

School of Graduate Studies (SGS) Strategic Plan AY 2024-2029

The School of Graduate Studies at Rowan University is committed to elevating the graduate experience through a comprehensive and inclusive strategic plan. This plan builds on our mission to provide personalized support for academic, research, cultural, and professional development while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. It aligns with our vision to be a premier source of graduate education resources, empowering students and programs to advance research and scholarship.

Through extensive engagement with program coordinators, graduate students, and the Graduate Advisory Council, several key themes regarding effectively serving programs and students have emerged. These include the need for enhanced communication across programs and institutional units, the need for metrics and training for quality and excellence in academic integrity, the need for recognition of excellence in graduate education, and the need for comprehensive support for graduate student wellbeing. Addressing these themes will enable us to foster a collaborative academic environment that supports lifelong learning, critical thinking, and ethical leadership.

Our five year strategic plan focuses on enhancing communication, ensuring academic integrity, recognizing excellence, and supporting student wellbeing. It aims to create an infrastructure that supports graduate students across all units of study by offering more financial support, enhancing housing resources, developing opportunities for professional development (including opportunities to showcase and enhance their research), and creating dedicated spaces for graduate activities. This strategic plan is aligned with the Rowan University President's Plan for Graduate Education of the Future at Rowan University.

Vision

The School of Graduate Studies' vision is to be a premier source of graduate studies information and resources to empower students and programs in advancing the research and scholarly capacity at Rowan University. We aim to do this in a way that broadens participation in graduate education, recognizes students' unique needs and assets, and helps foster a culture of innovation. We envision a future in which our graduates are recognized as leaders and change-makers who transform their respective fields, inspire others to make a difference, and stay connected to our institution.

Mission

The mission of the School of Graduate Studies is to provide excellent personalized support to graduate students in their pursuit of academic, research, creative, cultural, professional, and social development. Through support to our graduate programs, we aim to provide an academically rigorous learning environment which equips students to succeed in their careers

and make meaningful contributions to their communities. We are dedicated to promoting inclusion and belonging in all that we do. The SGS aims to provide a supportive and collaborative academic environment that fosters lifelong learning, critical thinking, and ethical leadership.

Strategic Goals

The School of Graduate Studies will meet Rowan University's overarching objective of being a top University for graduate school by candidates and potential students -- both online and in person -- by achieving the following goals:

1. Center the concept of belongingness for Rowan's population of Graduate Students - both online and in person- by implementing initiatives that promote access and inclusion across all programs.
2. Establish and maintain clear and consistent communication channels between graduate programs, institutional units, and the graduate student body, and develop collaborative structures that enhance partnerships across units to support both programs and students.
3. Support quality and excellence in all that we produce (i.e. graduates/alumni; presentations; theses and dissertations; next generation of faculty; etc.) including developing and providing training programs, guides, and content focused on academic integrity and on excellence.
4. Create recognition for outstanding graduate students and supportive faculty members and degree programs.
5. Foster the values of lifelong learning, critical thinking, and ethical leadership in our graduate students.
6. Enhance support for graduate student wellbeing, including elements which impact wellbeing such as financial support, financial acuity, housing, and research support.
7. Create dedicated spaces and high quality infrastructure to support graduate student activities and enhance collaboration among graduate students.
8. Facilitate access to and enhance research support and mentorship opportunities for graduate students, while also providing leadership opportunities for those students.