

Goal II: Attract and Graduate Outstanding Students

Educating students was the earliest mission of the College and remains the most important way that we enhance the future of the Commonwealth. Instruction is fully integrated with our other missions – research and extension. The College expects its graduates to become leaders in their professions and their communities. To this end, the College must attract and graduate outstanding students with diverse backgrounds and the skills to meet the challenges of the future.

Objectives

1. The College will recruit and retain students with the highest academic and professional potential.
2. The College will provide a rigorous learning environment that is conducive to success and prepares graduates to deal with global issues.
3. The College will seek to offer the full scope of learning opportunities for all of its fields of study with access to advanced degrees, distance learning and continuing education.
4. The College will integrate the students and faculty from the former College of Human Environmental Sciences, which has been merged with the College as a new School.

Strategies

1. Provide the best possible curriculum opportunities supported by a faculty of dedicated and skilled instructors and advisors.
2. Foster student participation in personal and professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, including student research, student and professional organization membership, international and travel experience, and internships.
3. Monitor the success of graduates and use those findings as a part of the process driving curriculum changes.
4. Monitor curriculum offerings for contemporary relevance, ensuring that students are both fully engaged and performing at levels equal or superior to students in national and international peer institutions.
5. Increase opportunities for graduate studies, distance learning and continuing education.
6. Reevaluate college-wide requirements and academic offerings to reflect the inclusion of students from the School of Human Environmental Sciences.
7. Secure additional support for college-based scholarship and recruiting programs.
8. Increase faculty recognition for academic and extracurricular advising.

Key Indicators

By 2006 the College will have:

1. Increased the middle 50 percent range of ACT scores for incoming freshmen to 23-28.
2. Increased the first-to-second year retention rate of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students by 1 percent per year.
3. Demonstrated improvement on indicators of quality undergraduate education, as reported by seniors on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).
4. Increased scholarship funding awarded by the College by 20 percent.