

Dare to be first.



Strategic Plan 2011

College of Arts and Sciences

LEADING THE WAY in Academics, Research and Public Engagement

Vision

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware will be nationally recognized for our exceptional educational experiences and for integrating instruction, research and public engagement. As we continue to attract and retain excellent faculty and students, we will be a model of intellectual and cultural diversity. We will encourage and support innovative interdisciplinary collaborations and engage local, national and global audiences through our research and creative activity.

www.art-sci.udel.edu/



Values

Our values shape our vision of the college's future. We value:

A Liberal Education. Along with in-depth study in specific areas of interest, exposure to wide-ranging educational experiences across many academic fields inspires student achievement and establishes the groundwork for lifelong success.

Excellence in teaching and research. Outstanding learning opportunities, research excellence and a pervasive commitment to student success are our hallmarks. Teaching and scholarship are fully integrated, as we engage students at all levels in our research and creative activities.

Diversity. Diversity of backgrounds, interests, intellectual approaches, global perspectives and identities is essential to our culture of deep and engaged learning.

Social responsibility. Public engagement with local, national and global audiences strengthens our impact and influence.

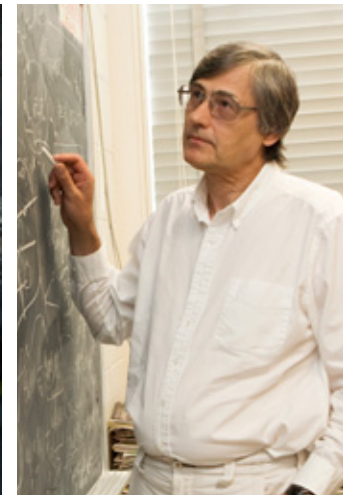
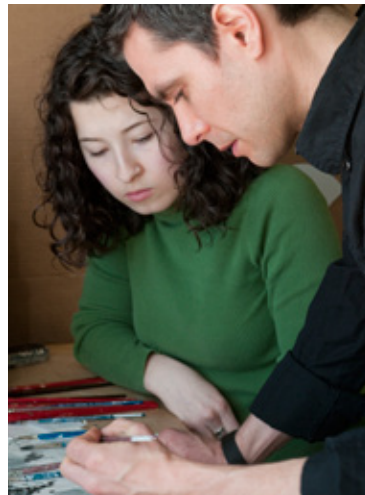


Mission

The College of Arts and Sciences is the intellectual and cultural heart of the University of Delaware. We emphasize both the enduring value of a liberal education and the importance of cultivating new and emerging fields of knowledge and artistic expression. Members of our college are dedicated artists, scholars, scientists and professionals, who teach, mentor and advise while creating new knowledge. We foster excellence in scholarship, creative work and public service, educating students to be thoughtful, ethical and engaged leaders. We offer broad and balanced undergraduate, graduate and professional education programs. We engage with local, national and global communities to understand and address their needs, and to share the insights and results of our academic and creative work.



Strategic Goals



GOAL 1: Develop an outstanding faculty.

An outstanding faculty, committed to educating students and engaging them in research and creative activity, is the basis for everything we do. Enhanced infrastructure and support mechanisms will facilitate research, scholarship and creative activity.

Recruit exceptional faculty members. Actively recruit excellent tenure-track and continuing non-tenure track faculty with racial, gender, cultural and intellectual diversity to build a robust learning and research environment. Continue to augment core disciplinary areas while developing interdisciplinary and emerging areas.

Strengthen support for the faculty. Eliminate barriers and update policies to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching initiatives. Develop staff and financial support for exceptional learning opportunities and research initiatives, particularly those that extend outside traditional disciplinary boundaries. Foster the success of early-career faculty by expanding and strengthening our current mentoring system.

Improve research infrastructure. Upgrade support for grant proposal preparation, including additional staff and improved coordination among departments and colleges. Expand and improve the college space dedicated to research, scholarship and creative activity, and provide systematic support to establish and strengthen core facilities and research centers.

Strategic Goals

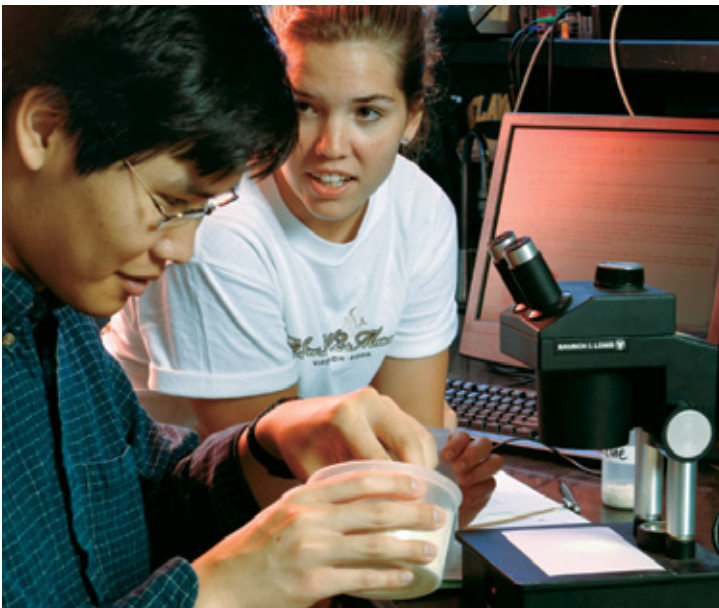
GOAL 2: Diversify our faculty, students and staff.

The College of Arts and Sciences affirms our commitment to fostering a diverse and respectful educational environment that advances critical thinking, open inquiry and full participation by students, faculty and staff. Diverse backgrounds, interests, intellectual approaches, global perspectives and identities are essential to a culture of deep and engaged learning. The ethnic, cultural, regional, international and intellectual diversity of our students, faculty and staff contributes substantially to the living-learning community of a great university.

Lead University-wide diversity initiatives. Lead the Center for the Study of Diversity's initiative by hiring faculty doing research that informs practices in higher education, science, industry and other organizations. Partner effectively with other colleges and University offices to globalize the curriculum and ensure that international students are welcome.

Enhance diversity recruitment efforts. Improve the recruitment of students, faculty and staff from underrepresented groups, and enhance the academic and social support networks for underrepresented, first-generation, low-income and international students.

Strengthen diversity retention efforts. Improve the retention of underrepresented and international students, faculty and staff. Improve degree-completion and graduate application, acceptance and funding offers for underrepresented students, and enhance the professional development and career mentoring of underrepresented and international students, post-doctoral fellows, faculty and staff.



Strategic Goals

GOAL 3: Lead the way in student learning and engagement.

We are a large and diverse college united by our common goal of being exemplary teachers and mentors. We are committed to excellence in classroom teaching that is informed by faculty research and shaped by active-learning pedagogies.

Improve student learning outcomes. Ensure that our pedagogical approaches are rigorous, engaging and effective. Be a campus-wide as well as a national leader in active and problem-based learning, and employ instructional technologies innovatively. Improve assessment practices throughout the college.

Improve student communication skills. Challenge students to develop excellent skills in written, oral and visual communication. Promote multi-modal communication skills while expanding writing-across-the-curriculum efforts so that all academic units embrace this task and learn to identify opportunities to enhance our students' communication skills.

Strengthen advisement and mentoring. Provide thoughtful mentoring that goes beyond curricular advising and fosters the intellectual development of students at all levels. Promote uniform excellence in advisement and mentoring by promoting best practices and developing college-wide initiatives that help our students make the most of what our college and University offer. Help graduate students seek grants, publish their work and secure professional positions.

Build interdisciplinary strengths. Support interdisciplinary programs that offer new opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and foster initiatives that promote interdisciplinary solutions to societal and global challenges.

Expand undergraduate research opportunities. Provide undergraduate students with early opportunities to make meaningful inquiry an essential element of their education at the University of Delaware. Be the lead partner with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning, the Honors Program and faculty development centers, such as the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Institute for Transforming Undergraduate Education, to design faculty projects and initiatives that engage students in discovery learning and creative activities.

Enhance graduate student support. Improve time-to-degree completion and strengthen graduate education and global impact. Use increased stipend levels, 12-month funding, multi-year commitments and enhanced dissertation fellowships and summer and travel research support to recruit and retain the best students. Implement a regular review of Ph.D. programs and establish a Council of Graduate Directors to promote cross-program and interdisciplinary collaboration.



Strategic Goals



GOAL 4: Engage local, national and global communities.

The College of Arts and Sciences has an obligation to address critical societal problems, be a premier destination for arts and humanities programming, serve as a central forum for discussions of public affairs and engage the community and our alumni through public programming. Our faculty and students will exemplify global citizenship and pursue multiple forms of public service, engagement and scholarship. Using new social media and instructional technologies, we will further inspire public and virtual audiences.

Serve Delaware first. Apply the intellectual, analytical, technological and creative resources of the college to develop solutions for state and local problems. Continue the long tradition of contracting with state agencies, the state legislature and state-based nonprofits, as well as partnering with cultural institutions to address pressing contemporary problems. Expand translational and community-based research opportunities in addition to public partnerships.

Develop future and current educators. Collaborate with other colleges in the University, as well as national and international partners, to train and mentor the next generation of secondary level and specialist teachers. Enhance content-rich professional development programs to strengthen teaching in Delaware and the region. Support pre-service and in-service programs with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

Extend cultural programming on campus and beyond.

Enhance the profile of our leading visual and performing arts programming to advance creative expression and cultural understanding and to attract high-achieving students. Engage lifelong learners and UD alumni through public programming across the disciplines, public lecture series, courses and showcase events.

Enhance global impact. Use the expertise of faculty, students, staff and our community partners to address “environmental sustainability, social justice and the alleviation of human suffering,” the global problems identified in the University’s strategic plan. Expand exposure of faculty and students by sponsoring international symposia, supporting professional travel and developing global partnerships. Collaborate with the Institute for Global Studies to encourage study abroad, strengthen the Area Studies programs and expand international research.