Thanks to a decade of remarkable growth and an aggressive plan for future expansion, the Graduate Studies and Research Office has become a thriving and essential component of Salisbury University’s overall strategy for success.

Creating an enriching experience, fostering workforce development that translates into easily marketable job skills and responding to specific community needs are the driving forces behind the new programs, flexibility and accessibility of the office.

A Strong Emphasis on Research

In 2013, the office held its inaugural Research Day and Innovation Showcase, featuring eight faculty lectures on issues from undergraduate experience to the potential effects of free trade agreements on Sub-Saharan Africa.

SU’s undergraduate student research program has become a hallmark of the campus. Several other efforts, such as SU Research Day and Innovation Fair, SU Faculty Mini-Grants Program, faculty grants writing training workshops, and other activities are planned to help bolster – and highlight – SU faculty participation in research and scholarship while increasing external funding.

Expansion and Diversification

SU announced its second doctoral program, in education, beginning in fall 2014. Several online graduate degree programs are now in the works as well, including GIS management and social work.

“We’re admitting students and we have people who are already applying to the new programs,” said Dr. Clifton Griffin, dean of Graduate Studies and Research. “This is an exciting time for graduate studies at SU.”

In total, the University now boasts 14 master’s programs and two doctoral programs in a wide variety of specialties ranging from applied biology to business administration, history, teaching and social work. Outside expansion includes a collaboration with the University of Maryland University College on a Master of Social Work offered overseas to military families in Germany.

“We have a pretty strong breadth,” Griffin said. “I think we have a robust offering for a school of our size, and we’re on the move relative to delivering our existing programs. Because of the maturation process, we’re also starting to grow in complexity and in the way we deliver these programs. We have lots of satellite locations, we have lots of hybrid courses, and pretty soon we’re going to start having more completely online programs at the grad level.”

Enriching the Experience

SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach has made her intent to grow graduate education deliberately known, and that mandate has led to an immediate plan for unprecedented growth.

“The overarching goal is to get to a point where at least 10 percent of the student population is graduate students,” Griffin said. “Right now, we have about 650 grad students – that kind of increase would require another 200-plus grad students, which is a 30 percent growth. That is not insignificant.”

By contrast, graduate enrollment grew 15 percent between 2001-2011. “We are also enriching the experience by fostering an environment for serious faculty and student research, offering a number of new programs and new degrees, and enhancing and diversifying the way we deliver the graduate degree programs,” he said. “If you have ever been interested in graduate studies at SU, now is the time to give us a second look.”

The Graduate Degree for You

SU offers 16 graduate degrees in a range of disciplines. For more information about graduate studies, visit: www.salisbury.edu/gsr

Master’s Degree Programs
- Applied Biology (M.S.)
- Applied Health Physiology (M.S.)
- Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution (M.A.)
- Education – Curriculum and Instruction (M.Ed.)
- Education – Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)
- Education – Reading Specialist (M.Ed.)
- English (M.A.)
- Geographic Information Systems Management (M.S.)
- History (M.A.)
- Mathematics Education (M.S.M.E.)
- Nursing (M.S.)
- Social Work (M.S.W.)
- Teaching (M.A.T.)

Doctoral Programs
- Education (Ed.D.)
- Nursing (D.N.P.)