

Southern University
School of Graduate and Professional Studies

Our Strategic Plan 2014-2019

Southern University and Agriculture and Mechanical College since it opened its doors in 1880 has been a people's institution. We boast of our service in the Local Community, the State, the Nation and the World. We are proud public servants who have been entrusted with the charge of educating those individuals who dare to raise the bar and pursue graduate level education. Our goal is to make quality deposits of knowledge that change the lives of each student that enters Southern University School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

In this ever changing society we realize that one cannot operate on traditional educational models. Therefore, we will execute our own custom model that has been fashioned by the various disciplines we offer. Over the next five years, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies is committed to focusing on the value of strength in collaboration, knowledge and application to real world problems in graduate education, increasing and retaining international students and, achieving an interconnected community of programs. This commitment is based on the premise that there is no one discipline that can solve the problems that exist globally. We must engage in education and thought that crosses lines of race, ethnicity and culture.

To achieve these commitments the School of Graduate and Professional Studies will

- Retain current student enrollment
- Increase graduate student enrollment by 25%
- Improve the services offered to students
- Transition responsibility to specific disciplines
- Provide periodic internal assessments for quality control
- Implement changes to streamline processes
- Create a culture that supports student learning
- Attract the best graduate and professional students
- Increase the number of graduate assistantships, fellowships and scholarships available to students
- Collaborate with discipline heads to streamline the processes necessary for admission
- Collaborate with discipline heads to streamline the process for graduation from graduate school
- Encourage the participation of graduate students in national organizations
- Develop leadership skills in tenured faculty through mentorship

Graduate students will

- Strengthen their professional capacity
- Elevate their thinking from traditional paradigms
- Continue to nurture specialized research, teaching and learning
- Be exposed to global learning paradigms
- Be engaged in the creation of new knowledge through technology

The goals listed above and the plan components below lay the framework for moving Southern University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies to the next level of premier graduate schools. Our goals are a direct reflection of our passion for serving through education.

Strength in Collaborations

- Foster global outreach initiatives
- Work with the Graduate Council to select and hire quality faculty members in all disciplines

Knowledge and Application of Real World Problems in Graduate Education

- Changing patterns in federal research funding
- Affordability of graduate education
- Integration of research and teaching
- Commit to initiatives that help the school achieve a new level of excellence
- Application of research and knowledge to real world issues
- Creation of centers/institutes for graduate level research

Increasing and Retaining International Students

- Implement a plan to increase international student enrollment
- Implement a policy for internal evaluations of international transcripts thereby simplifying the international admissions process

Interconnected Community of Academic Programs

- Collaborate with departments to ensure that there is advising and mentoring in the disciplines for students.
- Increase the number of online course offerings by at least 25% each academic year
- Work towards ensuring all graduate credit hours are available online
- Changing definitions and methods of teaching and learning
- Foster shared searches between disciplines