A major part of the University’s educational and research mission is to educate future researchers. Graduate students provide invaluable assistance to faculty research. From an economic perspective, these students are the fuel of the knowledge-based economy. In order to provide nationally ranked programs and prepare graduate students for the most competitive and prestigious academic and research programs and employment opportunities, LSU will take the following actions.

**ACTIONS**
- Increase the total number of high-quality graduate students, particularly in doctoral fields that complement research strengths and in key areas of leadership and development for the state.
- Continue to increase diversity of graduate students and faculty.
- Increase quality and competitiveness of graduate programs through targeted investments and systematic program review.

**OUTCOMES**
- The number of graduate assistantships will increase by 50 percent and the graduate student population will comprise 20 percent of total student enrollment.
- Graduate students will represent a diverse population of highly competitive students.
- Graduate faculty will be increased and strengthened, and will become more diverse.
- Targeted programs will achieve national prominence.
More than $3.2 million has been added to increase the number and amount of awards for graduate assistantships.

More than $2 million has been invested in graduate stipends.

Tuition for graduate assistants will be phased out completely by 2005.

LSU offers 54 doctoral and 72 master’s-level programs.

In 2002, Allyson d’Aquin scored higher on the Certified Internal Auditing examination than 18,657 other professionals and students in 70 countries who sat for the examination. She is the 13th student from the LSU Certified Internal Auditing Program to outperform all students in the world, but the first to outscore all examiners. Her accomplishment earned her the Highest Student Achievement Award and the William S. Smith Gold Medal Award from the Institute of Internal Auditors.