economic, and social advancement of Georgia by providing excellent masters, professional, and doctoral degrees, by pursuing leading-edge basic and applied research, scholarly inquiry, and creative endeavors; and by functioning as a cultural resource for each institution's surrounding community. We will bring the full System's intellectual resources to bear on the needs of business, the general economic and social development of the state, and the continuing education of its citizens. Recognizing our responsibility to the citizens of the State of Georgia, we will fully cooperate in such a way that the breadth of graduate education meets the needs of the state, nation and world.

The University System of Georgia's Administrative Committee on Graduate Work (ACOGW) endorses a mission for the future of graduate education within the University System of Georgia predicated upon the following goals:

Goals for Graduate Education

- I. To ensure that all graduate students are educated by faculty who are at the forefront of teaching and research in their disciplines.
- II. To prepare students for leadership in a global society.
- III. To prepare students to communicate and apply knowledge in ways useful to society.
- IV. To educate students to venture beyond existing boundaries of knowledge.
- V. To offer programs which are sensitive and responsive to the cultural diversity of the state and the nation.
- VI. To ensure that institutions will cooperate at all levels to ensure the quality of graduate education.
- VII. To ensure that qualified students will have access to graduate education..
- VIII. To identify pre-college and undergraduate students with high academic potential and encourage them to pursue graduate study.

I. To ensure that all graduate students are educated by faculty who are at the forefront of teaching and research in their disciplines, we will:

- Ensure the availability of appropriate laboratory, studio, and research facilities for exemplary and visionary scholars and researchers in all academic disciplines that contribute to the advancement of economic development, the standard of living, and the quality of life of the state, nation and world populations.
- Ensure that innovative teaching strategies, technologies, and methodologies are used in a cooperative learning environment.
- Ensure the availability of, and access to, latest technologies and resources for system institutions' faculty and students in support of teaching, research, and professional programs.
- Ensure that USG faculty have access to and are encouraged to participate in ongoing faculty development activities.
- Encourage exceptional students to pursue teaching and research careers at USG institutions.

II. To prepare students for leadership in a global society, we will:

- Develop and strengthen partnerships with various constituencies including leaders in higher education, business, industry, finance, government, non-government organizations, and cultural agencies around the world to position the state as a world class economic, scientific, technical, cultural and artistic leader.

III. To prepare students to communicate and apply knowledge in ways useful to society, we will:

- Ensure that all graduates possess effective communication skills and that those engaged in preparing for careers in academics are provided training and other professorial and professional experience.

IV. To educate students to venture beyond existing boundaries of knowledge, we will:

- Endeavor to provide funding to support excellence in teaching, research, scholarly activity, community service, and continued professional growth. Offer graduate programs that are nationally accredited or that meet or have sought other standards of quality assurance where appropriate. Furthermore, each institution will ensure that these programs have clearly defined curricula and that all requirements can be met in a reasonable time-frame without sacrificing quality or breadth of the educational experience.

V. To provide a Graduate Education experience that is sensitive and responsive to the cultural diversity of the state, nation, and world, we will:

- Promote efforts to aggressively recruit and retain culturally diverse graduate faculties of recognized and talented scholars, researchers, and professionals.

- Promote efforts to actively recruit a culturally diverse and qualified graduate student population reflective of the state and the national population. USG institutions will work cooperatively to identify talented undergraduate students and aggressively promote graduate and professional study at Georgia institutions.
- Promote internationalization of graduate curricula within system institutions.

VI. To ensure that institutions will cooperate at all levels to ensure the quality of graduate education, we will:

- Cooperate and collaborate with state institutions to allow graduate students access to expert faculty across USG institutions to expand their graduate education experience.
- Establish special Centers of Advanced Study that bring together expert faculty and talented graduate students from system institutions.
- Support linkages between the research universities and state and regional universities to promote advanced graduate training, curriculum articulation and economic development

IX. To ensure that qualified students will have access to graduate education opportunities, we will:

- Endeavor to provide qualified Georgia students with access to graduate education opportunities regardless of their financial resources.
- Advocate for increased funding sources to support full- and part-time graduate students.
- Establish financial support, including stipends and health insurance, competitive with that of out-of-state institutions in an effort to recruit and retain the best and most talented graduate assistants.

VIII. To identify pre-college and undergraduate students with high academic potential and encourage them to pursue graduate study, we will:

- Partner with business, government, academic, and professional disciplines to implement enrichment opportunities for gifted elementary and secondary students and with undergraduate students at each USG institution. Encourage the development of a state-wide referral network to ensure that qualified students are informed about and have access to USG graduate programs and faculty.

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