



Title III
Office of Graduate Studies – May 2026

Message from the Director

Grounded in our historic mission and guided by a bold, student-centered vision, Central State University’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan establishes a clear and actionable path forward. Academic Excellence; Research and Public Service; Continuous Improvement and Operational Excellence; and Strategic Investments in Innovation and Sustainable Infrastructure represent the University’s core institutional priorities. Together, these pillars will drive progress as we expand academic impact, invest in innovation, and strengthen our service to students and communities. Each priority reflects our enduring values—excellence, accountability, innovation, and equity—and sets the stage for the next era of growth and distinction. This initiative 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 and implementing protocols for the development, oversight, accreditation, maintenance, assessment, and evaluation of high-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.



From October 2024 through March 2026, Dr. Ramanitharan Kandiah served as Director of OGS. In mid-March 2026, Dr. Arunasalam Rahunanthan assumed the role of Interim Director of OGS. During the same period, Ms. Jennifer Hathaway began serving as Administrative Coordinator within OGS. Since April 2026, OGS has also assumed responsibility for the operation of the Carl C. Jenkins Technology Education Hall.



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

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

Past 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 ensured that the University remained aligned with state policies and protocols governing graduate education. Since March 2026, Dr. Arunasalam Rahunanthan has assumed responsibility for representing Central State University at CCGS meetings.

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.



Please find the link to the information for the current MBA

<https://www.centralstate.edu/programs/master-business-administration-mba>

Graduate Program Development

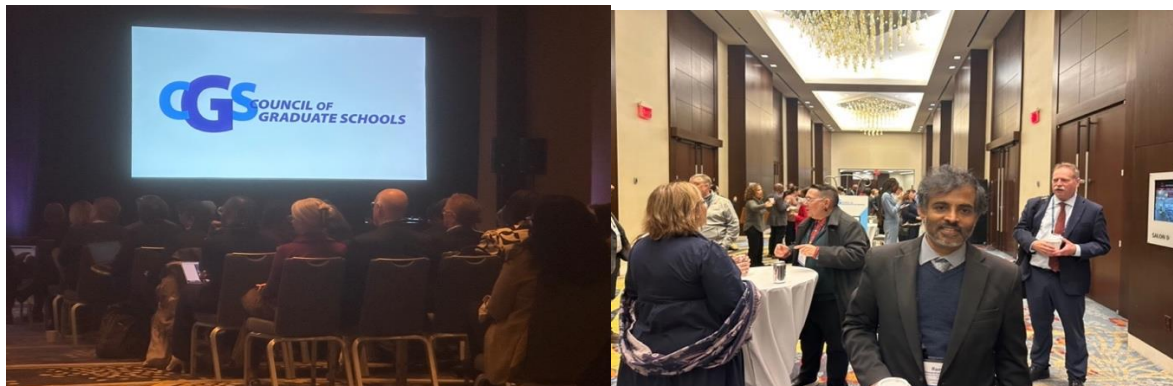
Central State University currently offers a Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. In addition, four new graduate programs are in development within:

- Department of Agriculture and Life Sciences (DALs)
- 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. Dr. Arunasalam Rahunanthan represented Central State University at the CCGS meeting, organized by the ODHE, held on Friday, April 17, 2026, in Columbus, Ohio.





Focus for the Academic Year 2026-27

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 2026-27 academic year, 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.