

Mississippi State University

Strategy for State of Excellence: 2019-2025

In Fall 2010, President Mark Keenum assembled a working group to initiate the process of developing a bold new strategic plan for Mississippi State University. The University community worked diligently for almost two years developing the plan, State of Excellence, and subsequently, that plan has guided MSU for the last five years. The plan initially developed inspired transformational progress. As we prepare for our sesquicentennial, Mississippi State University recommits to continue the plan and build on the progress of the last decade.

VISION

Mississippi State University will be a leading public research university that is globally involved, accessible and responsive to the many constituencies it serves, community engaged, inclusive, and fully integrated with the intellectual, social, and economic development of the state and beyond, while delivering excellent programs of teaching, research, and service, and instilling in its students the timeless values of integrity, hard work, and respect.

MISSION

Mississippi State University is a public, land-grant university with a mission to provide access and opportunity to all sectors of the state's diverse population, as well as from other states and countries, and to offer excellent programs of teaching, research, and service.

Mississippi State offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs across many disciplines.

The university embraces its role as a major contributor to the economic development of the state through targeted research and the transfer of ideas and technology to the public, supported by faculty and staff relationships with industry, community organizations, and government entities.

Building on its land-grant tradition, Mississippi State strategically extends its resources and expertise throughout the entire state for the benefit of Mississippi's citizens, offering access for working and place-bound learners through its on and off-campus education and research sites, Extension, and distance learning programs.

Mississippi State is committed to its tradition of instilling among its students and alumni ideals of diversity, citizenship, leadership, and service.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S CORE VALUES

Consonant with our 140-year history, our mission, and our vision, we reaffirm our core values:

- Access and Opportunity
- Excellence and Innovation
- Communication, Collaboration, and Community Engagement
- Integrity and Accountability
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Respect

OVERARCHING GOAL

To be consistently ranked among America's top public universities

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC GOALS

1. **Foster Teaching and Learning**—Provide a challenging and supportive educational experience that prepares students to be leaders in their professions and in the state and nation. This goal builds on our historic emphasis on access, academic excellence, and student success.

Outcomes:

Learning outcomes that seek to enhance students' growth and development in their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors during their academic career and after they have graduated. To support Mississippi State's goal to foster teaching and learning, students will:

- Realize specific learning outcomes for their chosen discipline
- Articulate how their collegiate experiences integrate with their career management process
- Demonstrate communication fluency
- Demonstrate quantitative literacy in math and science

2. **Promote Research and Creativity**—Mississippi State's emphasis on discovery and creativity, which is reflected in its classification by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University (high research activity), contributes significantly and directly to the economic development of the state, supports major national priorities, and complements and enhances undergraduate and graduate instruction. This goal helps focus resources on areas of endeavor that promise the greatest opportunities and benefits while emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach that provides avenues for involvement by faculty and students across the university.

Outcomes:

The associated learning outcomes challenge faculty, staff, and students to seek new knowledge or creative expression, including scientific discovery as well as artistic performance or exhibitions. In support of this goal, Mississippi State students, faculty, and staff will:

- Engage in scholarly or scientific inquiry
- Contribute new knowledge or creative expression through scientific or artistic discovery
- Foster an atmosphere of interdisciplinary research

3. **Expand Outreach and Engagement**—Land-grant universities have a long tradition and a particular responsibility to engage with communities and businesses to enhance economic growth and assist citizens

in their homes and workplaces. With a physical presence in every county of the state, the university has for more than a century been directly involved in providing non-formal education and technical assistance to Mississippians, and some of that work by faculty, staff and students is reflected in the university's Community Engagement Classification awarded by the Carnegie Foundation. This goal represents a commitment to build on and expand that tradition of service by expanding opportunities for outreach and engagement by all members of the university community.

Outcomes:

The learning outcomes that would result from this goal would encourage the entire Mississippi State community to participate in academic, professional, civic, education, Extension, and humanitarian activities. As a result, the Mississippi State community will:

- Actively seek to alleviate civic, social, environmental, and economic challenges via scholarship, outreach, and novel approaches
 - Participate in and assume leadership roles in academic, professional, civic, educational, or humanitarian activities
4. **Encourage Diverse and Global Perspectives**—In an increasingly diverse and inter-connected world, land-grant universities must apply their academic, scientific, and extension capabilities to global challenges while providing our students with diverse perspectives that allow them to address social and economic issues. This goal seeks to provide students and faculty with diverse and global experiences.

Outcomes:

These learning outcomes seek to enhance students' development in critical thinking and perspective-taking, as well as growth in teamwork and leadership abilities. In support of this goal, Mississippi State students will:

- Incorporate diverse/global or competing perspectives when evaluating social problems and issues
 - Be able to collaborate toward common goals with people who are different than themselves
5. **Enhance Institutional Culture and Environment**— The university's greatest asset is its people, and the attainment of all other university goals is predicated on the ability to continue to recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff and attract capable and qualified students. This goal represents a commitment to provide all members of the university community with the tools, rewards, and resources to achieve their professional and personal goals in an environment that reflects Mississippi State University values. Pursuing this goal includes maintaining relations with our alumni and other university-supporters, improving and maintaining the infrastructure of campus, and supporting the holistic development of faculty, staff, and students.

Outcomes:

Learning outcomes seek to develop personal wellbeing, including autonomy, resiliency, self-efficacy, and integrity, as well as reducing risks to personal, financial, and cyber security. The Mississippi State University community will:

- Maintain and grow an inclusive and supportive community
- Enhance campus sustainability and infrastructure
- Cultivate behaviors that promote health and wellbeing and that reduce risk
- Foster a culture of private giving to MSU
- Improve library and learning resources