



Southern Connecticut
State University

LEADING THE WAY

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

2023-2028 Priorities





MISSION

Southern Connecticut State University provides exemplary graduate and undergraduate education in the liberal arts and professional disciplines.

As an intentionally diverse and comprehensive university, Southern is committed to academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good.

IMPACT

Leading the Way

Southern Connecticut State University looks to the future with a renewed sense of commitment to elevating educational attainment in our region and the state. We will achieve that with academic programs that confront the most pressing environmental and health issues through innovative research, and cultivating a community of entrepreneurial and inventive leaders and educators for Connecticut's workforce.

Elevating students beyond their current socio-economic status is at the heart of Southern's academic mission. Our goals for the next five years are focused on engaging new and previously underserved learner communities, recruiting and retaining talented diverse faculty and staff, and ensuring equitable outcomes for all students.

**From educating a campus of students to
creating a community of scholars...
we're changing minds and mindsets.**



ASPIRE

We encourage our university community to set the bar high, knowing that challenges come before success and that big dreams often feel daunting – at first. We provide our learners with the tools needed to envision themselves as scholars, and help them find depth, purpose, and meaning in their education.

TRANSFORM

We are committed to providing equitable access to higher education; transforming lives; and promoting social mobility on a national scale. From the top down, we prioritize connection and belonging, and ensure every learner understands and values their unique talents and potential. Our diversity is a point of pride, and a cornerstone of our intellectual and social communities.

EXCEL

An unrelenting commitment to student success makes the value of a college education crystal clear – at Southern, it truly is worth it. Our faculty are experts in their fields and work hand-in-hand with students to develop scholarly interests that are both personally meaningful and vocationally fulfilling.

PERSIST

While challenges may occasionally cause setbacks, we understand that the true measure of success lies in resilience, perseverance, and the determination to finish what we've started. Our learners balance academic pursuits with personal responsibilities, yet they continue to excel, supported by a nurturing academic environment that values mentorship and community.

ACHIEVE

Achievement is more than a goal; it's a core value that defines us as a university. We empower our community of scholars to consistently reach new heights, pioneer innovation, and make a lasting impact on the world. By embracing achievement as a foundational value, we forge a legacy of excellence, ensuring our university remains academically rigorous and a force for positive change.

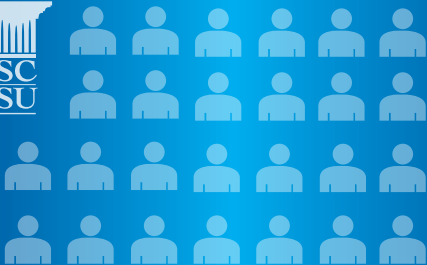
Priority 1

Enrollment, Retention, Persistence, and Degree Completion Success



Achieve enrollment stability by improving recruitment, retention, and graduation. By 2028:

10,200
enrolled students at Southern



25%



increase in transfer students from CT State Community College

25%



of Early College students will matriculate at SCSU

80%



retention rate of first-time, first-year students

100%

increase in out-of-state and international students



60%



6-year graduation rate for first-time, first-year students

60%

3-year graduation rate for transfer students

Priority 2

Cultivating a Community of Scholars

Continue Southern Connecticut State University's commitment to academic and creative excellence. By 2028:



\$14 million

external grants and contracts annual productivity

15%

increase in graduate assistantships

25%

increase in undergraduate and graduate student creative and scholarly products

50%

increase in collaborative undergraduate/graduate degree programs



100%

increase in degree-linked programs (2+2) at CT State Community College



50%

increase in students who participate in co-curricular activities

(organizations, campus media, student government, fraternity or sorority, cultural engagement, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) including:

- ✓ Attain Fulbright Scholarships and build national academic partnerships
- ✓ A robust, nationally-recognized Division II Athletics Program

Priority 3 Justice, Equity, and Excellence



Advance social justice and racial equity on campus and beyond. By 2028:



\$15 million
in annual student
financial support



10%

increase in representation of faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of our students and community we serve

15% growth in faculty and staff affinity groups/experiences and peer-mentoring programs



growth in curricular and pedagogical opportunities for inclusive teaching and learning



Priority 4

Community Engagement

Develop collaborations and partnerships locally, regionally, and nationally. By 2028:



60% of students will have engaged in internships, research, work-based learning experiences, and/or community-based service learning by the time they graduate

Combined 25%

increase and strengthen partnerships with K16 schools, other educational institutions, and regional organizations



increase and strengthen partnerships with employers and industry



increase in community engaged research and creative activity



Launch Southern Connecticut State University's **first comprehensive campaign** in alignment with funding priorities



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