

12-2015

Goal 1: Elevate Student Success

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Citation Details

Strategic Planning Development Team, "Goal 1: Elevate Student Success" (2015). *Implementation*. 16.
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Strategic Plan | Elevate Student Success



To maintain and enhance Portland State University's position as Oregon's top urban research and teaching university, and as the state's most diverse campus, we face challenges and demands that require new solutions. We must be strategic in how we use our limited resources to support students from all backgrounds to succeed.

OBJECTIVE: Provide a quality education and graduate students who are prepared for careers and life in a global context.

Initiative 1: Put Students First

- 1.1 Explore and put in place new strategies to contain the cost of completing a PSU degree.
- 1.2 Identify and remediate administrative policies and procedures that impede student success by improving support services, programs and access to courses they need to progress towards graduation.
- 1.3 Undertake efforts to improve academic success by increasing the inclusion of, respect for and affirmation of all communities of students.
- 1.4 Explore and commit to measures that improve overall student wellness, safety, food and housing security and other concerns that can become barriers to student success.

Initiative 2: Clarify Academic Pathways

- 2.1 Clarify and simplify university requirements.
- 2.2 Help students navigate their course work and move effectively and efficiently toward graduation.
- 2.3 Create programs and services in conjunction with community colleges and other institutions to ensure clear pathways for transfer students.

Initiative 3: Use Best Practices to Advance Student Retention

- 3.1 Increase advising capacity, revitalize advising systems and improve the visibility of student support services.
- 3.2 Expand culturally responsive and culturally specific supports for students from diverse communities.
- 3.3 Maximize use of advanced analytics to improve student outcomes.

Initiative 4: Design and Offer Academic Programs that Lead to Future Success

- 4.1 Develop an academic plan with programs that prepare students for competitive advantage in life and career.
- 4.2 Provide flexible degrees to accommodate the diverse needs of students.

4.3 Assess opportunities for innovative academic programs that align with career paths, locally and globally.

4.4 Increase opportunities for students to participate in scholarly activities, research efforts and creative endeavors.

Initiative 5: Prepare for Academic and Career Success

5.1 Establish orientation programs that address linguistic and cultural needs.

5.2 Increase technology training to support student learning.

5.3 Increase access to, and education about, scholarship opportunities, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged students.

5.4 Offer additional training for financial literacy.

5.5 Improve preparation for career placement and advancement.

Initiative 6: Enhance Graduate Student Success

6.1 Grow and improve scholarships to support graduate study.

6.2 Create stronger linkages between research centers and institutes that hire graduate students with graduate students seeking financial support.

6.3 Strengthen career and professional development services to support post-graduate careers.

Initiative 7: Broaden International Opportunities

7.1 Expand opportunities for international and cross-cultural learning experiences, including study abroad, campus exchanges, internships, community-based learning and co-curricular programs.

7.2 Increase international and cross-cultural perspectives on campus and in the classroom.

7.3 Expand financial support to increase the number and demographic diversity of study abroad participants.

7.4 Create opportunities for international and intercultural engagement in existing campus housing, cultural and recreation programs.

7.5 Develop innovative language immersion in academic and extracurricular activities.

Equity Lens

- Recognize that disparities in the retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students necessitate an investment in culturally responsive advising.
- Support faculty to understand equity issues to foster better relationships with historically marginalized and underrepresented students.
- Develop academic experiences, including community-based learning that use universal design, accessibility and appropriate accommodations to ensure an equitable and inclusive learning experience for all students.