



PRIDE 2020

The Strategic Plan for Delaware State University

PRIDE 2020: Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence

Goal 2: Student Success

GOAL 2: STUDENT SUCCESS

Recruit, develop, retain, graduate and place outstanding students

DSU's commitment to students is at the core of the University's vision and mission, and our institutional structure, policies, programs and practices must enhance and facilitate student success. We will continue to take concrete steps to meet today's students where they are and provide them with an exceptional education for professional and personal success. Strategies to enhance student success include: expanding learning outcomes assessment and reviewing general education; increasing and promoting opportunities to engage in research and active learning; increasing participation in professional internships and co-op experiences, service learning and study abroad programs, and research; improving key student transition experiences such as first- and second-year programs, entering a major, enhanced advisement and academic enrichment opportunities; supporting high-quality graduate education; and assisting students to develop 21st Century Skills and Habits of Mind that will enable them to become productive leaders and lifelong learners in an increasingly global community.

- **OBJECTIVE 2.1: Increase retention and graduation rates by at least two percent annually for the next five years**

Key Action Strategies:

- Annually monitor and improve the retention and graduation rates.
- Conduct a semester to semester degree program audit on credits attempted versus credits earned to increase the four and six year graduation rates.
- Develop and implement programs and opportunities to attract, enroll and retain highly prepared students, both undergraduate and graduate.
- Invest in and support first- and second-year intellectual experiences.
- Increase the number of merit-based and need-based scholarships available to eligible returning students.
- Develop and implement a revised student retention plan.
- Empower students, through superb academic and career advising, to develop and implement sound educational plans that are consistent with their personal values, goals and career plans.

- **OBJECTIVE 2.2: Use enrollment management best practices to increase overall enrollment to 5,000 students**

Key Action Strategies:

- Develop and implement enrollment management best practices to increase undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
- Update and reinvigorate all admissions materials to reflect University priorities.
- Develop and implement plans to increase the enrollment of transfer students (particularly those in articulated programs), and distance education, adult and continuing education students.
- Improve and increase DSU's transfer initiatives and efforts to recruit and retain commuter students.
- Enhance competitiveness in graduate student recruitment and graduate student support with stipends, fellowships and benefits to recruit and retain talented graduate students.
- Develop a graduate student support center that addresses their unique needs, and institutional and student life issues.
- Increase student financial aid in both need-based and merit-based programs.

- **OBJECTIVE 2.3: Expand and enhance quality programs, services and activities to enrich the student experience**

Key Action Strategies:

- Provide quality, student-centered programs and activities that align with DSU's five core values.
- Increase student participation in honors and study abroad programs, and cultural and co-curricular activities.
- Establish student-centered programs in the residential halls to create a vibrant living-learning environment.
- Strengthen student support services.
- Develop strategies to enable commuter students to become more engaged in nonacademic activities.
- Strengthen the University's competitive edge in intramural and extramural activities.

- **OBJECTIVE 2.4: Produce and place graduates in the workplace and/or graduate and professional programs to enable them to become productive leaders in an increasingly global community**

Key Action Strategies:

- Promote student participation in value-added certificate programs and other activities.
- Provide more inquiry-based, problem-based, interdisciplinary and experiential learning opportunities.
- Prepare students with opportunities to apply knowledge to the solutions of real-world problems and be of service to their communities.
- By 2014, develop a baseline of the percent of graduates who obtain gainful employment and who enter graduate or professional schools.
- Develop a tracking mechanism to maintain data on students following graduation.
- Develop strong networking systems with companies/organizations and alumni to increase internship opportunities.