Strategic Plan



The Graduate Council adopted the strategic plan on January 2022. This plan was developed with the purpose of aligning with and supporting key strategic goals and initiatives of the strategic plan for Youngstown State University.

**Mission**

*The College of Graduate Studies prepares diverse and highly skilled professionals, leaders, collaborators, and innovative thinkers through excellence in education, research, and creative field-related learning opportunities.*

**Overview of Key Services**

College of Graduate Studies Staff and Administration working with key personnel across the university landscape provide a number of key services in support of graduate education at Youngstown State University. As such, we assume responsibility for the following ~~key~~ fundamental strategic initiatives and key services:

* Admission of graduate students
* Actively promote and maintain a culture of diversity and inclusion and ensure outreach to underserved populations
* Maintain and implement graduate policies and procedures
* Maintain the YSU Graduate Catalog
* Work with Graduate Student Advisory Council, Graduate Council and other key stakeholders to enhance the college experience and success of graduate students.
* Support and recognize high quality graduate education and accreditation efforts
* Certify graduate students have fulfilled requirements for certificates and academic degrees
* Provide graduate program marketing in collaboration with Marketing Services, Deans, Faculty, students and others. This can include web-based, social media, and on and off-site marketing and other recruiting efforts to support graduate programs.
* Monitor graduate students’ academic progress and communicate accordingly
* Administer the Graduate Scholarship
* Administer Graduate Assistantship/Fellowships
* Approve Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations
* Facilitate continuous review and ongoing improvement of graduate programs
* Assist colleges, departments, faculty, and other key stakeholders with the development of new graduate programs and the enhancement of current graduate programs. This includes support and guidance in fulfilling approval processes and adhering to policies and guidelines of the Chancellor’s Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) and the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission

**ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

* Develop and Implement a College Student Recruitment Engagement Plan at the graduate level in Each College
	+ Reach out to YSU undergraduate students to inform them of opportunities in YSU graduate programs related to their current undergraduate discipline
	+ Expand availability of accelerated (4+1) programs where time and cost to obtain a graduate degree can be minimized
	+ Continue marketing and recruiting efforts in select virtual, social media, and on and off-site job and educational venues
* Develop a Strategic Enrollment Plan for Graduate Education
	+ Work with faculty to develop new and revise existing graduate programs that are needed and appropriate to the university mission, the regional need, and the target audience.
	+ Work with faculty, chairs and deans to utilize resources to enhance enrollment in current programs where program evaluation ~~suggest~~ warrants such efforts
	+ Continue to collaborate/partner with stakeholders and appropriate entities to market graduate programs
* Deploy graduate assistantships/fellowships strategically to recruit and retain well-qualified and high performing students in diverse disciplinary areas.
* Continue use of the Graduate Scholarship to recruit highly qualified new graduate students.
* Develop a Plan and Infrastructure to Increase Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollment through Cyberlearning strategies and opportunities

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCY**

* Develop a system for fairness in workload for faculty serving on or chairing graduate thesis and dissertation committees

**ACADEMIC DISTINCTION AND DISCOVERY OF KNOWLEDGE**

* Implement a continuous, purposeful strategy to improve teaching, learning and national research distinction
	+ Work with Graduate Council members to establish expectations of faculty working with students on thesis and dissertation committees
	+ Establish university policy and identify funds to provide remission of instructional fees and non-regional surcharge, etc. for all graduate assistantship fellowship stipends that are externally funded
	+ Promote and recognize faculty and graduate student scholarship
* Partner with faculty to develop internships, service, experiential and applied learning projects with regional businesses and organizations that provide relevant and meaningful opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in scholarship through field-based training activities

**DEVELOP A CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION THAT ENSURES THE OVERALL QUALITY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

Ongoing Assessment and Evaluation” that ensures the “overall” Quality of Academic Programs

* Collaborate with YSU graduate faculty to complete program effectiveness and enhancement reviews. This can include analyses of relevant and accurate metrics and rubrics to help identify high-quality and efficient graduate programs and to provide related recommendations for program improvement.