

Our Mission

The University of California, Irvine's Division of Graduate Education serves as a catalyst for a high-quality experience for all graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, leading to long-term excellence in career. The Graduate Division strives to collaborate, communicate, and partner with all academic programs on campus ensuring that UC Irvine continues its upward trend in excellence in research, community impact, and professional development while ensuring access and inclusion at all levels of our enterprise.

Our Roles and Responsibilities

The UC Irvine Graduate Division provides campus leadership on all graduate education matters, working with scholars from all over the world to engage in study, teaching, and research in the pursuit of a professional, academic, and postdoctoral training. At UCI Graduate Division, we strive to:

- 1) recruit excellent and diverse students to UCI;
- 2) provide the graduate and post-doctoral educational resources they need before, during, and after their time at UCI; and
- 3) support a wide variety of first-rate career pathways.

To make this possible we must excel at:

- 1) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 2) Student Success & Wellness
- 3) Lifelong Learning and Partnership with Industry

In the next five years, we will excel in these areas via specific strategic goals as outlined in this document:

Goal #1: Grow diversity, equity, and inclusion within graduate education and post-doctoral training.

Our graduate programs must produce more faculty and industry leaders who have lived experiences similar to those of our undergraduate students and the surrounding community. However, graduate education is more challenging to attain for minoritized groups, women, and first-generation students. We must strive not only to recruit but also to retain, graduate, and push towards excellence a wide variety of graduate students holding different beliefs, backgrounds, and histories.

Strategies:

- a. Promote awareness and accessibility to graduate education.
- b. Recruit high-quality, diverse graduate applicants in collaboration with partners across campus.
- c. Information driven decision making related to resources devoted to DEI.
- d. Promote discussions around holistic admissions strategies.

Metrics of success:

- Doubling of admissions of URM PhD students
- Increasing percentage of URM student degree completions
- Increased recruitment of doctoral students from UC, CSU, HBCU or HSI toward the target of 50% enrollment

- Increased number of Chancellor's and Presidential Post-Docs
- Increased usage of DEI Dashboards by the Schools

Goal #2: Advocate for graduate programs & student success in response to academic & societal needs.

To provide the highest quality educational, artistic, and scientific outcomes, students must thrive during their graduate and postdoctoral training. Thriving requires excellent graduate programs with high-quality pedagogy, evidence-based decision-making, impact-driven scholarship, and superb wrap-around services. A student-centered university addresses these challenges so our students can focus on the next scientific breakthrough, knock-out startup, or breathtaking artwork.

Strategies:

- Continue to encourage and facilitate creation of responsive degree programs.
- Support interdisciplinary programs & novel credentialing models according to trending needs.
- Track, analyze and share graduate student, programmatic & financial data to promote successful outcomes.
- Develop additional revenue streams in support of graduate education through philanthropy, training, research grants and other mechanisms.
- Assist graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in obtaining extramural fellowship support.
- Enhance graduate degree completion.
- Launch a core wellness and inclusion program/curriculum to be offered campus wide.
- Develop and launch a student facing portal.

Metrics of success:

- Increased usage of Tableau Dashboards by School
- Matching median time to degree to normative time to degree across graduate programs
- Working towards \$5 million new support annually for graduate students across Campus
- Working towards \$10 million endowment fund for Graduate Division
- Increased extramural fellowship support by 25%
- 8 year completion rate of 75%
- Increased use of Graduate Division resources
- Increased sense of belonging reported by students and alumni

Goal #3: Strengthen partnerships with industry and surrounding community.

UC Irvine should be the leading long-term partner for industry across Orange County and Southern California as well as our alumni from around the globe. A commitment to lifelong learning means supporting graduate, professional, and postdoctoral education throughout a career. This commitment also means creating a continuum of talent across our students and alumni and connecting our high-quality curriculum to the market needs of local and global partners.

Strategies:

- a. Explicitly engage career planning throughout the student and postdoc experience.
- b. Partner with various campus constituencies to bolster professional development for graduate student and post-doctoral fellows.
- c. Increase alumni & community engagement.
- d. Track employment outcomes of doctoral students for ten years after graduation, and highlight successful career paths of alumni.
- e. Continue to publicize the importance and impact of graduate education.
- f. Engage with local and national government and policy leaders to showcase graduate initiatives, student success, and to advocate for graduate education.

Metrics of success:

- Engagement of 20,000 alumni as aligned with the Brilliant Future Campaign
- Successful launch of internship and job placement opportunities through Industry Partnerships
- Increased Graduate Division presence at national conferences, speaking engagements and editorial requests.