

**Stanislaus State Graduate Education Action Plan**  
**Graduate Council**  
**April 17, 2018**

Graduate education serves a vital role in the University's advancement of its mission and vision to be a center for intellectual pursuit in the Central Valley. A primary responsibility of the Graduate Council (see [Graduate Council website](#) for charge and membership list) is to promote and support graduate education within the University. Consistent with this responsibility, the Graduate Council has developed an updated action plan that identifies priorities for graduate education at Stanislaus State and possible actions to support the advancement of those priorities. This updated action plan is informed by three previous Graduate Council planning documents: *Planning Assumptions for the Recruitment and retention of Graduate Students* (1995); *Graduate Studies: Proposal to Master Academic Planning Committee* (1998); and most recently, *Graduate Council Action Plan* (2009). Most importantly, it is guided by and in alignment with specific goals and objectives (notes within brackets as USP items) articulated in the new [California State University, Stanislaus Strategic Plan 2017-2025](#). These priorities are enumerated below with supporting actions outlined immediately following.

Successful implementation of this action plan requires commitment, collaboration, and support across divisions. As the Graduate Council monitors the progress of the action plan and reexamines the University's priorities for graduate education, actions should be added, modified, and/or removed as appropriate.

**Priorities for Graduate Education**

**I. Clearly Define Leadership and Infrastructure for Graduate Education [USP 2:F]**

- A. Define leadership for graduate education, with effectively coordinated roles and responsibilities.
- B. Identify and establish a centralized physical location with personnel to field questions regarding admissions requirements, financial aid, and program information.

**II. Create a Graduate Education Action Plan [USP 2:F]**

- A. Monitor the action plan and report and discuss progress annually.
- B. Use action plan progress reports and corresponding discussions to inform decision-making about graduate education annually.

**III. Grow Enrollment in Graduate Education by Increasing Support for Outreach, Communications, and Recruitment, and by Developing Innovative Graduate Programs [USP 1:A; 1:D; 2:E; 3:B; 3:E]**

- A. Through collaboration between the Enrollment Management Committee and the Graduate Council, identify optimal enrollment in graduate education.
- B. Increase and enhance outreach and recruitment activities for prospective graduate students, such as increased University participation in recruitment fairs, and continued enhancement of the University's Graduate School Information Session.
- C. Improve the application process and related communication for prospective students.
- D. Develop innovative graduate programs in response to regional needs and opportunities.

**IV. Increase Support for Graduate Student Engagement and Success [USP 1:A; 2:B; 2:F; 3:E]**

- A. Continue to enhance and increase participation in activities and events that connect graduate students with the wider university community and support the development of a Graduate School culture, such as the Graduate School Welcome Event.
- B. Increase support for teaching and research assistantships, internships, travel to professional meetings, research and creative activities, other professional development activities, and academic support such as graduate-level writing and quantitative skills.

**V. Through Appropriate University-wide Consultation, Identify and Implement Appropriate Graduate Faculty Workload [USP 1:D; 2:D; 2:F]**

- A. Identify and implement appropriate workloads for active graduate faculty so they can appropriately engage in and support students in a scholarly graduate culture.

**VI. Develop and Implement Meaningful and Sustainable Institutional-level Assessment of Graduate Education [USP 2:F]**

- A. Develop and implement an updated institutional-level graduate education assessment plan.
- B. Report and discuss observations about assessment findings annually.
- C. Use observations about program-level assessment data, reports, and corresponding discussions to inform the Graduate Council's recommendations regarding graduate education at the institutional level.

**VII. Increase and Enhance Community Engagement [USP 2:B; 3:E; 5:B]**

- A. Increase and enhance opportunities for graduate student and faculty engagement with the community through research, scholarship, creative activities, internship placements, and service learning activities.
- B. Increase communication with both internal and external constituents about graduate student and faculty engagement activities with the community.

**VIII. Support Effective Fundraising for Graduate Education [USP 5:B]**

- A. Support efforts to secure intramural funds for graduate education, such as Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) funds for the Student Engagement in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (SERSCA) Program, and baseline funding in Academic Affairs.
- B. Support efforts in collaboration with University Advancement to secure extramural gifts/donations for graduate education.
- C. Support efforts in collaboration with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to secure grants and/or contracts for graduate education.

**Refer to 11/AS/18 GC Resolution Graduate Education Action Plan**

**Approved by the Academic Senate April 17, 2018**

**Approved by President Ellen Junn on May 17, 2018**