

## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL at NC State

### OUR VISION

For NC State to retain its preeminence among the leading research universities of the nation and the world, our university will require a **cutting-edge, vigorous graduate school** to lead the way.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL at NC State is ready for the challenge. With dynamic new leadership and a focus on solving real-world issues through innovative research, NC State's Graduate School is prepared to help spark NC State's future.

NC State is committed to **transforming** graduate education -- to prepare our best and brightest students as true leaders ready to tackle the critical issues that challenge our state, nation, and world.

The Graduate School serves all colleges across the University. NC State boasts a diverse and talented graduate student body (over 25% international from more than 80 countries), world-renowned faculty, excellent working partnerships with industry and government, and a location on Centennial Campus, the **number one university research park in the world**.

As NC State expands to serve a growing state population, **the number of graduate students must nearly double over the next decade** (from 7,000 to over 12,000 students) to retain our status as a doctoral, research-extensive university. The challenge presented by such unprecedented expansion is *managing growth while enhancing quality and competitiveness*.

To accomplish these goals, the Graduate School must be better equipped to help lead the way. We are moving quickly to establish a clear set of initiatives that will lay the groundwork for a **transformation of graduate education** at NC State.

OUR VISION is to go beyond mere growth to **change the culture of graduate education** at NC State. The Graduate School of the future will prepare career-ready students with a true **competitive edge** through a new focus on professionally-oriented training designed for the real world:

- *Preparing leaders* - we want to add **career-oriented management** skills training for all graduate students to help them succeed in industry, government, non-profits, and academia. Those skills include **responsible conduct of research**, advanced teaching expertise, effective communication, conflict resolution, and effective leadership.
- *Professional degrees* - graduate certificates, dual degrees, and interdisciplinary professional degrees to prepare students who have technical skills, multiple professional competencies, and are collaborative, highly adaptable and globally-oriented.
- *Interdisciplinary experiences* - fostering a true community of scholars working across departmental boundaries at the **intersections of disciplines**. We will give students opportunities for **cross-communication** and fertilization of ideas, promoting teamwork

on problems of common interest. The **best and most provocative graduate research of the future** will take place here at the edges of disciplines, and this is where the best faculty and students will want to be.

We are moving quickly to establish these new initiatives. To enable this transformation, we need your help in the following areas:

**Priority Needs:**

- ***Preparing Future Leaders: \$200K***  
We have already begun offering professional development seminars and the demand has been overwhelming. To extend this valuable training to more students, we need
  - **Enhanced technology and infrastructure:** \$50K to expand the reach of seminars and workshops
  - **Broader and more in-depth seminar and workshop offerings:** \$50K to support additional programming and honoraria for invited speakers
  - **Increased programming capacity:** \$100 K to enable the Graduate School to hire support staff positions
- ***External Relations: \$200K***
  - **Increased fundraising capacity:** \$100K to enable the Graduate School to hire a full-time professional
  - **Events to support relationship building:** \$50k to support tours, awards dinners, meetings
  - **Marketing and public relations (publications, website, messaging):** \$50K to reposition The Graduate School's look and messages and promote graduate education at NC State.

**Long-term Goals:**

- ***Funding for Students to help us lure the best and brightest to NC State:*** We need full 5-year fellowships to recruit and support students across all disciplines. *We* need flexible funds to allow departments to provide competitive offers to the most sought-after and deserving students.
- ***Development funds for interdisciplinary programs:*** We need start-up funds to create cutting edge interdisciplinary graduate programs to prepare career-ready students prepared to respond to emerging fields in North Carolina, nationally and internationally.
- ***A high-level lecture series*** featuring internationally-known speakers on topics of interest to everyone in graduate education
- ***Dissertation Completion Fellowships:*** We need to provide short-term financial support to allow students to focus their full energies on writing their dissertations, free of teaching and research demands

We can't wait. Our current students need and deserve the very best opportunities we can give them now.

It's an exciting time for the Graduate School. Please join us!