

# AAU PhD Education Initiative



The PhD Education Initiative aims to change the culture surrounding doctoral education at AAU member institutions so that graduate education is more **student-centered**, placing greater emphasis and focus on students as individuals with diverse educational and professional interests, needs, and challenges. The Initiative's objective is to make the full range of PhD **career pathways visible**, **valued**, and **viable for all students**.

## LONG-TERM GOALS

### Institutional Change.

Influence the culture and behavior in departments to foster increased inclusion of current and prospective doctoral students from diverse backgrounds and to provide PhD students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in careers within and beyond academia.

### Data Transparency.

Adopt institutional policies and practices to make PhD program data—including data about the career pathways and employment trends of PhD alumni—widely available.

### Strategies.

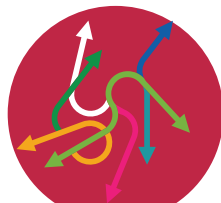
Highlight and encourage effective university, disciplinary society, and federal agency strategies and programs to promote institutional change.

## KEY TERMS



### STUDENT-CENTERED

Reorient the educational environment to prioritize students as individuals with diverse educational and professional interests, needs, and challenges.



### CAREER PATHWAYS

Support the full range of careers both within and beyond academia.



### VISIBLE

Full range of career pathways of PhD alumni are known and made transparent to institutions, departments, faculty, current and prospective students, and the campus community.



### VALUED

Department cultures and structures ensure that students will feel supported as they explore the full range of career options.



### VIALE

Institutional and departmental resources are available and accessible to help students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to enter careers of choice.



### FOR ALL STUDENTS

Foster the full inclusion of current and prospective doctoral students from diverse backgrounds.