

UPDATE ON PROGRESS – PH.D. PLANNING

Johannes Strobel, Dean, Graduate College



Progress Since August 2025

Key planning, consultation, and track-development work completed to date.

Strategic funding

Received **presidential strategic funding** to support planning for Ph.D. programs.

Planning committee

Established a **Ph.D. Planning Committee** – Collaboration between “Research productivity ..” and “Promote Interdisciplinary” Teams:
MoState Model of Research Doctorates

Campus input and feedback

Held **four university-wide** forums and two college-wide discussions to gather input on the MoState model: an interdisciplinary Ph.D. with tracks.

Ph.D. career pathways

Hosted **webinars and campus consultations** on employment pathways for Ph.D. graduates beyond traditional academic careers.

Summer 2026 track drafting

Provided **financial support to faculty members in five emerging intellectual communities** to draft Ph.D. track curricula.

Five emerging intellectual communities supported in Summer 2026:

Water Science & Policy • AI & Applied Data Science • Poverty Studies
Narrative & Cultural Systems • Developmental Science

What Comes This Fall – This Year

The work moves from broad planning into partnership-building, refinement, finance planning, and governance preparation.

Fall workstreams

Community partnership events

In collaboration with the efactory; connect Ph.D. areas with community, industry, nonprofit, and public-sector partners.

Open campus forums

Intellectual communities present their work and gather campus feedback.

Finance and budget planning

Develop sustainable models for faculty participation, doctoral student support, and program operations.

Curriculum approval work

Refine track curricula and move proposals into formal university governance processes.

Upcoming events

Community partnership events

Partner conversations and external feedback.

Intellectual Community Forums

Open campus presentations of track concepts and curriculum drafts.

Feedback sessions

Goal: partner-informed, financially realistic, curriculum-ready proposals.

Scheduled Events

Intellectual Communities

AI and Applied Data Science

Friday, September 25, 2026

PSU 308 B&C: 08:45 to 10:15

Narrative & Cultural Systems

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

PSU 308 B&C: 09:45 to 11:15

Developmental Science

Monday, October 5, 2026 from 14:15 to 15:45

PSU 315 B&C:

Water Science & Policy

To be scheduled

Poverty Studies

To be scheduled

Community Engagement Events

Thursday, September 24, 2026

efactory Idea Loft 1:00pm

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Public Affairs Preconference

efactory Idea Loft 7:30am

<https://graduate.missouristate.edu/FacultyStaff/PhDPlanning.htm>