

North Georgia College & State University

Planning Assumptions

While the institutional mission and core values undergird and guide the strategic planning process, it is essential that internal and external factors that may affect the institution be taken into account as the strategic plan is developed. The following planning assumptions reflect critical internal and external factors that are expected to affect the institution during the next two to five years.

Planning Assumptions Based on Internal Factors

1. Growth in enrollment and programs will tax the university's infrastructure and services.
2. The Military Program will continue to be a vital part of the university.
3. Retirements of faculty members and the creation of new faculty positions will present opportunities to enhance the diversity of the faculty through new faculty hires.
4. Meeting enrollment targets and changing student demographics will increase the demand placed on recruitment, admissions and student support services.
5. The University will be challenged to meet the needs of a growing and diverse student population.
6. There will be continued professional learning by faculty and staff.

Planning Assumptions Based on External Factors

1. There will be a continuing need for the university to develop relationships with regional businesses, industry, schools and other community agencies in order to maintain its viable presence in the northern Georgia region.
2. Economic conditions will create uncertainty with regard to university funding and programming needs.
3. Population growth in northern Georgia will result in an increase in the number of students eligible to apply for admission to the university.
4. Population diversity in northern Georgia will continue to increase.
5. Recruitment of diverse faculty and administration will remain competitive.
6. Students will function in an increasingly diverse environment.
7. Other institutions of higher education will enroll students from areas traditionally served by the university, thus increasing competition for qualified students.
8. Electronic and asynchronous learning initiatives will increase the competition for students and for programs.

9. Due to increased demand for HOPE Scholarship funding, there may be a limit or reduction in the per student scholarship amount, but there is no anticipated reduction in the number of HOPE-eligible students.
10. Rapid population growth will increase the need to expand continuing education offerings and program delivery at external centers (e.g., Gainesville College University Center and Forsyth County Programs), as well as possibly developing additional centers across the region.