Laying the Groundwork for Future Success
A Summary of Recent Graduate School Efforts in Support of the Strategic Plan

The Graduate School’s Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Develop and support innovative academic programs.
Goal 2: Create a vibrant and engaged graduate community.
Goal 3: Develop data-driven mechanisms to reward graduate program innovation.
Goal 4: Optimize processes to promote increased admissions, retention, and graduation rates.

What Do You Highlight When Everything Is Changing?
The Graduate School and Graduate Council are working hard to remove barriers to admission, barriers to student success, and barriers to communication. For example, we have:
-- Changed the international admissions requirement from 7th semester to 6th semester marks.
-- Expanded Senior Rule to make starting a graduate degree easier.
-- Eliminated the 60% rule for master’s degrees to give programs more flexibility.
-- Created a GPA amnesty option for students finding themselves initially in the wrong program.
-- Removed the prohibition on outside employment for GAs.
-- Formed a Graduate Student Association to give graduate students a more direct and collective voice.

Making Stackable Credentials Work (Goal 1)
The Graduate Council passed a comprehensive update to the catalog to make sure that alternate pathways based on stackable credentials are not only possible, but encouraged. For example:
-- The level of work required to earn a graduate badge is now defined to be consistent with our 3.0 GPA requirement.
-- The transfer cap for WSU badges was raised, and courses on a graduate certificate POS are excluded from the cap.
-- Time limits are not imposed on transfer courses from a previously awarded WSU graduate certificate.

Promoting Social and Professional Growth Within Our Graduate Student Community (Goal 2)
The GS is collaborating with units across campus to develop and support social, cultural, and professional community.

Graduate Enrollment Management (Goal 3)
GEM is a systematic approach to managing enrollment and the graduate student lifecycle—from prospect to alumni—by syncing admissions, student support, academic, and other cross-functional operations. The framework is holistic and purposely intended to catalyze program and process review, continuous program improvement, and enrollment growth.

Implementing a New Admissions System (Goal 4)
CollegeNET has improved processes in three key areas. Specifically, it provides:
-- An intuitive and dynamically updated online application.
-- A robust CRM tool.
-- An online review portal that normalizes and streamlines applicant review.