

CGS Strategic Priorities 2021-2023

Vision

A better future for all through graduate education, research, and innovation.

Mission

The Council of Graduate Schools serves to advance graduate education and research in the U.S. and globally. CGS accomplishes its mission through advocacy in the policy arena, innovative research, and the development and dissemination of best practices. CGS also acts as a convening authority, organizing major events that bring together graduate deans and other stakeholders to discuss and take action on a broad range of issues affecting graduate education today.

Core Values

- **Diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.** The opportunity to pursue graduate education must be broadly accessible to all. Graduate schools should support the creation of environments where different cultures and experiences are valued and respected.
- **Graduate students at the center.** The primary purpose of graduate education is to support the learning and professional development of graduate students. We recognize the substantial contributions students make to research productivity and undergraduate teaching at their institutions. However, these activities should never be allowed to compromise graduate student success.
- **Global engagement.** We believe that graduate education is evolving in a global context, and we must remain committed to exchanging good practices across national borders.
- **Solving challenges that affect local, national and global communities.** Graduate education supports research and development that is essential for solving challenges in critical areas such as health, education, and the environment. Master's and doctoral education help to advance knowledge, drive innovation, prepare the next generation of educators, and support the health and prosperity of all.

Guiding Principles

- **Culture of respect.** We listen to different voices and perspectives to deepen our understanding and expand our impact.

- **Collaboration.** We work collaboratively within the organization and through strategic collaboration with member universities and partners to solve pressing challenges in graduate education.
- **Empowering graduate education leaders.** We provide graduate deans and their staff with information, resources and networks to advance graduate education within their institutional contexts.
- **Evidence-based practices.** We inform our strategies and approaches with reliable information and rigorous research.

Strategic Priorities

- Advance equitable policies and practices that support the success of a diverse and inclusive graduate student community and future workforce.
- Lead the graduate education community in identifying and exploring challenges in graduate education and identify and implement innovative solutions.
- Develop and enhance the relationships necessary to center graduate education in federal legislative, funding, and regulatory actions.
- Expand member institutions' capacities to provide innovative, evidence-based and holistic approaches to graduate education that place students at the center.
- Increase membership engagement and expand outreach to potential new members by using innovative and effective strategies.
- Develop and implement a plan for new models of meetings and content delivery responsive to the availability of new technologies and evolving member needs.