



CLEMSON *FORWARD*

ACADEMIC CORE

REAL

In 2016, Clemson adopted a new strategic plan: ClemsonForward. ClemsonForward will lay a foundation that will position Clemson for the next 50 years and will make an impact on real issues facing the people of South Carolina and our nation. Clemson Forever supports these goals through its unrelenting mission to build a solid financial base of private giving, providing stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family.

REAL : ACADEMIC CORE



STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 / ACADEMIC CORE: Clemson will protect and strengthen the academic core, ensuring that it remains perennially ranked among the nation's top public universities.

It all begins with a solid, academic program for undergraduates.

Clemson's reputation for quality is grounded in its academic core, particularly excellence in the undergraduate experience. Even as Clemson begins new initiatives, this commitment to quality will not waiver:

"Clemson will sustain recent improvements in class size and student-to-faculty ratios, classroom environments, student engagement opportunities and athletics success."

ClemsonForward will enhance the undergraduate academic core with further initiatives in interdisciplinary curricula, a new approach to general education and enhanced advising.

Not only is graduate education an important part of moving forward in the job market. It is a vital element of ClemsonForward's academic core.

ClemsonForward will extend the focus on quality to the arena of graduate education. Increasingly, attaining the very best jobs and solving the truly critical challenges of the 21st century requires the specialized skills and knowledge available through graduate education. Graduate education is also important for recruiting and retaining the very best faculty for whom it is an essential part of the academic enterprise. Thus, a second vital element of ClemsonForward's academic core is a greater commitment to graduate education and the graduate-student experience.

CORE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

1 Re-envision general education.

General education should ignite a student's passion to learn, enhance critical thinking and information literacy, and create the knowledge and essential competencies important for success for 2020 and beyond. **Your funds will allow us to revise our general education curriculum and approach so that it delivers higher value, challenges students academically, and fully prepares them to engage and succeed in upper-level coursework and careers after graduation.**

2 Build interdisciplinary capacity.

Interdisciplinary programs represent a major opportunity to improve the undergraduate academic core and meet the needs of the future. Interdisciplinary education also requires a powerful academic, organizational and fiscal platform in order to be successful. **Your support will allow us to achieve a grand challenges minors program — a step toward integrating interdisciplinary programs into the undergraduate curriculum while creating the kind of powerful platform needed to support student success.**

Grand challenges minors allow students to focus on a compelling social, human or technical challenge rather than a discipline-specific topic. **These minors will require courses across multiple departments and will combine classroom instruction with a research, entrepreneurial or service-learning experience.**



3 Increase the number of high-quality, nationally prominent graduate programs.

ClemsonForward will build graduate education and increase the number of programs that achieve national prominence by improving the quality of existing programs and investing in a small number of carefully targeted new degrees.

The credentials and quality of students attending Clemson are important indicators of graduate program quality. Top graduate candidates are sought after by multiple institutions, and a student's decision to attend is strongly influenced by financial considerations, especially in research-oriented degrees such as the Master of Science and Ph.D. Clemson must offer financial packages that are competitive with those at the other leading public research institutions. **With your dedication, we can offer more support to these top candidates.**

4 Professionalize academic advising and curriculum resources.

Individual departmental undergraduate advising will continue to be central to the academic core. **But in order to better support these faculty and staff advisers, ClemsonForward needs your support to invest in additional resources to offer more advanced training and better support, hire Student Affairs and academic staff to support graduate students on innovation campuses, increase electronic resources and support structure in the libraries, and enhance the services of the Class of '56 Academic Success Center — including a student success collaborative that provides an early-warning system to identify students whose retention and graduation is in jeopardy.**

It is you, our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, who have the power to take the quality of our research, resources and faculty to the next level. It is you who will propel us forward. The time is now.

Let's move ClemsonForward.