

Mississippi State University

Strategy for State of Excellence: 2019-2025

Soon after investiture, 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 developing the plan, *State of Excellence*, and subsequently, that plan has guided Mississippi State University. 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 student-centric public research university that is globally involved, accessible, inclusive, community engaged, and responsive to the many constituencies it serves while fully integrated with the intellectual, social, and economic development of the state and beyond by delivering excellent programs of teaching, research, and service, and instilling in its community the timeless values of integrity, hard work, and respect.

MISSION

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

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

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

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

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

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S CORE VALUES

Consonant with our 141-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 recognized among America's top public research universities

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC GOALS

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

Outcomes:

Enhance learning growth and development in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors during an academic career and after graduation. To support Mississippi State University's goal to foster teaching and learning, students, faculty, staff, and alumni will:

- Demonstrate specific learning outcomes for their chosen discipline
- Articulate how their collegiate experiences integrate with their career management process
- Demonstrate communication fluency
- Demonstrate quantitative literacy
- Enhance learning outcomes through academic and student support programs

2. **Promote Research and Creativity**— Mississippi State University's emphasis on discovery, innovation, and creativity, which is reflected in its status as a doctoral-granting institution with very high research activity, contributes significantly and directly to the economic development of the state and beyond, supports major priorities, and complements and enhances instruction. This goal emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach that provides avenues for involvement across the university community.

Outcomes:

Contribute new knowledge in science, technology, humanities, creative expression, and artistic performance and exhibition. In support of this goal, the Mississippi State University community will:

- Engage in scientific and scholarly inquiry across all levels of the university, including undergraduate
- Seek scientific, scholarly, creative, and artistic discovery
- Foster an atmosphere of interdisciplinary research

3. **Expand Outreach and Engagement**— Land-grant universities are responsible for engaging with communities and businesses, through non-formal education and technical assistance, to enhance economic growth and assist citizens in their homes and workplaces. With a physical presence in every county of the state, Mississippi State University is directly involved in positively impacting communities

in Mississippi. The local, regional, national, and global contributions of faculty, staff, and students are reflected in the university's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification designation. This goal represents a commitment to build upon that tradition of service by expanding opportunities for outreach and engagement by all members of the university community to the state, nation, and world.

Outcomes:

Encourage the entire Mississippi State University community to participate in academic, professional, civic, educational, Extension, and humanitarian activities. As a result, the Mississippi State University 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, and humanitarian activities
4. **Encourage Diverse and Global Perspectives**—In an increasingly diverse and interconnected world, Mississippi State University must apply its academic, scientific, artistic, and Extension capabilities to global challenges while providing its community with diverse perspectives that allow them to address social and economic issues. This goal seeks to provide diverse and global experiences in teaching, research, and service.

Outcomes:

Enhance development in critical thinking and perspective-taking, as well as growth in teamwork and leadership abilities. In support of this goal, the Mississippi State University community will:

- Incorporate diverse/global or competing perspectives when evaluating social problems and issues
 - Be able to collaborate with others toward common goals
 - Foster inclusive excellence in teaching, research, and service
5. **Enhance Institutional Infrastructure, Culture, and Environment**— Mississippi State 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 Mississippi State University community with the 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 physical and technological infrastructure, and supporting the holistic development of faculty, staff, and students in teaching, research, and service.

Outcomes:

Develop personal well-being, including autonomy, resiliency, self-efficacy, and integrity, as well as reduce risks to personal, cyber, and financial security. The Mississippi State University community will:

- Recruit and maintain an inclusive and supportive community, including underrepresented populations
- Enhance sustainability and fiscal and physical infrastructure
- Cultivate behaviors that promote health and well-being and reduce risk
- Enhance library and research resources
- Enhance technology infrastructure, systems, and services
- Enrich the culture of private giving to Mississippi State University