

Building a Culture for Graduate Education at Master's Focused Institutions

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Building a Graduate Culture--

Our focus will be on:

- ***Students:*** Larry Fritz-Bloomsburg University
- ***Faculty:*** Nan Yancey- Lewis University
- ***Infrastructure:*** Kay Long- WV Wesleyan College



Bloomsburg University OF PENNSYLVANIA

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- Established in 1839, *“to teach the youth the elements of a classical education”*
- One of 14 Universities in the PA State System of Higher Education
- 10,000 students/900 graduate students
- 20 Graduate programs: *Audiology- Public Policy*

Building a Culture for Graduate Education:

Students

In building a graduate culture, graduate students' needs and wants are among the first things to consider. Graduate students' concerns don't always match those of undergraduate students.

Areas of interest and concern for graduate students can fall into three categories:

Academics

Support/Recognition

Student Life

Academics

- Graduate Courses
- Graduate Catalog
- Graduate Applications, Policies and Regulations

Support/Recognition

- Graduate Assistantships/ Work study
- Awards/Events
- Research/Travel support
- Commencement Activities

Student Life

- Orientation
- Graduate Housing
- Graduate student spaces (library, study, etc)
- Graduate Student Association
- Surveys

LEWIS UNIVERSITY



- **Romeoville Illinois**
 - Established as an aviation school by Diocese of Joliet in 1932
 - De La Salle Christian Brothers assumed sponsorship in 1960
 - First graduate program offered in 1975
- **Current**
 - Four Colleges (Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, and Nursing/Health Professions) and School for Professional & Continuing Education
 - Over 6400 students with more than 1900 graduate students
 - 25 graduate programs (Doctoral, Masters, Certificate)

Building a Culture for Graduate Education: *Faculty*

- Central to the teaching-learning mission
- Multiple roles but tend to be focused on
 - Students
 - Disciplinary concerns
- Symbiotic relationship between faculty scholarship and graduate teaching
- Critical voice in governance and decisions

Faculty: *Academics*



- Challenges:
 - Focus on teaching-learning
 - Traditional focus on undergraduate education
 - Decentralized structure
 - Program review
 - Program approval
- Opportunities:
 - AQIP/Accreditation requirements
 - Strategic plan
 - Creating a space and voice for Graduate Education
 - University graduate council
 - Minimum expectations
 - Common graduate learning outcomes
 - Assessment plan

Faculty:

Communication

- Transparency, clarity, and multi-directionality
- Regularly scheduled opportunities
 - Graduate Council
 - Directors/Chairs of Graduate Studies meetings
 - Annual Forum on Graduate Education
- Ad hoc mechanisms
 - Blackboard
 - Old-fashioned email or phone contact
 - Individual or group planned meetings

Faculty:

Support and Recognition

- Creating a Culture of Inquiry
 - Office of Sponsored Projects
 - Celebration of Scholarship event
 - Awards and funding opportunities
- Quality of work life
 - Space
 - Resources
 - Support for grants/projects
 - Professional development opportunities
 - Build opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration



- Founded in 1890 by WV Methodists
- Known as a strong, small liberal arts UG college
- 1450 students with 120 graduate students in 5 programs [one in 1986; 4 new in last 4 years]

Building a Culture for Graduate Education: *Infrastructure*

Policies – Procedures/Practices – Communication

*Multiple challenges arise in moving the institution's infrastructure from serving students in traditional UG programs to **serving graduate students in diverse GRAD programs**.*

*In effect, we need to gather resources to implement a graduate culture so that the infrastructure does not **at worst ignore** graduate students or consider them an **"add-on" at best** .*

Infrastructure:

Policies

- Admission processing & decisions
- Status: FT, HT, or PT – how many credit hours + continuous enrollment
- Financial Aid
- Class scheduling – UG terms or new terms
- Grading, e.g., incompletes, withdrawals, appeals
- Institutional research
- Health care service & insurance
- Student governance
- Participation in graduation

Infrastructure:

Procedures & Practices

- Pre-registration & Registration
- Billing and payment options
- Establish procedures for exceptions
- Access to email, LMS, IDs, parking, etc.
- Academic integrity and research (IRB)
- Library access and hours
- Career development services
- Child care service

Infrastructure:

Communication

How to work through the institution's systems:

- Establish a communication system between faculty & students within a program
- Establish a method for communication between students and service resources
- Devise a system to monitor progress
- Train resource providers to understand the various grad degrees
- Integrate the graduating GRAD students into alumni organization and database

QUESTIONS?