

**Topic: Expansion of graduate programs**

*(Note: This an attempt to capture comments made during the discussion, not an agreed upon set of recommendations.)*

**Ramifications of graduate expansion**

- Changing Carnegie Class would impact our ability to compete for grants (currently eligible for grants for undergraduate research)
- Library costs will change based on Carnegie Classification
- Library will need different resources (e.g., Proquest Digital Thesis and Dissertations plus specialized resources within the discipline)
- Graduate office support would be needed
- There may be implications for the community

**Possible program opportunities**

- Gerontology Masters
- Interdisciplinary programs are better positioned for grant funding.
- Art & Design recently reviewed opportunities for graduate programs. It would need more space and more faculty, or cannibalize the undergraduate program. Art & Design is developing a post-baccalaureate program.

**Needs to support current programs**

- More faculty and lab space
- To convert to online, programs need more support for technology

**Needs to support grad expansion**

- Biology – The science building was built for the number of faculty it had at the time. It no longer has enough lab space even for undergraduate level.
- Graduate Education needs infrastructure support.
- Office of Sponsored Programs (Grants & Contracts) need additional staffing to support more research.
- Dean of Students Office would need more counselors if we expanded graduate programs.
- DNP – The department needs help with statistics. It has no statistician faculty. It also has to have enough faculty who are interested in working with students at that level. DNP has stipends, but no release time, for supervising DNP projects.

**Reasons for graduate expansion**

- Prestige
- Relevance to the community beyond teaching (e.g., research relationship with SmartZone or other community stakeholders)
- Potential for commercializing research
- Change in governing bodies' requirements (e.g., Social Work, Athletic Training governing bodies require masters degrees for practice) – the same reason we added the DNP

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**Student needs**

- Good that teaching fewer courses than other programs
- Students are surprised that NMU doesn't provide health insurance for grad students. That is common at bigger problems.
- Bigger schools pay grad students more.
- Flexible scheduling through online or hybrid degrees is important.