

Graduate School Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities

Vision

The Graduate School, encompassing the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of Research and Projects at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville will serve as a catalyst for scholarly excellence, research growth, and graduate student success. Through increased research productivity, expanded graduate education pathways, and intentional partnerships, we will elevate the visibility and impact of SIUE's research and scholarship, while empowering graduate students and faculty to contribute meaningfully to their disciplines and communities.

Mission

Graduate Studies and the Office of Research and Projects advance Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's mission by supporting high-quality, inclusive graduate education; expanding research and scholarship productivity; and stewarding sponsored projects with integrity, transparency, and accountability. The Graduate School views and supports creative activities as integral components of research and scholarship and includes creative activities in all delineated support for research and scholarship.

In collaboration with campus partners, we expand access to graduate education, advance a holistic approach to graduate student success, cultivate opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, support faculty, staff, and graduate student research success, and enhance the regional, national, and global visibility and impact of SIUE's scholarship.

Strategic Priority 1: Research Growth and Scholarly Excellence

Graduate Studies and ORP will strengthen the quality, quantity, and impact of scholarly research and creative activities across disciplines.

- Expanding faculty and graduate student involvement in research and creative activity;
- Enhancing research development, proposal development support, award management, compliance support, and dissemination pathways;
- Supporting interdisciplinary and collaborative research activities aligned with institutional and community priorities
 - leveraging more collaborations with strong scholars already on campus (i.e. research center directors; DRP; consistent grant awardees)
- Facilitating faculty access to evolving knowledge on the scholarship of production and publication of enterprise.

Strategic Priority 2: Visibility, Storytelling, and Impact

Graduate Studies and ORP will elevate the visibility of SIUE's faculty and graduate student research and scholarship across campus, within the SIU System, and across the region, nation, and globe.

- Coordinating communication and reporting of faculty and graduate student research and scholarship achievements in collaboration with university marketing and communication
- Highlighting graduate students and faculty as contributors to research and intellectual discovery, innovation, knowledge production, and community impact;

- Strengthening regional, national, and global awareness of SIUE's scholarly contributions.

Strategic Priority 3: Graduate Studies Success Ecosystem

Graduate Studies will strengthen a coordinated, student-ready ecosystem that supports graduate student success from access and recruitment, through retention and degree completion. This approach incorporates advancing innovative, high-quality graduate programs, including online and hybrid offerings, in collaboration with Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, and academic units.

- Access - Grow diverse graduate enrollment through collaboration and partnership with Graduate Admissions and enrollment management on recruitment strategies and partnerships
- Retention & Completion - Improve persistence and timely degree completion through coordinated academic and holistic support.
 - Collaboration with Student Affairs and academic units to enhance holistic graduate student support;
 - Expansion of high-impact practices, mentoring, and professional development opportunities for graduate students;
 - Use of data and assessment to identify and close equity gaps in graduate retention, completion, and funding.
- Program Innovation- Provide planning and support to program initiatives focused on expanding and refining graduate programs to align with research strengths, workforce needs, and sustainability.

Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable Infrastructure and Stewardship

Graduate Studies and ORP will ensure sustainable growth in graduate education and research through responsible stewardship of financial, human, and technological resources.

- Diversifying revenue streams through graduate enrollment growth, sponsored research, partnerships, and philanthropy;
- Reducing administrative burden while maintaining strong compliance, research integrity, and fiscal sustainability;
- Investing systems, staffing, and infrastructure that support long-term institutional capacity.