

Mission

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is dedicated to the primacy of the liberal arts in higher education and to the advancement of knowledge. Its programs provide insight into the past, critically examine contemporary issues, and explore answers for the future, while promoting the value of diversity.

With an on-going commitment to quality and innovative pedagogical practice, the College incorporates experiential learning, interdisciplinary opportunities, and international perspectives. The College also plays a key role in ensuring that William Paterson University students gain foundational knowledge and a deeper appreciation of diversity and justice, community and civic engagement, and global awareness through its course offerings.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences strives to prepare students with the research, communication, and analytical skills integral to building careers, pursuing advanced academic studies, and cultivating responsible citizenship in an increasingly global and complex world.

Goals

- i. *Build on HSS academic strengths in liberal arts education to prepare our students for successful post-graduation lives and citizenship in a diverse world.*
- ii. *Nurture HSS student success and achievement.*
- iii. *Increase opportunities and support for international, research, and applied experiences within and beyond the classroom.*
- iv. *Increase faculty and student engagement with the broader community and build community within the College.*
- v. *Further support and recognize faculty excellence in research, teaching, and service.*

Plan Outline

Goal I: *Build on HSS academic strengths in liberal arts education to prepare our students for successful post-graduation lives and citizenship in a diverse world.*

- a. Further support collaborative efforts across departments for existing programs and new interdisciplinary endeavors.
- b. Increase availability and attractiveness of HSS programs through such options as combined BA/MA programs, summer institutes, international collaborations with other institutions, and additional degree, certificate, and/or minor options within departments.
- c. Prepare students for career success through a commitment to career development within undergraduate programs, and by implementing and strengthening professionally-focused graduate and certificate programs in areas of professional need.
- d. Continue to keep programs current and of high quality through effective use of program review and assessment.
- e. Expand UCC offerings that will serve students across the University and build on HSS strengths in the areas of writing, diversity and justice, community and civic engagement, and global awareness.
- f. Foster student appreciation of the value of the liberal arts for 21st century careers and lives.
- g. Increase collaborative efforts to seek external funds in support of new and existing programs, and student scholarship opportunities.

Goal II: Nurture HSS student success and achievement.

- a. Monitor and work to increase HSS retention and graduation rates.
- b. Support socialization of all students to the College, including transfer students.
- c. Explore uses/needs of technology to support student academic success.
- d. Enhance support structures for our diverse student body -- in all of its complexity -- through inclusionary programming and mentoring and continue to raise appreciation of the value of diversity in our programs.
- e. Create a broader sense of community for students within departments.
- f. Enhance advisement models to facilitate student academic and career success.

Goal III: Increase opportunities and support for international, research, and applied experiences within and beyond the classroom.

- a. Explore and expand college-level support structures for internship programs in all majors/programs.
- b. Increase research opportunities for students, and faculty support for undergraduate research.
- c. Explore means to encourage student participation in College programming events, lectures, and field trips.
- d. Foster interaction between student clubs and relevant HSS programs.
- e. Collaborate with University offices to increase short and long-term study abroad programs, to facilitate and promote existing HSS international programs, and to increase student participation in international study.

Goal IV: Increase faculty and student engagement with the broader community and build community within the College.

- a. Create annual multi-disciplinary conference in the Humanities and Social Sciences to encourage faculty and students to develop and present research to engage key questions with a broader target audience.
- b. Use social media and build upon other marketing tools to publicize College events and highlight student, staff, and faculty achievements.
- c. Establish annual community event with faculty and staff recognition awards and student prizes for achievements and developmental progress.
- d. Encourage greater student and faculty engagement with Paterson, Wayne, and other local communities.
- e. Develop regular lecture series on various local and regional issues by community leaders and local experts.

Goal V: Further support and recognize faculty excellence in research, teaching, and service.

- a. Raise the profile of existing forums for faculty research within HSS and increase the number of those forums.
- b. Increase grant support (both internal and external) for faculty research.
- c. Create incentives for the inclusion of undergraduates in faculty research.
- d. Establish a mentoring program that offers teaching support to new faculty.
- e. Create an HSS award for faculty excellence in each of the three areas (teaching, research and service).
- f. Encourage and provide support for faculty to continually review and improve their pedagogy and incorporate their research into their teaching.
- g. Provide support for innovative teaching practices, including non-traditional teaching models such as clusters and team-teaching.