

# Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 1** To enhance GVSU capacity to provide a high-quality graduate educational experience, by raising the voice, visibility and status of graduate students within the university and community

## Objectives

1.1. To involve graduate students in the governance of graduate education and graduate student affairs: the design, policy-setting, and continuous improvement of the graduate offerings and experiences at GVSU

## Strategies

- 1.1.1. Gather data (focus groups, surveys) from graduate students to develop a graduate student profile and identify quality of life issues, needs, satisfaction level, and opportunities for improvement
- 1.1.2. Develop graduate student responsive communications via Blackboard, updated Graduate Bulletin, and other methods, to seek input and feedback
- 1.1.3. Develop graduate student focused organizations and activities, and explore interest, motivation to develop a graduate student governance group, and to participate more fully in program and university governance roles

# Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

## Goal 2 To develop a consistent, best practices system for governance of graduate education

### Objectives

2.1 To clearly align roles, responsibilities, and authority in graduate education

### Strategies

- 2.1.1 Identify issues that appear to relate to graduate education but are currently outside the sphere of influence or responsibility of the Graduate Studies Office and Graduate Dean: access to data, authority regarding graduate admission decisions and exceptions to policy related to graduate degree-seeking students, student grievances; Support more authority for Graduate Studies Office/Graduate Dean in such matters
- 2.1.2 Identify university-wide faculty and program governance issues that impact faculty in graduate programs that do not currently consider unique issues of graduate education (program directors role, graduate council role) in workload, program assessment, and related matters and propose resolution and involve 'graduate' faculty systematically in appropriate roles and governance units

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

2.1.3 Take systematic steps to educate and discuss unique issues and perspectives of graduate education with segments of GVSU community that impact or are impacted by graduate education

2.2 To develop university-wide quality standards for all graduate programs for student-related, program-related, and faculty-related matters

### Strategies

2.2.1 Gather data on graduate alumni, current graduate students, current faculty, competitor's programs, and community perceptions related to graduate program at GVSU to identify current strengths and weaknesses

2.2.2 Gather data on peer institutions: benchmark key graduate quality standards to those of an aspirational peer group

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

### Goal 3 To encourage and support active scholarship and service by faculty and students

#### Objectives

- 3.1 To develop mechanisms to support active faculty scholarship through workload, through external funding, and/or through research assistantship support

#### Strategies

- 3.1.1 Advocate for more graduate research assistantships to be awarded to graduate faculty to assist in their research activities
- 3.1.2 Assess peer benchmarks on workload for graduate faculty and support efforts to incorporate workload consideration of graduate responsibilities
- 3.2 To develop support earmarked for graduate student research

#### Strategies

- 3.2.1 Seek institutional funding through mechanisms to support graduate student researchers that contributes to the quality of research completed in meeting degree requirements

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

3.2.2 Assist faculty in seeking external funding support for graduate students, by providing university tuition grants to match externally funded student support

3.3 To encourage faculty and student research through awards and events that recognize their scholarship

### Strategies

3.3.1 Develop a 'graduate scholars' recognition event that recognizes quality graduate student research and excellent faculty research mentoring

3.3.2 Include recognition of graduate faculty scholarship in Graduate Studies and other university publications and publicity

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 4** To ensure that GVSU graduate programs clearly articulate ways in which they build on a liberal education

### Objectives

4.1 To define the common expectations for graduate programs related to liberal education and articulate more fully the ways that each program builds this philosophy into its unique curricular experiences

### Strategies

- 4.1.1 Survey to determine existing elements of liberal education that are already present within graduate programs
- 4.1.2 Develop shared definition of 'liberal education' for graduate level programs at GVSU
- 4.1.3 Prepare a document that expresses the graduate philosophy regarding liberal education

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 5** To build strong ties between GVSU graduate programs and organizational partners in the local community/region/state/nation/globe and their professions or disciplines that are mutually enriching

### Objectives

5.1 To determine nature and number of existing partnerships and collaborations that are in place, involving graduate faculty, programs, and/or students

### Strategies

- 5.1.1 Develop shared definition of partnership, collaboration and its role in quality graduate education and the role of university in the community
- 5.1.2 Assess who is doing what, with whom, and with what benefits for whom relative to external partners
- 5.1.3 Assess interests among faculty and programs and potentials for further partnering and/or collaborations that will strengthen GVSU's contributions to students and society

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 6** To support enrichment of the university through an inclusive graduate community and practices which promote diversity

### Objectives

6.1 To increase the diversity of faculty engaged in graduate education

#### Strategies

6.1.1 Assess current diversity in graduate faculty

6.1.2 Assess barriers to inclusion

6.2 To learn about diversity in graduate student body

#### Strategies

6.2.1 Assess current diversity in graduate students

6.2.2 Assess barriers to inclusion

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

6.2.3 Develop inclusive strategies to attract and retain a diverse student body (e.g., provide waivers of non-resident tuition for selected international students---pay in-state rates)

6.3 To provide guidelines and model practices for creating an inclusive graduate community

### Strategies

6.3.1 Develop recommendations on inclusionary practices in the classroom and other venues

6.3.2 Coordinate graduate activities and colloquia with other inclusion activities on campus

6.3.3 Support campus activities that feature diverse presenters from within the university and from outside

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 7**      **To contribute to the intellectual climate on campus and support a vibrant campus culture**

### Objectives

7.1      To provide graduate students with access to resources and programming that enhance the quality of their graduate educational experiences

### Strategies

7.1.1      Increase the number and quality of assistantship opportunities available to graduate student who are pursuing their degree on a full-time basis

7.1.2      Decrease reliance on faculty who have less than a terminal degree in the delivery of graduate education

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

- 7.2 To engage faculty in graduate education in activities that foster a dynamic atmosphere of inquiry and learning

### Strategies

- 7.2.1 Develop program to assist new faculty and adjunct faculty to understand our basic values and expectations for excellent instruction and scholarship and community service inherent in graduate education

- 7.3 To enrich the intellectual climate at GVSU through events and activities that feature graduate student and faculty scholarship and interests

### Strategies

- 7.3.1 Develop graduate colloquia series
- 7.3.2 Develop an annual graduate forum/dinner

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

**Goal 8** To ensure that graduate education has sufficient financial resources to support quality programs that are responsive to change and emerging opportunities

### Objectives

8.1 To increase awareness of ways to fund graduate student support, including funding that supports diversity

### Strategies

8.1.1 Involve more graduate faculty in grant-seeking activities that include funding for graduate student support

8.1.2 Explore ways to engage business, government, and non-profit agencies to serve as internship and learning sites for students

## Strategic Plan for Graduate Education

### Goal 9 To increase the image and visibility of graduate education at GVSU and in the community

#### Objectives

9.1 To increase visibility of graduate faculty scholars by showcasing their work

#### Strategies

9.1.1 Increase external communication about graduate education successes (alumni, current students, and faculty) to our constituencies (partners, collaborators, professional associations in Business, Government, and Non-profit sectors)

9.2 To provide visible culminating experiences for graduate students that celebrate their academic excellence

#### Strategies

9.2.1 Develop a Graduate Student Research event, open to the university and wider community, at the end of each semester, where the thesis, project, or other significant research undertaken by graduate students is showcased.