
Undergraduate Studies

K-STATE
2025

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Undergraduate Studies

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K-State 2025: A Visionary Plan for Kansas State University

Theme II: Undergraduate Educational Experience

- Thematic Goal: Build a connected, diverse, empowered, engaged, participatory culture of learning and excellence that promotes undergraduate student success and prepares students for their professional, community, social, and personal lives.
- Long Term Outcomes: 1) Top 50 UG Recognition; 2) Faculty Teaching & Advising Awards Comparable to Benchmark Institutions; 3) 90% First-to-Second Year Retention and 70% Six-Year Graduation Rates.



K-State 2025

Enumerated Strategic Actions

1. “...build a less-siloed...university...to encourage student success....”
2. “dramatically improve advising services....”
3. “...implement...an...effective First Year Experience....”
4. “...expand...high--impact experiential learning and research...”
5. “emphasize student participation in a broad range of...activities...”
6. “develop, promote, reward, and support excellent teaching....”
7. “expand our capacity to recruit a talented, diverse...student body....”
8. “implement...strategies for sharing research...and progress”
9. “...implement...effective, meaningful assessments....”
10. “resource what works best...”



Expected Short-Term Outcomes (1-to-5 years)

- “excellent, customized academic advising...”
- “engaged students benefitting from high impact practices...”
- “increased participation...in...meaningful research.”
- “meaningful research is standard practice.”
- “evaluation practices that...reward teaching, advising, life-long learning/professional development”
- “effective system...that supports...teaching excellence.”
- “successful recruitment and retention strategies that address our entire student population” (emphasis in original).
- “improved six-year graduation rates and retention ratios”



Bosco/Dandaneau K-State 2025 Undergraduate Studies and Student Life Theme II Implementation Plan (2013)

- **Short Term Focus**

- Student Success
 - Engage in Strategic Enrollment Management
 - Establish a Student Success Collaborative
 - Nurture Developmental Academic Advising
 - Establish a Comprehensive Approach to First Year Experience
 - Renew Emphasis on Student-Centered Responsibilities
- Undergraduate Research
- University Honors Program

- **Best Practice Research**

- Appalachian State and Stanford University Site Visits (Boone, NC; Palo Alto, CA)
- EAB University Leadership Council Meeting on Student Success (Washington, D.C.)
- NACADA Academic Advising Administrator's Institute (Savannah, GA)



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-16

- **Strategic Enrollment Management**
 - First-Generation Students
 - Suder Foundation, First Scholars Program™ (2013)
 - Suder Foundation, First Scholars Strategic Initiatives™ (2014)
 - Suder Foundation, Office of First-Generation Student Success (2017-2021?)
 - Need-Based Scholarships for Academically Middle Quartile Students
 - Four-Year Developmentally Appropriate Student Support
 - Admissions by Exception to KBOR Qualified Admissions Standards
 - “Plan for Success”/Academic Coaching
 - Experimental Admission Deadline
 - New Pre-Orientation Materials/Week of Welcome Activities
 - SEM discussion (e.g., CSU’s President Tony Frank, Noel-Levitz, EAB, Task Force)



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-16

- **Establish a Student Success Collaborative**
 - Upgraded KSIS Student Information System (with help from ITS and advisors)
 - Integrated EAB Student Success Collaborative (SSC) into KSIS (w/ITS, advisors)
 - Upgraded to SSC Campus (with help from K-State Athletics)
 - Established University Advising Committee (co-chaired by VPUS/Student Life leader)
 - Established Undergraduate Programs Council (composed of UG college leaders)
 - Improved online academic resources for students (e.g., K-State Polytechnic)
 - Examined academic calendar (via University Calendar Committee, w/survey)
 - Surveyed students who leave K-State (a Student Life undertaking)
 - Supported college and department student success initiatives
 - Coordinate with Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures (CAPP)
 - Coordinate with CAPP's KSIS Subcommittee and ITS's KSIS Committee



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-16

- **Nurture a Developmental Approach to Academic Advising**
 - University Advising Committee (co-chairs VPUS/AVP Student Life)
 - Professional Development Grants
 - K-State/NACADA Winter and Summer Undergraduate Academic Advising Institutes
 - EAB and NACADA Webinars
 - University-Wide Advising Syllabus
 - Upgrade Online Advising Materials
 - Involve the Advising Community in Policy Development
 - Involve the Advising Community in Proactive, Data-Driven, Student Success Outreach
 - Reorganization (Pre-Law, Nationally Competitive Scholarships, K-State Polytechnic...)
 - Establish maximum advisor/student ratios (adding new primary role advisors, etc.)
 - Via SSC Campus, integrate and support advising, instructional, tutoring, student life, and academic administration personnel involved in myriad student success efforts



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-2016

- **Establish a Comprehensive Approach to the First-Year Experience**
 - K-State First (FYS, CAT Communities, GPS, KSBN, and etc.)
 - First Year Seminars (3 cr. hr.): 2008 = 257 students; 2015 = 629 students
 - Connected Across Topics Communities (7 cr. hrs.): 2010 = 108 students; 2015 = 511 students
 - Higher first-year GPAs, facilitates relationship-building with faculty and peers
 - Higher retention/graduation rates (e.g., KSF '08 cohort = 65% vs. 59% overall six-yr. grad. rate)
 - Special focus on transfer students, first-generation students, interdisciplinary learning....
 - Close collaboration with Student Life (e.g., Admissions, New Student Services, Housing/Dining)
 - Established dedicated office location (Leasure Hall)
 - Strategic integration of Division of Student Life units (Univ. Experience, Pilots, First Scholars)
 - Staley School of Leadership Studies, LEAD 212 (2 cr. hrs.)
 - College, Department, Unit Transition Courses (usually 1 cr. hr.)
 - New Student Convocation (2013-)



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-16

- **Renew Emphasis on Student-Centered Practices/Responsibilities**
 - Include SGA leaders in student success theory and research (e.g., via EAB@KSU)
 - Facilitate SGA leaders' interaction with national experts (e.g., NACADA national meeting)
 - Include SGA representatives on new committees (e.g., University Advising Committee)
 - Partner with Powercat Financial Planning to empower students and their families
 - Showcase peer-to-peer student success advice (e.g., via New Student Convocation)
 - Improve Orientation & Enrollment practices and informational materials
 - Integrate tutoring community with advising, faculty, student life professionals, academic admin.
 - Strengthen academic affairs collaboration with student life (e.g., via CAT Communities)
 - Student-friendly communications (e.g., advising texts, online advising appointment scheduling)
 - Support supplemental instruction (e.g., College of Engineering Scholars Assisting Scholars)
 - Support UG and graduate student participation in Honor and Integrity System's Honor Council



Short-Term Strategic Actions: 2012-16

- **Undergraduate Research**

- Established Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry (OURCI)
 - OURCI Grants (105 awards to-date from 335 applicants), selected by OURCI Advisory Council
 - Instituted fall semester SPARK Week (introducing research opportunities for the benefit of new students)
 - Established 0-credit hour undergraduate research measurement system (6.4% benchmark measure)
 - OURCI Ambassadors (off-campus recruitment, on-campus and in-class information sessions, Open House)
 - KBOR Undergraduate Research at the Capitol (27 K-State presenters to-date; K-State's OURCI is 2017 host)
- Migrated Developing Scholars Program (DSP) from Student Life
 - Currently supports NIH Bridges Program, NSF Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, Koch Scholars
 - DSP currently provides research funding for 79 historically underrepresented undergraduate students and has graduated 250 in total, 46% of whom also earned post-bacc. degrees as well as many prestigious accolades
 - DSP itself received an Honorable Mention from National Excelencia in Education and was nominated by K-State for the 2017 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring Award
- Migrated Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leaders Program from Student Life
 - Edgerley-Franklin currently serves 19 competitively selected students who receive scholarship support
 - Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leaders Program received a generous \$1M gift from the Edgerley Family in 2015



University Honors Program

- Restructured University Honors Program requirements, leadership
- Co-located program with Pre-Law Advising and Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships (the latter two migrated from Arts & Sci.)
- Student Life created *The Honors House* (living/learning community)
- Added priority course registration and Honors Study Abroad
- Added “Frontier” domestic immersion experiences (Justin Kastner)
- Revamped “Introduction to the University Honors Program” (1 cr. hr.)
- Participation in national honors program meetings
- Collaboration w/academic partners to enhance honors curriculum
- Creation of HAL (Honors Academic Link) to facilitate student tracking



K-State 2025 Theme II Intermediate Outcomes (6-10 years)

- “integrated learning communities...that promote student success...”
- “excellent reputation for high quality teaching and advising....”
- “superior and diverse faculty recognized for teaching excellence.”
- “all...students engaged in...experiences that expand their viewpoint”
- “increased undergraduate...creation of scholarship through research”
- “ongoing improvement of...graduation rates and retention ratios.”



***Bosco/Dandaneau* Intermediate and Long-Term Goals**

- “new residence halls...group living...for all first-year students”
- “design new residence halls...to incorporate academic activities, including class meeting space...and faculty-in-residence apartments”
- “establish student success center...”
- “endow the proposed Research Scholars Program”
- “position the University Honors Program...[for] transformational gift”
- “support the School of Leadership Studies’ ambition....”
- “support college and department student success plans....”



Intermediate Challenges and Opportunities (2016-2021)

- Student Achievement Gaps—Our Response Includes:
 - HLC Quality Initiative—improve first-gen six-year graduation rates
 - Support IMHOTEP, university-wide mentoring for students who are black men
 - K-State 8 Council collaboration w/Assessment re: “Human Diversity in U.S.”
 - Participation in 2016 Reinvention Collaborative biennial conference on “Diversity, Culture, and Identity” (Washington, D.C., w/Zeila Wiley, Kimathi Choma, Stephanie Bannister, Charlie Nutt, and Wendy Troxel), and 2016 inaugural NASPA “Closing the Achievement Gap” conference (w/Diane Schorr, Suder Foundation Exec. Director)
- Resource Gaps for Sustainable High-Impact Practices—Our Response Includes Strategic Enrollment Management & Targeted Philanthropy:
 - Undergraduate Research, K-State First, University Honors Program, Study Abroad....
 - Advising (compensation, advancement opportunities, tech. upgrades and admin.)
 - Need-Based Scholarships (institutional [discounting] and philanthropic investment)



University-Wide *K-State* 2025 Benchmark Metrics

- First-to-Second Year Retention (80% in 2011-12 to 85% in 2015-16)
- Six-Year Graduation Rate (56% for 2005 cohort; 63% for 2010' s)
- Percentage of Undergraduates Involved in Formalized Research Experience (6.4%, baseline fall 2015 and spring 2016 measure)

Such Gains in Student Persistence and Graduation Success are to be Celebrated!



Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies

- Established Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (2012-)
- Established VPUS business unit within Office of the Provost (2013-)
- Current reporting units:
 - K-State First (Greg Eiselein, Director)
 - Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry (Anita Cortez, Director)
 - Pre-Law Advising (Daralyn Gordon Arata, Advisor)
 - Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships (Jim Hohenbary, Director)
 - Honor and Integrity System (Steve Starrett, Director)
 - Univ. Honors Program (Steve Dandaneau, Interim Dir.; Jim Hohenbary, Assoc. Dir.)
- Main VPUS committees: Council of Deans, Undergraduate Programs Council, University Advising Committee, Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures, K-State 8 Council, Calendar Committee.



Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies: External Affiliations

- Reinvention Collaborative Board Member (2013-)
Amy Burket (Carnegie Mellon), Steven Dandaneau (KSU), Richard Feldman (Rochester), John Fisher (BGSU), Amy Goodburn (Nebraska), Archie Holmes (UVA), Blanche Hughes (CSU), Cathy Koshland (UC-Berkeley), Karen Laughlin (Florida State), Elizabeth Loizeaux (BU), Juan Manfredi (Pitt), Michael Mullen (NC State), Colin Potts (Ga.Tech), Carolyn Thomas (UC-Davis), Claudia Neuhauser (Minnesota), and Alan Lamborn (ex officio, CSU)
- K-State Liaison and P.I., Suder Foundation (2013-)
- NACADA Administrator's Institute Faculty (2016, 2017)
- Participant, John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education best practices workshop (2015)
- NACADA Completion Conference Featured Panelist (2014)
- Vice Chair, Konza United Way (2016)



Summary: UG Studies = Access, Success, Excellence

- Access
 - Mission + *K-State 2025* = Strategic Enrollment Management + Student Success
 - Pipeline and Summer Bridge Programs, Transition Courses, K-State First...
 - Developing Scholars, Edgerley-Franklin Urban Leaders, First Scholars, MAPS Program
- Success
 - Teaching, Advising, Mentoring, Coaching Excellence (e.g., SSC Campus)
 - Student Life/Academic Affairs Collaboration (e.g., CAT Communities)
 - Incentivize and Facilitate Degree Completion (e.g., bottlenecks, major switching)
- Excellence
 - High-Impact Practices (Research, International, Internships, Leadership/Service...)
 - Pre-Professional, Graduate, Nationally Competitive Scholarship Advising
 - University Honors Program, Highly Selective Merit Scholarships, Honor and Integrity



References and Resources

- K-State 2025: A Visionary Plan for Kansas State University (<http://www.k-state.edu/2025/plan/2025-visionary-plan.pdf>)
- Theme 2 Strategic Action Plan (<http://www.k-state.edu/2025/documents/2025-2-undergraduate-final-action-plan.pdf>).
- K-State 2025 Undergraduate Studies and Student Life Theme II Implementation Plan (<http://www.k-state.edu/undergradstudies/documents/student-life-implementation-plan-final-draft.pdf>).
- Undergraduate Studies (<http://www.k-state.edu/undergradstudies/>)