

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:**
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 infrastructure:** to expand the reach of seminars and workshops
 - **Broader and more in-depth seminar and workshop offerings:** to host additional speakers and access facilities.
 - **Creation of a Certificate Program for Preparing Future Leaders:** to give students a completion credential
 - **Increased programming capacity:** to provide more professional development staff
- **External Relations:**
 - **Increased fundraising capacity:** to enable the Graduate School to hire a full-time advancement professional
 - **Friendmaking tours:** to support tours, reception, etc.
 - **Marketing and public relations (publications, website, messaging):** to reposition The Graduate School's look and messages and promote graduate education at NC State.
 - **Lunches with the Dean events throughout the state**

Long-term Goals:

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

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!