

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Strategic Action Plan for 2006–2011

Structure

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences includes 20 departments covering a wide range of academic disciplines and a number of centers, programs, and institutes. The departments are divided into four divisions: the humanities, social sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences and mathematics. As the academic core of the university, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences teaches two-thirds of the university's total undergraduate credit hours and awards nearly forty percent of the Ph.D. degrees. The comprehensive structure of the college facilitates undergraduate general education, strengthens graduate education, promotes research and scholarship, and enhances competitiveness for external research funding.

Humanities	Life Sciences	Physical Sciences & Mathematics	Social Sciences
Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures	Biological Sciences	Chemistry	Africana Studies
English	Communication Sciences & Disorders	Computer Science	Anthropology
Philosophy	Nutrition & Food Science	Geology	Criminal Justice
	Psychology	Mathematics	Geography & Urban Planning
		Physics & Astronomy	Economics
			History
			Political Science
			Sociology

Mission

The mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is to provide excellence in the core of general education, to provide strong undergraduate and graduate curricula in the four college divisions, to advance fundamental knowledge through basic and applied research, and to engage in community outreach on behalf of the university.

Strategic Directions

The CLAS Strategic Plan mirrors the strategies from the University Strategic Plan. The CLAS plan also recognizes the diversity of Wayne State University as one of its greatest strengths. Each commencement highlights the fact that we have the honor of conferring degrees to many students who are the first members of their families to graduate from a university. The plan similarly recognizes that many of our students are working to support their education, and that a large number of them transfer to Wayne State University from community colleges.

As a college, we wholeheartedly endorse and practice the University's Plan for engagement with our surrounding community, the City of Detroit in particular. Not only does such an engagement afford us opportunities to contribute to the advancement of our community, it also provides a "laboratory" without peer in which our undergraduate and graduate students can observe and participate in the application of knowledge, and can gain the satisfaction of helping to change lives for the better.

Because a very large percentage of our undergraduate students come from within the tri-county region of metropolitan Detroit, we believe that we have a duty to provide for them a global education that will empower them for their careers beyond Wayne State and expand their cultural and geographic horizons. Of particular importance in the CLAS Strategic Plan is the strengthening of International Programs across the university.

The plan is aimed also at building upon the strategic goal of Wayne State University to maintain its recognition as the nation's leading Carnegie urban and public research university. The College will continue to play a key role in achieving this goal, through its strong program of graduate education, scholarship, research and development activities, and through its strong base of external funding in support of these activities.

In pursuing the following Strategic Plan, we will review carefully our priorities in utilizing state support in the most cost-effective manner. We will also aggressively seek external funding support for the plan from federal, corporate and private sources.

The Strategic Plan

This five-year strategic plan provides the framework for the College's important role in taking WSU to the next level in our effort to become the nation's pre-eminent urban and public research university. This strategic plan for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is in conformity with the Strategic Action Plan of Wayne State University, and is set forth in the context of that Plan.

1. Learning experience:

Establish and sustain an exceptional learning experience that builds upon the unique values and attributes of WSU.

Goals

- Play a leading role in improving the quality of student advising.
- Reward faculty members with proven excellence in teaching.
- Develop endowment funding for undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships.
- Develop expanded student internship opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student service to the community.
- Provide expanded opportunities for undergraduate research participation.
- Build strong interdisciplinary programs among departments in the college and between CLAS and other schools and colleges.
- Provide opportunities for global education and play a leading role in the development of International Programs at WSU.
- Improve study-abroad and student- and faculty- exchange opportunities.

2. Pre-eminence in research and scholarship:

Strengthen our position as a nationally recognized research university by focusing on our competitive advantages and capacity to conduct basic and applied scholarship and research.

Goals

- Via strategic investments, strengthen already strong departments and advance other departments that show potential for achieving national prominence.
- Retain, recruit, and reward faculty members with proven excellence in research, scholarship, and creative achievement.
- Implement a mentoring program to assist junior faculty members to establish their research careers.
- Construct needed buildings and renovate and complete those buildings necessary to enhance research and scholarship.

3. Quality of campus life:

Enhance the quality of life on campus by nurturing a culture of success and excellence.

Goals

- Continue to support the University's efforts to develop a more comprehensive Honors Program, including the possibility of creating a special "residential college" to house the program.
- Enhance opportunities for undergraduate research.
- Expand student recognition programs such as scholarship awards, honors ceremonies, and graduation events.
- Promote awareness of and provide assistance for students applying for national scholarships.

4. Engaged university:

Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with our community as catalysts for the social, cultural, economic and educational enrichment of the region.

Goals

- Play a leading role in improving the quality of K-12 math and science education, in partnership with the Detroit Public Schools and surrounding school districts, the Colleges of Education and Engineering, and other regional institutions of higher learning.
 - Expand the successful Emerging Scholars mentoring program in Mathematics to include two or more such additional programs in other departments within the college.
 - Enhancement and expansion of the highly successful Math Corps program (currently for middle school DPS students)
 - Showcase faculty and student achievements to the community through articles and interviews with the local media.
 - Collaborate with surrounding institutions in the university cultural center.
 - Encourage faculty and students to engage in service learning.
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5. Educational opportunities for renewal and advancement:

Enhance and increase educational opportunities both for the benefit of Michigan citizens and to attract others to the state from throughout the world.

Goals

- Utilize TechOne Research, Technology Park, and other Technology Transfer resources to achieve \$500,000 or more/year in licensing and royalty income in support of the research programs.
- Implement the College's Capital Campaign (to raise \$23,000,000) to include research funding support for:
 - ✓ The endowment of three or more named chairs, professorships, and lectures in the College.
 - ✓ Endowed undergraduate scholarships.
 - ✓ Endowed graduate fellowships.

Conclusion

As is the case for the overall Strategic Plan for Wayne State University, this five-year plan for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is continuously evolving and must be revisited to ensure that processes and outcomes remain aligned with its goals and expectations.

This strategic plan will guide decision-making in resource allocation, in establishing performance measures, and in determining the college's priorities. Moreover, we will use this plan to hold ourselves accountable to the principles and outcomes it describes.