



Title III

Graduate School Preparation Program

Message from the Director

Greetings from the Graduate School Preparation Program (GSPP) as the program celebrates another successful year in academic support of Central State University students. This grant year, GSPP assisted twenty students and two alumni into graduate school. Student participants were accepted into graduate programs for medicine, law, pharmacy, engineering, social work, cybersecurity, business, and athletic training.

Equally impressive are the institutions that accepted this year's student participants: University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon University, John Hopkins University, The Ohio State University, Boston University, Purdue University, University of Illinois (Chicago), Texas A&M University, DePaul University, Missouri State University, Kennesaw State University, Cedarville University, and more.

How Does GSPP Accomplish Its Title III Objective

The objective of this Activity is to strengthen the university's academic quality by enhancing students' preparation for applying to graduate school and to enhance the graduation rates of student participants. GSPP achieves its objective by employing a holistic advising and interactive approach to prepare students to apply and gain acceptance into graduate school.

The first step in this process is to emphasize the importance of grades and its role in evaluating a student's future performance in graduate school. This is accomplished through one-on-one advising sessions, workshops, and meetings with graduate school representatives. Consequently, all senior student participants had a cumulative grade point average above 3.0.

The next step in the process is to arrange and escort student participants on graduate school visits, which the graduate school sponsors. This "personal experience" allows the student to examine and envision him/herself in graduate school. Thus far, GSPP student participants have visited Palmer College of Chiropractic, The Ohio State University (HBCU Law Day), and the 13th Annual Pre-Law Diversity Conference (Madison, WI). Additional visits this grant year are scheduled for Cedarville University and the University of Dayton School of Law.

Finally, to overcome some of the financial barriers to applying for graduate school, GSPP offers its students free enrollment in graduate school test prep courses through the Kaplan All-Access program. Here, students can enroll in a free prep course for either the MCAT, LSAT, GRE, DAT, or OAT.

As a result of these academic services through GSPP, forty-seven out of forty-eight senior student participants graduated from Central State (98%), and twenty out of forty-eight senior student participants were accepted into graduate school: a 42% acceptance rate. This is a major accomplishment when compared against the university's six-year graduation rate.



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