

Grant Funding Priorities

Input collected from Muskingum University leadership, administration, faculty, and students was refined into three grant funding priorities aligned with the overarching institutional priorities illustrated in the IMPACT 2025 Action Plan. These funding priorities, which are purposefully broad to capture all the themes that emerged during this assessment process, will serve to inform the university's efforts in pursuing external grant funding as we approach 2025.



Priority One: Student Access, Retention, and Completion

Muskingum University's strategic plan targets an 80% retention rate for first-to-second year students and an 88% retention rate for second-to-third year students. As the university strives to increase enrollment and raise the six-year graduation rate from 48% in Fall 2017 to 60% as part of its Impact 2025 initiative, it is focused on increasing student access to college and successful completion by implementing additional supports.

- Improve access to college, especially for under-resourced, under-represented, or first-generation students from Appalachia and beyond
- Support student engagement by ensuring a diverse campus community and culture
- Increase capacity for student support services, academic coaching, and supplemental instruction
- Restructure the student advising process including an e-portfolio solution for students to use throughout their college career and after graduation
- Implement a digital transformation across campus related to student engagement and success (e.g., OER adoption)
- Expand professional development opportunities for faculty and staff related to student success



Priority Two: Enhanced Educational Programming

By strengthening the academic pathways available and fostering internships and other experiential learning opportunities, Muskingum University will not only prepare students for successfully entering the workforce after graduation but will additionally support regional economic development. Acknowledging the importance of the Appalachian region to Ohio's economic health, the university desires to expand and enhance educational programming in growth areas of healthcare, environmental resources, education, and STEM fields, among others.

- Establish an Impact Center as a gateway for experiential learning and career pathways
- Expand offerings for experiential learning opportunities for all students and incorporate into educational programming

- Increase capacity for educational programming to successfully prepare Muskingum graduates to enter the workforce or further their education
- Strengthen academic pathways leading to high-demand sectors in the region including healthcare, resource management, energy, and education, among others
- Expand undergraduate research and scholarship opportunities



Priority Three: Facilities and Infrastructure

The college has unique advantages and challenges due to the historic nature of the New Concord, Ohio campus. Space is at a premium, which dictates many of the challenges facing the institution as it works to support student success and improve accessibility for multiple academic, student, and administrative spaces.

- Support for the new Health & Wellness Complex capital campaign, related programming, and equipment
- Update buildings and technology to meet ADA accessibility regulations
- Update residential, athletic, and academic facilities and equipment
- Encourage active learning and collaboration through enhancement of campus spaces and modernized technology

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