

A&S Strategic Priorities 1999

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences endorses the following programmatic and thematic priorities to guide its actions in the future:

I. Programmatic Priorities:

1. Continue to abide by the 1994 Planning Principles
2. Implement the goals of the 1993 Final Report on the Undergraduate Curriculum as the top priority in A&S curricular decisions and resource allocation – with particular attention to the independent research experience, freshman seminars, and sufficient courses to meet the General Education Requirements
3. In order to attract the best students, maintain accessibility and assure a diverse student body, support initiatives to increase resources for undergraduate financial aid and graduate student stipends
4. Strengthen and support existing academic disciplines, interdisciplinary programs, graduate programs, and those graduate clusters consistent with current strengths in general and liberal education and our need to prepare students for professional and graduate education
5. Encourage and foster the use of appropriate computer-based technologies, including distance learning, in ways that enhance academic quality and are consistent with the College's academic mission and the vision of the Arts and Sciences Faculty
6. Continue on-going, rigorous programmatic assessment and review to include regular and periodic assessments of interdisciplinary clusters
7. Allocate resources to enable units to cooperate with and support the appropriate curricular needs of faculty-approved interdisciplinary and other programs
8. Increase faculty development opportunities with primary focus on both scholarly research and enhancement of teaching and learning
9. Limit new initiatives to those consistent with A&S goals and objectives and which do not detract from the intellectual quality and strength of existing programs
10. Maintain academic standards and quality assurance as pressures grow for increased transfer credit from other institutions and from distance learning courses that are not amenable to standard assessment practices

II. Thematic Priorities:

A limited number of over-arching intellectual themes should guide future initiatives at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

- a) Internationalization of the curriculum
- b) Interdisciplinary focus on environmental studies and sustainability
- c) Education for a diverse, civil society
- d) Strength in selected cultural and area studies
- e) Attainment of scientific and technological understanding
- f) Service to local, national, and international communities, including co-curricular and non-traditional learning options, e.g., service-learning, technologically mediated instruction, internships, and off-campus study
- g) Recognition of the importance of the arts in the education of the whole person
- h) Preparation of all students to be lifelong learners