

The Graduate School and International Education, Strategic Plan 2012: First Yearly Update



VISION



- The Graduate School and International Education assists the University of Arkansas in excelling at research, teaching, training, and service while fostering student and scholar success and enhancing the overall student academic experience.

MISSION



- The Graduate School and International Education supports the strategic goals of the University of Arkansas to continue as a very high research university; recruits, retains and graduates high-caliber students; advocates for students and student success; facilitates intercultural and international experiences to increase global competencies; and assists in the development of international, interdisciplinary, and graduate programs.



Goal One



- Advance the visibility and reputation of the University of Arkansas within the nation and around the world and promote the UA as a destination of choice for students and scholars.

- **In 2013:**
 - ✓ We welcomed Dr. Charles Adams as Senior Director for International Education.
 - ✓ Graduate student enrollment in Fall 2013 reflected the largest increase in four years.
 - ✓ Gloria Flores and the UA IE team hosted the NAFSA Region III conference in Rogers, including the debut of Larry Foley's *After the Tsunami* video .
 - ✓ We visited approximately 70 schools for domestic recruitment.
 - ✓ We hosted the Aspire, Apply, Achieve Diversity Conference for prospective graduate students.

Goal One (continued)



- ✓ We attended several conferences for domestic recruitment, including SACNAS, SHPE, NSBE, MANRRS, SREB, and others.
- ✓ We assisted with the International Students' Organization conference in March 2013; attendees included 77 student leaders and eight advisors representing 37 institutions from 20 states.
- ✓ Michael Freeman led the *J-1 Advising: Intermediate curriculum* team to develop a new workshop for NAFSA.
- ✓ We organized initial meetings of StudyARKANSAS to develop a consortium of Arkansas higher education institutions.

Goal One (continued)



- ✓ The UA was highlighted on the US Department of State's International Education Week site.
- ✓ Namiko Bagirimvano mentored a US Department of State sponsored visiting student who was nationally recognized for the quality of her cultural experiences at the UA.
- ✓ We hosted over 16 government officials and foreign delegations to visit the University, including a delegation from Shimane University who donated cherry trees to the UA.

Goal One (continued)



- ✓ SILC and GSIE received two grants for 2014:

Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders -Sponsored by U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), Administered by IREX - six-week Workshop on Public Management for young African leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa

Professional Training for Iraqi English Language Educators - Sponsored by U.S. Department of State, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Baghdad - four-week Professional Development EFL Teacher Training program for teachers from Kirkuk Region of Iraq.



Goal Two



- Initiate and maintain strong connections with, and advocate for, graduate, international, and study abroad students and scholars from the time of initial inquiry through post graduation.
- **In 2013:**
 - ✓ We doubled the number of Hogs Abroad 101 sessions for prospective study abroad students.
 - ✓ We implemented TerraDotta software, thus creating an advanced search engine and on-line application process to identify study abroad opportunities.
 - ✓ We expanded social media networks to connect with study abroad students from initial inquiry through post graduation.

Goal Two (continued)



- ✓ The iFriend program placed 109 students with Friendship Families and Campus Cousins, the highest number ever placed.
- ✓ A new virtual international alumni society, Razorbacks Worldwide, was formed in collaboration with the Alumni Society.

Goal Two (continued)



- ✓ Through advocacy efforts of ISS and Richard Hudson, Representative Greg Leding sponsored a bill that amended current AR law governing driver's licenses for dependents of international students.
- ✓ 285 international students attended International Orientation this fall and we had the largest number ever attend the New Graduate Student Orientation.
- ✓ The ISS compliance team successfully advocated for the resolution of several immigration issues.
- ✓ We continued to implement and develop the PAPPS program.

Goal Three



- Actively seek to promote and strengthen strategic relationships with partner institutions, academic units, university departments and the community.

- **In 2013:**
 - ✓ We signed a Carver MOU with New Mexico State University, and we have four more Carver MOUs in process.
 - ✓ We offered the 5th annual Graduate Research Opportunities Forum.
 - ✓ We signed MOUs with 13 new international partner institutions.
 - ✓ We offered the 2nd annual Graduate Education Week.
 - ✓ We hosted the 5th annual Graduate School Appreciation Cookout.

Goal Three (continued)



- ✓ We presented another successful International Education Week which brought together all of the offices of the GSIE in collaboration with the university community.
- ✓ IIE, SILC, SSP and ISS are working together to meet the goals of the Brazil sponsored visiting student program.
- ✓ ISS and Study Abroad are working together in presenting Hogs Abroad 101 to encourage students who are interested in study abroad to also be involved in other international education opportunities.
- ✓ International Education was more prominently featured on the new UA homepage.

Goal Four



- Serve as the central unit for tracking and providing risk assessment for international education mobility.

- In 2013, we:
 - ✓ Established the International Education Advisory Council.
 - ✓ Moved Sunapsis to the testing stage for the management of international students and scholars coming to the UA.
 - ✓ Implemented the International Risk Management Tool on TerraDotta to allow for campus-wide registration of travel outside of the U.S.

Goal Five



- Facilitate the development and management of innovative and educational graduate, international, and interdisciplinary programs.

- **In 2013, we:**
 - ✓ Organized the effort to propose new interdisciplinary master's and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics & Analytics;
 - ✓ Facilitated eight new faculty-led study abroad programs to be offered in 2014;
 - ✓ Expanded the capacity of the UA Rome Center to provide core and other UA classes during the summer for up to 120 students university-wide;
 - ✓ Developed a new learning community within Holcombe Hall for International Studies, as a partnership between ISS, University Housing, and International Relations;
 - ✓ Offered ELAC courses for the first time.

Goal Six



- Increase the quantity and diversity of qualified international and graduate applications;
 - Increase the percentage of graduate students to 20% of the total student headcount enrollment by 2020;
 - Increase the percentage of international graduate students to 20% of the total graduate student headcount by 2020;
- In 2013,
 - ✓ Master's enrollment increased by 69 students compared to Fall 2012, including 8 African American, 27 Asian, 22 Hispanic, 10 Native American, and 27 international master's students .
 - ✓ Doctoral enrollment increased by 69 students compared to Fall 2012, including 31 males and 38 females; and 54 international students.
 - ✓ Graduate enrollment as a percentage of total university headcount increased from 15.39% in Fall 2012 to 15.56% in Fall 2013.
 - ✓ International graduate enrollment as a percentage of total graduate enrollment increased from 16.49% in Fall 2012 to 17.88% in Fall 2013.

Goal Six (continued)



- Increase the percentage of international students to 10% of the total headcount enrollment by 2020, with at least 200 international first-time, full-time freshmen;
 - Increase the number of sponsored students to 20% of the international headcount enrollment by 2020;
 - Increase the number of enrolled visiting students to 125 each semester.
- In 2013:
 - ✓ International student enrollment as a percentage of total university headcount increased from 5.04% in Fall 2012 to 5.47% in Fall 2013.
 - ✓ In Fall, there were 71 enrolled visiting students.

Goal Six (continued)



- Maintain an average of 120 countries represented in the international student population and strengthen the enrollment from countries with less than 10 students on campus;

- In 2013,
 - ✓ We enrolled international students from 116 countries. Notable increases from Fall 2012 included:
 - ✓ Bahamas: 27 to 40
 - ✓ Iran: 27 to 40
 - ✓ Iraq: 8 to 20
 - ✓ Nigeria: 14 to 20
 - ✓ Panama: 43 to 110

Goal Six (continued)



- Increase the participation rate of graduating seniors completing a significant international experience to 25% by 2020;
 - Increase the number of outbound UA students enrolling in reciprocal exchange programs to 15% of the total study abroad population per year by 2020.
- In 2013, we:
 - ✓ Increased the number of students participating in study abroad by 21% (129 more than in 2011-2012);
 - ✓ Increased the number of outbound exchange students by 37% from 2012.



IT WAS A GREAT YEAR!