



Title III Office of Graduate Studies - September 2025

Message from the Director

Central State University's 2020–2025 Strategic Plan prioritizes enhancing effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. This initiative supports Strategic Goal Six: strengthening student engagement, belonging, tradition, and pride by developing high-demand graduate and undergraduate signature programs. It falls under the Title III LAA Category of Academic Instruction in disciplines where workforce representation from Central State University's stakeholder communities is limited.

The Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) is committed to establishing protocols for developing, overseeing, accrediting, maintaining, assessing, and evaluating quality graduate programs. These efforts are supported by the University Standing Senate Committee on Graduate Studies Policy (GSP Committee) and the Central State University Graduate Studies Advisory Council (UGSAC). OGS also serves as the liaison between Central State University and the Ohio Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS). In fulfilling its mission, OGS upholds ethical standards in research and scholarship, maintains an institutional perspective on graduate education, and promotes interdisciplinary scholarship and academic programs.

Since October 2024, Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah has served as Director of OGS. While the office currently operates from the C.J. McLin International Center for Water Resources Management, it will relocate to the Carl C. Jenkins Technology Education Hall in January 2026.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission: The Office of Graduate Studies at Central State University leads and supports outstanding graduate education. We collaborate with students, faculty, and decision-makers to champion and advocate for graduate and postdoctoral communities.

We promote excellence, innovation, and growth in graduate studies, offering seamless services and thought leadership. Our mission is to prepare exceptional scholars and adaptable leaders who expand knowledge, drive innovation, and solve complex challenges, thereby enhancing the University's strengths and fulfilling its land-grant mission. We foster academic excellence within a nurturing environment, graduating a diverse population ready for leadership, research, and service in Ohio and beyond.

Vision: The Office of Graduate Studies at Central State University fosters graduate student success, academic excellence, and a community through comprehensive services and advocacy, aiming to be the leading institution for graduate students and scholars, driving change towards a just, healthier, and sustainable world.



Core Values:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Commitment to intellectual excellence in teaching, research, service, and creative endeavors.
2. **Respect:** Promotion of respectful communication and cultural responsiveness.
3. **Community Engagement:** Encouragement of servant leadership, collaborative involvement, and addressing significant issues at various levels.
4. **Innovation and Professionalism:** Support for creativity, efficiency, accuracy, and professionalism in all university operations.
5. **Collaboration and Achievement:** Appreciating cooperative efforts, significant scholarly achievements, and their impactful benefits on individuals and society.

Academic Year 2024-2025 Highlights

Launch of the Office of Graduate Studies

Since its inauguration in October 2024, the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) has undertaken extensive planning and implementation efforts to develop, establish, and maintain graduate programs at Central State University.

Leadership and Statewide Engagement

In his role as Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah actively represented Central State University at monthly meetings of the Ohio Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) and participated in its annual retreat. These engagements ensure the University remains aligned with state policies and protocols governing graduate education.

Policy Development and Governance

OGS collaborated with the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Program Policies to establish a Standing Senate Committee on Graduate Studies Policy (GSP Committee) in Spring 2025. Additionally, OGS drafted two documents for the following tasks: Graduate Program Approval Protocol and Admission Criteria for Graduate Programs. Both documents received Senate approval in Spring 2025, marking a significant milestone in graduate program governance.

Communication and Support

To keep stakeholders informed, OGS distributed monthly electronic updates to university administrators, department chairs, and the GSP Committee Chair. The Director also:

- Convened OGS meetings at the end of each semester
- Attended monthly GSP Committee meetings
- Held individual consultations with departments on potential program development



All OGS and CCGS documents are accessible to administrators and departments via the office's TEAMS folder.

Graduate Program Development

Central State University currently offers a Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. In addition, four new graduate programs are in development within:

- Department of Agriculture and Life Sciences (DALIS)
- Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences (MCS)
- Department of Humanities
- Department of Engineering and Technology (DoET)

Professional Engagements

Dr. Kandiah attended the CCGS Annual Retreat at Kent State University on October 23–24, 2025. He is scheduled to participate in the 65th Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting from December 3–6, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

Focus for 2026

Membership Advancement

The Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) plans to apply for Associate Membership in the Council of Graduate Schools, strengthening its commitment to national standards in graduate education.

Program Expansion

By the end of 2026, OGS anticipates launching at least two additional graduate programs, further expanding Central State University's academic offerings.

Policy and Resource Development

The Director will collaborate with the Graduate Studies Policy Committee (GSP Committee) and the Public Relations Office to:

- Develop the Central State University Graduate Program Handbook
- Establish a dedicated webpage for the Office of Graduate Studies

Recruitment and Financial Support

OGS will explore strategies for student recruitment and identify financial support opportunities for both existing and newly established programs, ensuring accessibility and sustainability.