

Actions and Initiatives to Support the Graduate Education Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Goal 1: Deliver an educational experience that is among the best in the world.

Actions:

- Promote the importance of successful and healthy faculty-student advising/mentoring relationships across the Institute.
- Establish programs and resources that will help strengthen and support faculty mentoring skills.
- Integrate the guiding principle of student ownership of their educational experience into all relevant aspects of the graduate education experience.
- Create and expand student programming that will build the critical skills necessary for career success.
- Design new programs that encourage graduate students to develop solutions for evolving real-world challenges.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Institute student-developed/faculty advisor-guided research and scholarship plans (individual development plans).
- Include mentoring as a component of the annual faculty review process.
- Create a database of mentoring resources and social networks for mentors.
- Create “how to mentor seminars” that can be offered in person and via massive open online courses.
- Design and expand student skill-building programs in the areas of communication, conflict resolution, cross-cultural awareness, mentoring, problem solving, project management, proposal development, and writing, teaching, and entrepreneurship.
- Create graduate-to-undergraduate student mentoring programs to develop effective mentoring skills among graduate students.
- Teach students about innovation in instructional methods, course design, and curricula.
- Expand the Tech to Teaching program.
- Use new educational delivery methods and technology to bridge the knowledge gap for new graduate students.
- Create graduate student versions of the Inventure Prize and interdisciplinary capstones.

Goal 2: Sustain and enhance the Institute's excellence in scholarship and research with innovative programs and exemplary students.

Actions:

- Strengthen institutional and faculty support for new interdisciplinary collaborations involving graduate students.
- Increase the quality and quantity of student research output (e.g., patents, papers, presentations, and publications).
- Expand opportunities available for the showcasing of graduate student research and publications.
- Introduce the use of new and innovative technology into all aspects of graduate education.
- Identify new opportunities for cross-institutional partnerships with local, national, and international universities.
- Develop new cross-institutional programs to address global challenges.
- Identify outreach and community service opportunities for graduate students that directly tie into the curriculum of multiple disciplines, including with school children.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Establish a partnership between Graduate Studies and the Georgia Tech Office of Research to sponsor graduate workshops on idea development and proposal writing for public and private funding programs.
- Establish an interdisciplinary fellowship program that reaches out to all areas of campus.
- Create an environment where faculty members are supported, recognized, and rewarded for developing new interdisciplinary collaborations and programs.

Goal 3: Ensure that innovation, entrepreneurship, and public service are fundamental characteristics of our graduates.

Actions:

- Increase the number of flexible mid-career or post-professional degree programs that target students who will remain in the workforce during degree completion. Many of these will be offered online, in whole or in part.
- Expand student exposure to diverse career options and professional development opportunities for careers in both academia and industry throughout their time at Georgia Tech.
- Expand centralized graduate student career development programming and counseling services to supplement specialized offerings provided by colleges and schools.

- Encourage alumni engagement with students through on-campus and virtual seminars, activities, and events.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Develop new interdisciplinary career education programs similar to TI:GER, Tech to Teaching, and the Graduate Certificate in Public Policy.
- Develop resources to connect all graduate students to training opportunities already available on campus.
- Facilitate graduate student opportunities for community service outreach.
- Use technology and social media to connect domestic and international alumni with current students.

Goal 4: Expand our global footprint and influence to ensure that we are graduating good global citizens.

Actions:

- Diversify the countries of origin represented by our graduate students.
- Encourage greater interactions between international students and faculty, and international and domestic students.
- Capitalize on established international relationships to create opportunities for student scholarship and research abroad.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Provide training in cross-cultural sensitivity.
- Investigate the potential for National Science Foundation and other agency exchanges of graduate students between the United States and other countries.
- Establish fellowships that send U.S. graduate students to international laboratories (where a collaborative relationship already exists) for research and/or study.
- Provide opportunities for students to gain skills and experience with participating in and leading distributed teams.
- Employ advanced graduate students as teaching assistants or instructors in study abroad programs.
- Provide graduate student funding to support international conference attendance and presentation.
- Develop a single repository for international student and research funding opportunities.

Goal 5: Relentlessly pursue institutional effectiveness.

Actions:

- Expand the portfolio of services provided by Graduate Studies to include greater support of current students and resources to assist schools with recruitment efforts.
- Develop a strategic communications plan to present graduate education priorities and ensure consistent and effective information dissemination.
- Partner with campus units to evaluate and improve administrative processes and systems for graduate students and programs.
- Assess the current state of graduate student quality of life.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Develop the Office of Graduate Studies and its website as a location for centralized information about campus resources and services.
- Create graduate education handbooks to support faculty, staff, and students.
- Study the mental health and well-being of graduate students
- Increase the efficiency of the application and matriculation processes.
- Improve communications with students throughout the application and matriculation processes.
- Develop a formal framework and structure for graduate-student-focused conflict management and resolution.
- Evaluate the feasibility of a holistic student information system covering all aspects of the student lifecycle from application through alumni engagement.
- Assess the quality and availability of graduate student academic and social resources and facilities.
- Evaluate the feasibility of dedicated graduate working areas on campus.

Goal 6: Maximize the accessibility and affordability of graduate education at Georgia Tech.

Actions:

- Examine and improve the graduate student funding model to enhance recruitment and support.
- Identify strategies for coordinating and enhancing diversity recruitment efforts across all Georgia Tech disciplines.
- Evaluate the competitiveness of Georgia Tech's graduate student funding resources.

Examples of Specific Initiatives:

- Establish a partnership between Graduate Education and the Office of the Vice President for Institute Diversity to develop recruitment strategies and tools for academic units.
- Benchmark graduate student funding resources and models of peer universities against what is offered at Georgia Tech.
- Examine the feasibility of using out-of-state tuition waivers for recruiting top graduate students who do not have a graduate research or teaching assistantship.
- Identify sustainable funding sources that can be strategically used to recruit and support the best graduate students during and beyond their first year of study.