



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Graduate College

Strategic Plan 2024-2029

MISSION

The Graduate College, the institution's primary advocate for graduate students, develops and improves the environment for graduate education at WMU by providing leadership in shaping graduate policy and integrating services that recruit, retain, support, and graduate a diverse population of students.

VISION

The Graduate College aspires to offer impactful services and programs that advance the academic success and wellbeing of all graduate students to prepare them for productive careers.

VALUES

Collaboration We partner with units across WMU and community partners to meet graduate student needs.

Inclusion & Diversity We embrace all backgrounds and viewpoints, and we work consistently to create an environment of acceptance and appreciation.

Research, Innovation, & Creative Scholarship We promote and support the creation of new knowledge by graduate students

Community We provide opportunities for graduate students to connect with and support one another to build an inclusive and positive culture.

Leadership We lead efforts to improve the environment for graduate education.

Excellence We are dedicated to providing the highest standard of service to students, faculty, and staff.

Support We build and enhance programming to support graduate student success and career readiness.

Goal #1: Provide quality service to prospective and current graduate students, alumni, graduate program faculty and staff, and university leadership

Objective 1.1: Raise the visibility of graduate education at WMU to internal and external constituents, through effective communication and advocacy

Objective 1.2: Enhance customer service experiences of graduate students interacting with Graduate College staff

Objective 1.3: Provide quality control and maintain equitable and consistent standards for graduate education

Objective 1.4: Promote fiscal responsibility of Graduate College budget to best support graduate students

Goal #2: Increase the diversity of students admitted to and graduating from WMU

Objective 2.1: Promote a climate and culture of inclusion for the graduate community

Objective 2.2: Continue to work towards increasing the diversity of admitted graduate students

Objective 2.3: Promote success of diverse student populations from matriculation to graduation

Goal #3: Assist graduate programs with enrollment management

Objective 3.1: Develop and implement a graduate enrollment management plan for the university

Objective 3.2: Enhance effectiveness of recruitment and yield efforts

Objective 3.3: Facilitate retention and degree completion of graduate students

Objective 3.4: Broaden graduate education opportunities with collaborative degree programs, new certificate programs and potential stackable micro-credentials, and expansion of accelerated graduate degree programs (AGDPs)

Goal #4: Enhance graduate student achievement in research and creative scholarship

Objective 4.1: Support funding of graduate student research and creative scholarship

Objective 4.2: Promote ethical standards for graduate students

Objective 4.3: Recognize scholarly activity and accomplishments of WMU graduate students

Goal #5: Promote and support graduate student academic success, degree completion, and career readiness through improved mentoring and professional development opportunities

Objective 5.1: Strive to ensure that all graduate students receive appropriate training and opportunities to advance their skills and career-readiness.

Objective 5.2: Enhance and promote effective graduate student advising, mentoring, and supervision