



School of Education Strategic Plan 2020

The University of Mississippi

Vision

As a great American public university, the University of Mississippi will lead and excel by engaging minds, transforming lives, and serving others.

Mission

The University of Mississippi's mission is to create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge in a free, open, and inclusive environment of intellectual inquiry. Building upon a distinguished foundation in the liberal arts, the state's oldest university serves the people of Mississippi and the world through a breadth of academic, research, and professional programs.

The University of Mississippi provides an academic experience that emphasizes critical thinking; encourages intellectual depth and creativity; challenges and inspires a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; provides enriching opportunities outside the classroom; supports life long learning; and develops a sense of global responsibility.

Statement of Institutional Core Values

In pursuing its mission, the University of Mississippi:

- Reaffirms its identity and purpose as fundamentally academic.
- Nurtures excellence in teaching, learning, creativity, and research.
- Provides the best and most accessible undergraduate education in the state of Mississippi.
- Offers high quality graduate and professional programs.
- Protects academic freedom and cultivates individual integrity and academic honesty.
- Promotes inclusiveness in its student body, faculty, and staff.
- Requires respect for all individuals and groups.
- Fosters a civil community of shared governance and collaborative endeavors.
- Practices good stewardship of its resources.
- Devotes its knowledge and abilities to serve the state and the world.
- Honors the dignity of all employees and compensates them fairly.

The University of Mississippi Creed

The University of Mississippi is a community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment. As a voluntary member of this community:

Imagine

Innovate

Inspire

- I believe in respect for the dignity of each person.
- I believe in fairness and civility.
- I believe in personal and professional integrity.
- I believe in academic honesty.
- I believe in academic freedom.
- I believe in good stewardship of our resources.

I pledge to uphold these values and encourage others to follow my example.

University of Mississippi Flagship Goals

Our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends offered over 10,000 inspiring ideas for the future of the University of Mississippi. Across all of these ideas, three common themes emerged including: a desire to “dream big” and to set great expectations for the state’s flagship university; to expand our impact in the state and to extend our reach globally; and to foster one of our greatest attributes – an unrivaled collegiate experience.

To encourage an unwavering pursuit towards these interests, the Strategic Planning Council identified the following Flagship 2020 Goals:

Flagship Goal: Establish a bold vision with great expectations

- Become a top 50 public research university
- Achieve one billion dollar endowment to support the university’s strategic priorities & bold vision for 2020
- Award 50,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees between 2010 and 2020
- Recruit, develop and retain an inclusive faculty of the highest quality through a program of enhanced compensation, research support, and professional services that rivals our peers
- Advance to the Carnegie Very High Research University classification

Flagship Goal: Expand our impact locally, Extend our reach globally

- Lead the state and region in preparing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals and leaders, especially from underrepresented groups, and improve science literacy of the general public
- Lead state efforts to combat illiteracy, alleviate poverty, and support tolerance through academics, research, and service
- Enhance our leadership role as the flagship institution in the state for health, wellness, and sustainability
- Promote service learning and civic engagement by faculty, staff, and students through an innovative on-campus center or office

Imagine

Innovate

Inspire

- Embrace and support globally engaged students by bringing the world to Mississippi and Mississippi to the world

Flagship Goal: Provide an unrivaled collegiate experience

- Deliver an accessible and affordable education of the highest quality to a diverse student body
 - Foster our finest traditions: an inclusive, student-centered, and welcoming campus environment
 - Enhance the involvement of our alumni, friends, and the community in campus athletic, academic, social, and cultural events
 - Nurture and strengthen the collaborations between the University and the Oxford-Lafayette community
 - Support nationally competitive athletic programs by providing student-athletes with the opportunity to compete at the highest level academically and athletically
- Priority of Excellence

The School of Education (Established 1903)

The School of Education's professional programs operate from a well-developed strategic action plan that first evolved in 1985. The plan has been revisited and updated continually, most recently in fall 2014. The plan aligns purposefully with the university's goals and builds upon essential knowledge and skills, research findings and sound professional practice. The knowledge base for each of the School's academic programs serves as a foundation of the school's conceptual framework, "Educators as Reflective Professionals."

The school's conceptual framework, the mission and vision statements attest to the commitment of faculty and staff, whose dedication and scholarly pursuits inspire curricular models and bring a spirit of innovation. All this translates into an outstanding education for students in the School, who graduate as reflective professionals with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to facilitate lifelong learning in an interactive and diverse society. In harmony with this conceptual framework, the strategic plan continues to be modified as stakeholders revisit issues annually. The School seeks to make the plan a dynamic document based on current research and societal needs. The School of Education is proud of its legacy and optimistic about the future.

The School of Education's theme, "[Educators as Reflective Professionals](#)", captures the mission and vision of the unit and offers direction for systematic and continuous review and improvement of its professional development programs.

Goals for Excellence

The School of Education has created 15 goals directly aligned with the university's priorities of excellence. These goals will help the School of Education advanced into the 21st century to meet the needs of an ever-changing society.

Vision

We imagine the transformation of individuals and communities to advance educational equity and excellence through innovative practice by professionals who lead and inspire others.

Mission

The mission of the School of Education is to prepare and engage reflective professionals who create, use and share knowledge in partnership with individuals and communities to serve Mississippi and beyond.

UM Priorities of Excellence 1: *Undergraduate Education & Student Success*

1. Provide quality educational programs for undergraduate student success in a diverse society
2. Recruit and retain quality students
3. Enhance the quality of candidate field placements

UM Priorities of Excellence 2: *Graduate and Professional Education*

4. Improve and expand graduate programs
5. Create a professional Ed.D. in Education
6. Enhance preparation and opportunities for graduate student research

UM Priorities of Excellence 3: *Research, Scholarship, Innovation, and Creativity*

7. Enhance research opportunities and increase external funding
8. Encourage and support interdisciplinary research and community engagement
9. Enhance the scholarship of practice

UM Priorities of Excellence 4: *The Collegiate Experience*

10. Enhance student participation in engaging co-curricular activities
11. Improve the physical environment for teaching and learning

UM Priorities of Excellence 4: *Faculty*

12. Recruit and retain a qualified and more diverse faculty to improve academic programs
13. Identify and refine faculty responsibilities and expectations
14. Establish endowed professorships and chairs

UM Priorities of Excellence 4: *Staff*

15. Recruit and retain quality staff

Measuring Progress

The School of Education Administrative Leadership Team will be responsible for monitoring the progress and success of the goals outlined in the School of Education 2020 strategic plan. An annual report will be created and disseminated to faculty, staff, students, alumni and constituents. In addition, the Administrative Leadership Team will track a set of performance metrics both quantitative and qualitative to measure the impact of these efforts. Key performance indicators will serve as a tool for gauging the strategic plan's overall impact and success.