

Priority #4: Student Engagement and Support

Goal:

- To create a community in which students feel they belong, are supported, valued, and respected
- To create support measures and structures that are in place at the stages of graduate work: applicant, new student, current student, and alumni
- To differentiate student support to meet the needs of graduate student populations in hybrid-learning programs: online, summer, on-campus, full time, part time, etc.

Strategic Initiatives to Achieve Goals:

1. Online:

- a. Initiate student bloggers to highlight student experience and research
- b. Develop a portal for graduate students to access [NOTE: There have been strong efforts in this area with the Grad Café, and continued efforts to refine the model need to be ongoing. Another model worth considering is the development of the Graphic Design program's WordPress platform for undergraduates]
 - i. Advisors
 - ii. Other students
 - iii. Instructors
 - iv. Student services
 - v. Alumni networking
- c. Initiate support and information through the Career Services Center expressly for graduate students
- d. Streamlined set of resources pertaining to housing for both full time on campus and summer only graduate students

2. On campus Experiences

- a. Develop a range of best practices for student orientation that local programs may use to guide and implement based on the particular needs of their graduate program that may include:
 - i. Information orientation supported by Grad School
 - ii. Library orientation
 - iii. Campus tours
 - iv. Resource allocation for social event
 - v. Campus services (food, facilities, housing)
- b. Develop flexible campus resources that differentiate between academic year and summer graduate students

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- i. Food plans
 - ii. Library access
 - c. Coordinate facilities and campus security concerns as the graduate programs shift scheduling to meet student needs. Areas may include:
 - i. Considering security needs with increased night classes
 - ii. Student access to facilities in off hours
 - iii. Library access
- 3. Other ideas
 - a. Clarifying and advocating for more GA and TA opportunities for graduate students
 - b. Establishing resource support for faculty and graduate research (Currently there are competitive funds available for graduates to apply for on their own, but this is more like a SURE program for graduate students)
 - c. Establishing a graduate research symposium on campus to promote graduate work