College of Arts and Sciences Draft College Strategic Plan

Draft Date: August 16, 2019

Note about the Intended Audiences for this Document:

This document reflects the mission, vision and core values of the College of Arts and Sciences and will inform and guide our work as we engage with both internal and external stakeholders. Internally, we will utilize this document as we collaborate with students, faculty, staff, and administration from across the University as we actively participate in integrated strategic planning. Externally, we will use this document as we proactively engage with prospective students and their parents/guardians, alumni, donors, elected officials, UW System representatives, and the diverse citizens of the local and global communities that we serve.

It is important to note that this College document is intended to align with and complement the University’s emerging new strategic and academic plans. As a result, we will likely be making minor changes to this document in the coming months as the overall campus strategic plans are being envisioned, developed, and approved.

Our Shared Foundation: UW-River Falls Mission and Values Statements

University Mission: Our mission is to help prepare students to be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective.

University Core Values:

- **Student Centeredness.** We commit ourselves to an unwavering focus on learning, holistic development, and success.
- **Academic Excellence.** We help students attain their full potential as critical thinkers, effective communicators, leaders, and committed life-long learners by providing engaged and integrated learning experiences in all modes and methods of instruction.
- **Inclusiveness.** We commit to a community of mutual respect, professional behavior, academic freedom and appreciation of individual differences and rich cultural diversity.
- **Innovation.** We encourage innovation, sustainability, and creativity, often in partnership with others, to inspire people, catalyze new ideas, and support economic and community development.
- **Global Engagement.** We engage with ideas, people, cultures, and places beyond our campus to enrich learning and understanding.
- **Integrity.** We earn trust through honesty, accountability, and ethical behavior.

College of Arts and Sciences Mission Statement:

The College of Arts and Sciences provides a high-quality liberal arts education that equips graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful lives and rewarding careers, preparing them to:

- Communicate clearly
- Question critically
- Think logically
- Problem-solve systematically
- Work collaboratively
- Express themselves creatively
- Value diversity
- Engage globally
• Live ethically
• Embody service and leadership

*College of Arts and Sciences Vision Statement*

The College of Arts and Sciences will be widely-recognized for high-quality graduates who possess the transferrable knowledge and essential skills necessary for successful lives and rewarding careers as engaged global citizens and service-oriented leaders.

*Focus on Promoting the Value of a Liberal Arts Education*

The College of Arts and Sciences champions the essential importance of a comprehensive liberal arts education, a proven approach to integrated and applied learning that empowers individual learners and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. Our primary goal is to offer each student a broad knowledge of the wider world as well as in-depth study in a specific discipline of interest. The core learning goals of our students will include:

- **Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World** through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, and study away/abroad experiences that engage students with life’s “big questions,” both contemporary and enduring.

- **Intellectual and Practical Skills**, including inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, and collaborative teamwork and problem solving practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance.

- **Personal and Social Responsibility**, including civic knowledge and engagement both locally and globally, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, and foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with various communities and real-world challenges.

*Key Goals for the College (to be prioritized):*

- **The College will actively engage in recruiting and retaining diverse students, faculty, and staff from the St. Croix Valley and beyond.** We will develop a specific plan for offering curricular and co-curricular programs that attract students and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion, without regard to economic status, race, ethnic background, political views, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics or beliefs. (Specific goals and strategies TBD.)
  - Goals: TBD
  - Tactics: TBD
  - Strategies: TBD
  - Measurable Outcomes: TBD

- **The College will provide each student multiple opportunities to actively engage in proven high impact practices (HIPS) in teaching and learning prior to their graduation, including but not limited to:**
  - First Year Adventure Seminars
  - College-based living and learning communities
  - Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (URSCA) with faculty/staff mentors
  - Internships and community-based service-learning projects
  - Study abroad (international) and study away (domestic) living and learning opportunities
  - Senior capstone experiences and presentations
  - Goals: TBD
• The College will explore ways to provide students increased opportunities to pursue approved interdisciplinary degrees (e.g. Neuroscience, Criminology, Biotechnology, Broad Field Social Studies) or to develop their own individually-designed interdisciplinary major. Our goal is to offer distinctive interdisciplinary degree programs that will best meet the personal and professional goals and aspirations of current and future students. An individually-designed degree option, which would be carefully planned and approved through an advisor and the College, may help us to better attract and retain non-traditional students seeking a bachelor’s degree completion program. Such a degree may also enable us to attract and retain students seeking a more interdisciplinary liberal arts degree that is tailored to their own unique career and personal goals. (We will produce a report and recommendations.)
  o Goals: TBD
  o Tactics: TBD
  o Strategies: TBD
  o Measurable Outcomes: TBD

• The College will analyze the decline in the number of the Bachelor of Arts degrees awarded in recent years and find ways to make both the BA and BS degrees attractive and distinctive options for students. We will consider the various factors that have led to the decline in students pursuing BA degrees as well as factors that have led to steady decline in enrollments in various arts and humanities programs that traditionally offer Bachelor of Arts degrees. We will define strategies to better promote the BA degree and major programs typically associated with this degree. (We will produce a report and recommendations.)
  o Goals: TBD
  o Tactics: TBD
  o Strategies: TBD
  o Measurable Outcomes: TBD

• The College will analyze the option and sustainability of reinstituting the requirement for CAS students majoring in “non-comprehensive majors” (36-40 credits) to complete a minor or certificate program in other areas of interest. Pairing a minor or certificate with a non-comprehensive major can be an effective and focused way to provide students with interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in a secondary and related area of interest, making them more prepared for careers or continuing education. (We will produce a report and recommendations.)
  o Goals: TBD
  o Tactics: TBD
  o Strategies: TBD
  o Measurable Outcomes: TBD

• The College will work closely with the staff in the new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Division of Technology Services (DoTS) to develop alternative delivery methods for courses and programs to meet the changing needs and expectations of today’s learners. We will continue to utilize online, hybrid, and blended learning strategies in order to make educational offerings more accessible to a wider array of students.
  o Goals: TBD
  o Tactics: TBD
  o Strategies: TBD
  o Measurable Outcomes: TBD