

# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITIES

The USM Academic Affairs Academic Master Plan (AMP) is based on the work of the USM Strategic Planning Council (SPC), which met from the spring of 2014 through the spring of 2015. The SPC identified eight strategic priorities that serve as the foundation for the Academic Master Plan:

1. Support student success to foster retention, progression and graduation.
2. Promote teaching, research, and creative excellence
3. Strategically expand undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
4. Strengthen economic and community partnerships.
5. Invest in faculty and staff to maximize their potential.
6. Promote a culture of inclusiveness of people and ideas
7. Enhance physical, technological, and financial infrastructure to support the University's mission, vision and values.
8. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of institutional processes and systems.

## Academic Master Plan Framework and Priorities

- How can we use strengths in each academic affairs unit to support the University collaboratively? (The AMP provides an opportunity for each unit to define the support they can provide)

# Academic Master Plan Framework and Priorities

- o Deans, department chairs, and directors reviewed reports and made preliminary recommendations on course of action:
  - o Action A - Discontinue flagged emphasis/emphases. Either consolidate emphases or discontinue emphasis/emphases so that a student would graduate with a generic degree without an emphasis.
  - o Action B: Transform/enhance/reorient/reinvent flagged emphasis/emphases to increase enrollments and graduates.
    - f Describe the specific enhancements to meet IHL criteria
  - o Action C: Leave the emphasis or group of emphases as is, unchanged in name(s) and substance.
    - f Justify why it should be left as is: What is the relevance? What need does it fill  
What would be lost if we discontinue it?
3. Unit Productivity review based upon metrics from IHL
- o Faculty productivity, research activity, cost of instruction
  - o Effective utilization of classroom space and enrollment capacities
  - Development, verification, and circulation of KPI reports (vetted and approved by deans and department chairs/directors).
  - Use of peer data to provide context and explanation for programs identified for review.  
Note: The peer data sets are determined at the department level in order to account for unique programs.
  - Ongoing review of productivity in all programs and their emphasis areas to determine action plans for those areas that are at or below thresholds as defined by IHL and peer data.

## Ongoing Initiatives

1. University-wide coordination of student success initiatives
2. Finish in Four (IHL Initiative)
  - Meet goal of graduation requirements of 120 credits (except where accreditation requires an exception)
  - Move towards 15 credit hour minimum enrollment, 30 credit hours per academic year
    - o Summer School Initiative
    - o Intercessions
3. Program expansion in key areas
4. Expansion of the Corps of Instruction
5. Assessment and redesign of academic advising
6. Expanded faculty development initiatives
7. Improved and expanded online learning offerings

# Academic Master Plan Framework and Priorities

Academic and Governance Leadership Group Members:

Name	Group
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# Academic Master Plan Framework and Priorities

## Preamble

The University of Southern Mississippi's Division of Academic Affairs is inspired by the vision of creating a model public university - a powerful, positive force in the development of a new Mississippi. We apply our creative talents, generous spirit and innovative energies through instruction that nurtures student potential, research that builds knowledge and service that enhances quality of life. Its faculty and staff forge new paths of knowledge, achievement, and access to opportunity, and strive ceaselessly to raise the bar of inclusiveness, reciprocity, and

# The University of Southern Mississippi Academic Affairs Academic Master Plan

Strategic Planning Priorities	Academic Master Plan
1. Support student success to	

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7. Enhance physical, technological and financial infrastructure to support our mission, vision, and values. 7a. Focus on enhancing learning environments by modifying existing and adding new modalities when renovating classrooms.