



GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
**THE GSU STORY**



Governors State University (GSU), a comprehensive public institution, located in the Chicago suburbs, was created to be a model of innovation. After 45 years as an upper-division university, in the fall of 2014, GSU admitted its first freshman class, opened its first living-learning residence hall, and launched an athletic program. This transformation was based on rigorous research and an unwavering commitment to inclusive excellence.

To drive our transformation, GSU reallocated resources to provide first-year students with a strong foundation for academic achievement. Freshmen are taught by full-time, fully committed faculty members – no grad assistants. Composition classes are limited to 18, and other first-year classes do not exceed 30. Planning the freshman experience led to full-scale educational reform, encompassing academic majors framed by cornerstone and capstone courses with writing, ethics, citizenship, critical and innovative thinking integrated across the curriculum.

GSU's bold commitment to innovation is further exemplified by the Dual Degree Program (DDP). This partnership with 17 Chicagoland community colleges, launched with Kresge Foundation support, is fast becoming a national model to create a seamless pathway from Associate to Bachelor's degree.

GSU's five doctoral programs emphasize research-based practice in physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, counseling, and leadership.

These major systemic changes were accomplished through strategic planning and comprehensive engagement. As we launch Vision 2020, GSU continues to model academic excellence, innovation, diversity, and responsible citizenship.