

Governors State University

SAAS Strategic Plan – 2009-2010

Mission Statement

As student affairs professionals, we support and foster the achievement of students' academic goals, personal and emotional development, and physical health and wellness by:

- providing a variety of high quality services and resources designed to facilitate and support learning;
- assisting students in balancing their professional, academic, and personal lives by providing an array of resources to ease the stress of their varied responsibilities;
- engaging students in creating and maintaining a campus community where diversity, tolerance, and civility are appreciated and practiced; and
- helping students achieve an optimum level of health and wellness by providing organized physical activities and presenting educational and informational forums and seminars.

Vision Statement

Graduates of Governors State University will be well-prepared to lead lives that reflect an appropriate balance between their career and family responsibilities while maintaining emotional and physical wellness.

2009-2010 Goals

The Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support (SAAS) provides resources and services to assist students in meeting their academic and career goals. From the initial contact with prospective students to graduates' entry into the Alumni Association, SAAS staff members advise, guide, and counsel students to help ensure they meet their educational goals and maximize their personal and emotional development. Listed below are the 2009-2010 goals for the SAAS Division which are based on the Goals and Progress Measures used to assess the movement towards meeting the specific objectives of Strategy 2015, the GSU Strategic Plan.

Strategy 2015 – Goal 1b Become the nation's model for an effective, integrative approach to undergraduate transfer between institutions of higher education.

Progress Measures

- Create a special GSU Community College team that works collaboratively with community college faculty and advisors to identify and implement best transfer and articulation practices.

- In March 2009, Jose Reyes was appointed the GSU Director of Dual Admission & Transfer Coordinator. In that role, he leads the University activities, programs, and events to facilitate the new dual admission program and transfer process.
- Outreach to the community colleges will be conducted by Mr. Reyes and the other members of the Admission and Student Recruitment office. Members of other SAAS units are also part of the Community College team including staff from IDSS, Financial Aid, Registrar, and the Office of Career Services. Additionally, Academic Deans, their academic administrators, advisors, and faculty also participate in outreach to the partner community colleges.
- The IDSS Academic advisors and Student Services Coordinator Military Coordinator will develop relationships with staff members at partner community colleges with a focus on describing the IDSS program pathways to baccalaureate completion. Special attention will be given to establishing pathways for community college students in A.A.S. programs.
- Student Admission and Recruitment staff will outreach to community college alumni to encourage them to return to school to complete their bachelor's degree.
- Community college students who are admitted to GSU programs in the College of Education will be invited to participate in the Basic Skills Exam math preparation workshops at GSU. Many students who are admitted to Education programs are unable to pass the Basic Skills Exam which is a requirement for progressing in the programs. These students must choose another program.

2009-2010 SAAS Progress Measures

- * Outreach activities to the GSU partner community colleges will increase significantly compared to 2008-2009.
- * A comparison of the 2008-2009 recruitment calendar to the 2009-2010 recruitment calendar will show increased community college visits and participation in recruitment events and activities by members of the Community College team.
- * Students who apply to GSU will state they were referred by staff at their community colleges
- * GSU faculty will work with their colleagues at community colleges to develop and implement program-specific articulation agreements.
- Identify groups of potential students and develop focused recruitment activities to increase their enrollment at GSU.
 - Send GSU staff to the DOD (Department of Defense) July 2009 conference to learn about the new veteran's benefits bill, make contacts for access to active military and veterans and their spouses, and put GSU in front of military personnel.

- Identify active military personnel and veterans currently enrolled GSU students. Hold focus groups to determine unmet needs and resources that would make their GSU experiences better.
- Hold a Military/Veterans Fair to introduce GSU programs and recruit these individuals to our programs.
- Work with Academic Deans to develop programs, online course offerings, and correspondence course offerings to offer to active military personnel especially those deployed to areas with limited or no Internet access (e.g. submarines)
- Start a student organization to meet the needs of active military personnel and veterans.
- Reach out to international student counselors at the community colleges.
- Hold an International Student Day to introduce these students to the programs, resources, and services available at GSU.
- Strengthen our academic support for students needing assistance to succeed in their courses to improve retention and graduation rates.
 - The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides tutoring (individual and group), assessments of prior learning (math and writing), and support for students with disabilities.
 - Determine additional courses to offer tutoring services; hire and train tutors; assess students' success in courses where students receive tutoring.
 - Implement the DSST program to provide additional ways for students to earn college credit for prior learning experience.
 - The Writing Center staff members provide review, comments, guidance, and support to students as they write papers and complete written work for their classes. Staff members also offer online writing support to students enrolled in the GSU partner community colleges.
 - Evidence that use of GSU's academic support of services produces better outcomes than for comparable students who don't use services will be collected and analyzed to verify the success of students who utilize academic support resources.
- Increase to 1000 the number of students enrolled under dual-admission agreements with partner community colleges.
 - Design and distribute a new dual admission form for students to complete at the same time as they apply for admission to one of our community college partners to facilitate the new dual admission program and the transfer process.

- Revise or create dual admission agreements with our community college partners. These agreements will identify the various components and criteria that guide students' pathways from the community college to GSU.
- Create partnerships to increase freshman/sophomore programming on campus with community college delivery.
 - Coordinate meetings and programs/events between GSU student clubs and organizations and comparable groups at the community colleges. These activities will help to connect community college students to GSU to help facilitate their transfer.
 - Students at our partner community colleges will be offered opportunities to participate in a variety of GSU events and programs. Examples of these activities include Basic Skills Exam preparation workshops; career fairs; celebrations (Women's History Month, Black History Month, GSU's 40th Anniversary).
- Articulate how we have been successful in increasing diversity and share these best practices with the higher education community.
 - Collect data re: 2008 – 09 enrollment of diverse students (ethnicity; age; international) and compare to the data for the previous two years
 - Identify community colleges with highly diverse student enrollments; implement aggressive recruitment activities focused on bringing increased numbers of diverse students to GSU.

Goal 1c Increase campus full time equivalent (FTE) students from 4,475 (41,796) student credit hours (SCH) in Fall 2007 to 7,000 (65,376) by Fall 2014.

- Develop a long-term plan to increase the percentage of undergraduates.
 - Strengthen relationships between GSU and partner community colleges.
 - Increase GSU presence on community college campuses to recruit students to GSU immediately after they earn their associate's degree.
- Develop and implement new support programs that increase student retention while sustaining successful activities and programs already in place.

Goal 5 Build an institution that is socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible.

b. Increase outreach into the poorest areas of our region and increase service to those who are traditionally underserved by higher education.

- Evidence of a dramatic increase in first-generation and low income students.