

USC Graduate School Blueprint for Academic Excellence, 2008

Dr. James Buggy, Interim Dean

1. Vision, Mission, and Goals

A. Executive Summary

A university's reputation as a major research institution depends in large part on its graduate program offerings. An effective graduate school plays an essential role in providing the university with a solid research foundation, which, along with the teaching and service provided by graduate faculty and graduate students, assures a place among prestigious research institutions in the country.

Vision of the Graduate School

That the Graduate School is recognized as a responsible and effective steward providing quality service and leadership to all stakeholders in graduate education.

Our assessment is that in the past year the Graduate School has made progress in achieving its vision but that sustained effort and innovation are needed for continued improvement.

Mission of the Graduate School

The mission of The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina is to set high academic standards, promote best practices, provide administrative support for graduate programs throughout the University, embrace new and emerging technologies, and assess effectiveness to ensure excellence in graduate education for students and faculty.

The Graduate School is committed to honoring the diversity of communities at the University of South Carolina, to fostering best practices for graduate education for faculty and students based on complimentary ethical responsibilities and behavior, and to setting clear expectations for academic and professional excellence.

The Graduate School's blueprint shows how we will increase our support for the University's intention to achieve a prominent place among major research universities while we continue to look for new ways to bring the benefits of graduate student research, teaching, and service to South Carolina, the nation, and the global community.

Goals

- Goal #1 To assume a proactive role in enhancing the reputation of USC as a top ranked research institution with high standards.
- Goal #2 To enhance graduate student experiences through meaningful professional development.

- Goal #3 To increase public and university awareness of graduate student education and the impact of graduate student research.
- Goal #4 To improve the quality of service provided by the Graduate School to earn the respect and cooperation of applicants, students, faculty, programs, and other components of the university family.

Long-term Goals

- Goal#1 The Graduate School would like to encourage development campaigns seeking funds to create a graduate student center and to increase financial support of graduate students thereby making us more competitive when it comes to recruiting highly qualified graduate students.
- Goal#2 International students constitute 10% of total graduate enrollment but make up 27% of doctoral enrollment. The Graduate School would like to improve USC's efforts in international recruiting. The percentage of international students is particularly high in STEM disciplines but many schools have a significant interest in attracting international graduate students and forming partnerships with universities in other countries. Therefore, USC must have an effective program to recruit qualified international students and facilitate international program development. This year the Graduate School helped organize and sent staff to high visibility recruiting events in Thailand and Libya, and participated in visits to embassies and international funding agencies in Washington and New York. The Graduate School cooperates with the International Programs Office, Undergraduate Admissions, English Programs for Internationals, and interested schools and programs to coordinate international recruiting activities.