

College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan 2020-2025 The University of Scranton

Purpose Statement

The College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Scranton embraces four strategic goals to address our times in alignment with the University Strategic Plan, the Mission Priority Examen, the Middle States Self-Study, and the Universal Apostolic Preferences. This vision emerges from a collaboration among the College's administration, faculty, students, and staff members, as we strive to build on our strengths and as we face future challenges and innovations in higher education. Grounded in our mission and values, the College enters into the new decade with a commitment to embody the heart of the University's Catholic and Jesuit Mission.

Our Mission

Situated at the heart of The University's Catholic and Jesuit Mission, the College of Arts and Sciences is a liberal arts college that provides transformative and experiential education in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Humanities, and STEM disciplines to cultivate academic excellence, intellectual and spiritual formation, meaningful contributions to local and global communities, and attentiveness to the critical problems of the world.

1. Cultivate well-educated solidarity in our community grounded in Catholic and Jesuit identity and mission by:
 - a. Featuring Passport Program and Senior Capstone Experiences.
 - b. Creating a vision of global education and engagement.
 - c. Promoting the common good, moral citizenship, civic engagement, and community-based learning.
 - d. Forming engaged citizens who compassionately respond to suffering in this world, with special attention to the rights of the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
2. Create a culture of belonging and equity that recognizes the diversity of our University, our College, our Church, and the broader human community through:
 - a. Continuing a college-wide reflection on anti-racism work and implicit bias in our global context.
 - b. Encouraging curricular innovations that strive to diversify our curriculum, promote cultural literacy, and reconfigure intellectual canons to be inclusive of historically underrepresented peoples.
 - c. Promoting bold and creative initiatives framed by a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- a. Exploring how intersectionality shapes representation, receptivity, assessment, and access to education.
3. Promote person-centered, not subject-centered education within the liberal arts through mentorship and development of the whole person through:
 - a. Increasing funding for student research.
 - b. Motivating students to explore their academic vocation and to think broadly about opportunities and career paths post-graduation.
 - c. Fostering more opportunities for experiential learning through research, internships, and pedagogical innovations.
 - d. Providing a well-rounded education that equips students with opportunities to develop a morally and intellectually mature worldview and a meaningful philosophy of life, along with the critical competencies needed to engage the world post-graduation.
4. Promote interdisciplinary collaborations, pedagogy, programs, and research through:
 - a. Bringing the College together under the umbrella of sustained reflection, research, and teaching on a biennial theme that intersects across disciplines.
 - b. Fostering curricular innovation and interdisciplinarity within the College and in collaborations with KSOM and PCPS.
 - c. Encouraging the personal formation of our students through the cultivation of contemplation.
 - d. Advancing faculty research in the College within Behavioral and Social Sciences, Humanities, and STEM disciplines.

