



Action Towards FY2025 Goals

Increased Research Award Submissions and Funding

The College of Education's Office of Research currently has an administrative staff of six, led by Associate Dean for Research Ali Brian, Ph.D. The administrative staff consists of a Director of Grants Administration, which was a newly imagined position late in FY24; a Director of Research Development and pre-award services; three post-award coordinators, one of whom also handles all grant-related human resources issues; and an administrative coordinator and assistant to the ADR. Two Centers in the College (the REM Center and the Child Development Research Center) have additional pre- and post-award support.

Several processes were streamlined and improved during FY24 and into FY25. These include:

- Utilizing a standardized system for faculty to submit both pre- and post-award requests to the administrative staff.
- Consolidating all grants-related HR issues with a single staff person.
- Reviewing and streamlining the processes for summer salary, course buy-outs and salary savings, which included a thorough review of how faculty were being paid from grants v. how the proposals were originally budgeted.
- Working with faculty to tackle on-going issues with cost share and developing more proactive ways to record cost share in the future.
- Encouraging pre- and post-award staff to work collaboratively in support of faculty at every phase of the grant process from submission to close-out.

| Increased Research Output | FY2024 Total | FY25 YTD |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Submissions Completed | 77 | 44 |
| Submissions Currently Pending | | 60 |
| Submissions and Non Compete Renewals | 80 | 49 |
| Awarded Proposals | 76 | 51 |
| Submissions per Month | 6.16 for FY | 6.125 for partial year |
| Hit Rate | 52% | 52% |
| Pending Award Dollars | | ~\$43,863,764 |
| Awarded Dollars | \$23,193,804 total | \$23,522,338 YTD |

Expanded Student Recruitment and Retention Efforts

The college's recruitment director participated in the Graduate Admissions Systems Organization Task Force and continues to work with faculty program coordinators to streamline deadlines and information. The team participated in various recruitment fairs, admission events and personal touches to increase student yield.

Students, faculty, staff and college administration participated in university-wide Admitted Student Days, establishing recognition with incoming students. Yield activities included a postcard campaign to incoming freshmen, a welcome video from Dean Hodges, regular emails from the Director of Recruitment and a phone call from current students. In- house paid advertising resulted in 4,247,179 impressions and 38,033 clicks with a click-through rate of .90%.

The chart below illustrates trend data in student head counts and credit hour production.

| Year | Headcount Enrollment | Student Credit Hours |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2021-2022 | Undergraduate: 703 Graduate: 1,579 | Undergraduate: 20,089 Graduate: 26,135 |
| 2022-2023 | Undergraduate: 746 Graduate: 1,586 | Undergraduate: 21,816 Graduate: 25,051 |
| 2023-2024 | Undergraduate: 755 Graduate: 1,521 | Undergraduate: 22,735 Graduate: 24,960 |

Apple Core Initiative (ACI) currently has 29 fellows aimed at ensuring the teacher workforce is representative of South Carolina schools. The program's director meets with the group twice per month; supporting retention. The College of Education has five supported Holmes Scholars (doctoral students) with similar goals to ACI at the professorial level, who meet monthly for professional development sessions and "lunch and learns." Individual Holmes Scholars received support for conference travel and were represented at ten different conferences this year.

The College of Education currently offers 434 microcredentials organized in to 36 stacks. There are 6,306 current pursuers of microcredentials and 3,717 completers.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| COMPLETERS | PURSUERS |
| 3,717 | 6,306 |

Additional Actions Toward College Success

Launch of Graduate Staff Advising Model

The College of Education is implementing a graduate staff advising model for all master's and doctoral programs. Staff advisors will provide a consistent message to students regarding registration information and will monitor student progress each semester. While there are several reasons to move to a staff advising model, the main reasons were to respect 9-month faculty contracts, align with the University-wide focus on advising improvement, provide information to students from a central source and increase the reliability of advising tools like DegreeWorks to reduce financial aid issues for students. Staff advising for graduate students:

- Provides student support, advisement for courses and university policy information
- Allows faculty to focus on research, teaching and mentoring students' development as future faculty
- Develops the partnership between faculty and staff advisors to enhance student support
- Provides a consistent student advising experience from a central source
- Provides year-long advising coverage

Launched college-level strategic plan

The college completed its strategic planning process with Huron and has communicated the final strategic plan to all College of Education stakeholders. Initiative leads were identified and work is underway to implement the strategic plan.

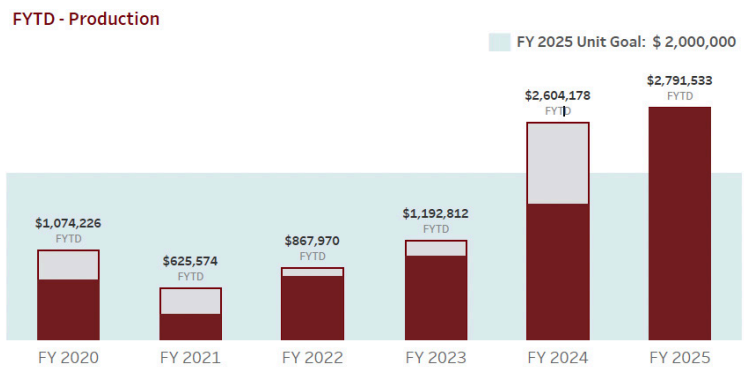
Increased Development Activities

The college launched a renovation campaign in FY24 to redesign Wardlaw College. The college is woefully behind in meeting students' physical space and technology needs. The renovation will bring much needed updates to the building's infrastructure, while making the building a better place to teach and learn. Communal space for students, optimized flexible office space for faculty and staff and fully customizable classrooms are all goals of this project.

The college is currently engaged with development teams to secure funding for this project. The campaign is advancing with great speed and donor interest.

Notable gifts for FY25 include contributions from corporations and foundations such as Milliken & Company, Synovus Financial Corporation, the Michael J. Mungo Foundation and the Jolley Foundation, as well as individual donors, totaling approximately \$2.5 million in support of the Wardlaw Renovation Project.

As of January 31, 2025, the Office of Development has raised \$2,791,533 toward FY25, representing a 70.57% YTD increase over the same time period in FY24. See chart below.



The third Champions of Education Gala takes place in March 2025, which celebrates the dedication of education alumni and supporters nationwide. The team continues its "Treats with the Dean," which includes monthly visits to local schools where the Dean personally thanks educators for their hard work. More than 100 guests attended the 150th Celebration of the College of Education, and alumni celebrating 25 and 50 years post graduation were honored.

| FY2026 Goals | Actions |
|---|--|
| Improve the curricular efficiency of teacher preparation programming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a teacher preparation core • Redesign relevant academic bulletins • Integrate shared modules into clinical experiences |
| Expand the number of faculty participating in extramurally-funded research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize faculty who have not been active in extramurally-funded research to participate. • Provide new faculty mentorship in grant getting activities. • Identify new funding sources (e.g. corporate and foundation grants) |
| Grow mean enrollment at both the undergraduate and graduate levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue yield and anti-melt activities for admitted freshmen • Expand in-house marketing efforts |
| Improve graduation and student retention rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement graduate staff advising model |