Plan for Outcomes Assessment and Improvement

The Graduate School

Goals from NC State’s Strategic Plan:
1. To enhance the success of our students through educational innovation
2. To enhance scholarship and research by investing in faculty and infrastructure
3. To enhance interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society
4. To enhance organizational excellence by creating a culture of constant improvement

Strategies and outcomes for Contributing to the Achievement of Goals
1. To enhance the success of our students through educational innovation, the Graduate School will provide leadership in:
   a. Establishing a Center for Graduate Student Success with a Dissertation Den
   b. Continuing the Dissertation Completion Grant
   c. Improving faculty engagement with graduate students by training faculty in best practices in mentoring
      
      Outcomes: To increase graduate degrees awarded and completion rates and reduce mean times to degree (see targets below)
   d. Extending Professional Science Master’s programs at NC State
      
      Outcomes: To increase the number of PSM programs, students, and degrees awarded
   e. Promoting a more diverse graduate student population and professoriate
      
      Outcomes: To increase underrepresented minorities and, where needed, women in graduate programs

2. To enhance scholarship and research by investing in faculty and infrastructure, the Graduate School will provide leadership in:
   a. Increasing the competitiveness of NC State programs through fellowships for recruiting for the very best students
      
      Outcome: To increase the number of endowed fellowships and research assistantships provided to students
   b. Planning for enrollment and investment that enables the university to meet its target for graduate education by 2020
      
      Outcome: To achieve the 2020 graduate enrollment targets projected by the university (see targets below)

3. To enhance interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society, the Graduate School will provide leadership in:
   Implementing best practices and organizational structures for administration and funding to improve the viability of interdisciplinary graduate programs
   
   Outcomes: To increase interdisciplinary programs, enrollment, degrees awarded, and applications

4. To enhance organizational excellence by creating a culture of constant improvement, the Graduate School will provide leadership in:
   Providing better administrative services to graduate students and graduate programs by constantly improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its internal operations
Outcome: To increase the satisfaction and decrease the dissatisfaction of Graduate Service Assistants and Directors of Graduate Programs

Targets for 1a, b, c

Degrees awarded (by 2020 academic year)
- Doctoral 731 (up from 395 2010/11; increase of 37.3 degrees/year to reach target)
- Master's 2,816 (up from 2,080 2010/11; increase 81.7 degrees/year to reach target)

Completion rates (by 2020)
- Doctoral 6-year: 47% (from 42% 3-year avg. 2009/10-2011/12)
- Doctoral 10-year: 70% (from 63% for 2002 cohort)
- Master's 4-year: 78% (from 73.9 in 2012 RAP data)

Mean time to degree (by 2020)
- Master's 2.0 (from 2.3 in 2012 RAP data)
- Doctoral 5.5 (from 5.9 in 2012 RAP data)

Targets for 2b

Enrollment (from 2012 enrollment plan for 2020)
- Doctoral new: 804 (from 565 in 2011; increase of 26.5/year to reach target)
- Doctoral total: 4,060 (from 3,156 in 2011; increase of 100/year to reach target)
- Master's new: 2,402 (from 1,951 in 2011; increase of 50/year to reach target)
- Master's total: 6,070 (from 5,082 in 2011; increase of 109/year to reach target)
- Total graduate: 10,130 (from 8,238 in 2011; increase of 210/year to reach target)
- Ratio master's/doctrinal total: 60/40 (62/38 in 2011)
- Ratio undergraduate/graduate 70.5/29.5 (73.8/26.2 in 2011)

Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Frequency of Collection</th>
<th>Reporting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To increase graduate degrees awarded and completion rates and reduce mean times to degree (Strategies 1a, b, c)</td>
<td>Degrees awarded (doctoral, master’s, progress toward target), completion rates (doctoral 6-year and 10-year; master’s 4-year), and mean times to degree (doctoral, master’s)</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To increase the number of PSM programs and students in those programs (Strategy 1d)</td>
<td>Number of PSM programs, enrollment and degrees awarded/program</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Biennially even years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To increase underrepresented minorities and, where needed,</td>
<td>Percentage of underrepresented minorities</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Biennially odd years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 1e</td>
<td>Women in graduate programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 2a</td>
<td>To increase the number of full fellowships available to students</td>
<td>Number of full endowed assistantships and fellowships (stipend, tuition, and health insurance)</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 2b</td>
<td>To achieve the 2020 graduate enrollment targets projected by the university</td>
<td>Number of new master’s students, new doctoral students, total master’s students; total doctoral students; master’s/doctoral, undergraduate/graduate</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 3</td>
<td>To increase interdisciplinary programs, enrollment, degrees awarded, and applications</td>
<td>Number of interdisciplinary programs; average enrollment, degrees awarded, applications per program</td>
<td>Biennially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 4</td>
<td>To increase the satisfaction and decrease the dissatisfaction of Graduate Student Service Assistants and Directors of Graduate Programs</td>
<td>Surveys of Graduate Student Service Assistants and Directors of Graduate Programs</td>
<td>Every other year alternating between GSSAs and DGPs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>