

College of Arts and Sciences

Strategic Plan: 2009-2015

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www.govst.edu/cas

GSU Mission

Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society.

GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship.

GSU Core Values

Provide Opportunity and Access

At GSU, those traditionally underserved by higher education and residents of our surrounding communities have access to a first-class public education

Serve as an Economic Catalyst

At GSU, we are committed to the citizens of the State of Illinois and our region to serve as an economic catalyst, so that our communities grow and flourish.

Prepare Stewards of our Future

At GSU, we are committed to preparing our students to thrive in the global economy and to contribute in the ongoing stewardship of the environment.

Demonstrate Inclusiveness and Diversity

At GSU, we embrace diversity among students, staff, and faculty as well as members of the broader community, and we encourage acceptance of wide-ranging perspectives.

Promote Quality of Life

At GSU, we value an atmosphere that fosters a capacity to enjoy life through the fine arts and humanities, marketable skills and attitudes for employment, supportive interpersonal relationships, and participative and informed citizenship.

College of Arts and Sciences Mission

The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to teaching theoretical and applied knowledge and to cultivating habits of mind, communication skills, and artistic vision and expression befitting advanced learning.

The college seeks to empower students to join and strengthen the wider community; to become change agents within a global culture; to serve as leaders in their respective disciplines and professions; and to live as informed, responsible citizens.

College of Arts and Sciences Core Values

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) values teaching and learning activities which:

- foster critical thinking and problem-solving abilities in professional, public, and private spheres;
- advance literacy skills inclusive of reading, writing, speaking, numeric literacy, and visual literacy; and
- promote the facile use of technology for life-long knowledge acquisition and engagement.

The college values scholarship and creative activities which:

- expand disciplinary knowledge;
- cultivate and challenge artistic expression and thought;
- advance teaching and learning practices; and
- benefit the wider society through their application.

The college values service which:

- advances GSU's mission and benefits the university community;
- promotes educational, economic, and technological development in surrounding communities; and
- demonstrates the importance of life-long learning, civic engagement, and service to others.

Goals and Supporting Activities

GSU Institutional Goal 1

Provide distinctive academic programs that effectively prepare students to become leaders and productive citizens in the global community.

CAS Program Goal 1

Increase student enrollment and retention in all CAS programs.

1.A. Develop and maintain an ongoing CAS Enrollment Management Plan.

1.B. Increase external program promotion and communication.

- i. Pursue community college outreach by CAS faculty and administrative staff.
- ii. Promote state-of-the-art facilities with open houses for recruitment.
- iii. Strengthen communication with new students for purposes of retention.
- iv. Seek innovative, low-cost methods of program and course promotion.

1.C. Enhance student services and advising.

- i. Train and support CAS faculty advisors.
- ii. Notify students of upcoming requirements and deadlines.
- iii. Develop a multi-year schedule of courses.
- iv. Establish program-specific orientations.

- v. Create awards and other kinds of public recognitions of student success.
- vi. Strengthen support services for current and prospective international students.

GSU Institutional Goal 2

Provide students access to a highly qualified, motivated, and diverse faculty and staff.

CAS Program Goal 2

Feature and support faculty and staff scholarship and training as well as student success.

- 2.A. Support faculty scholarship in conjunction with university-wide support structures.
- 2.B. Showcase faculty and student scholarship and creative work.
- 2.C. Build capacity for additional faculty-student collaboration such as research and teaching assistantships.
- 2.D. Increase the proportion of women and underrepresented ethnic minorities in faculty and staff positions.
- 2.E. Continue faculty and staff trainings and support as follows:
 - i. new faculty handbook
 - ii. adjunct handbook
 - iii. advisor training and advisor handbook development
 - iv. workshops on faculty retention
 - v. awards for service and advising

GSU Institutional Goal 3

Develop and sustain a climate of continuous improvement that is defined by evidence-based decision-making focused on enriching the student experience.

CAS Program Goal 3

Maintain the high quality and rigor of academic programs.

- 3.A. Establish new programs and curricula in response to student demand and regional need.
 - i. Explore possibilities for new majors, minors, and certificates, particularly in collaboration with GSU's other colleges.
 - ii. Provide support for expansion of CAS secondary education programs.
 - iii. Establish online course and degree offerings in targeted programs.
- 3.B. Assess program performance and student learning for purposes of improvement.

- i. Pursue accreditation where applicable and conduct program reviews of all CAS programs as stipulated by the Office of the Provost.
- ii. Verify that all programs have implemented student learning assessment plans that include course and program learning objectives and sustainable methods of collecting, analyzing, and acting upon data for program improvement.
- iii. Review CAS curricula to ensure alignment of course and program-level learning objectives.
- iv. Verify that program assessment plans articulate with university-wide learning outcomes for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as policy requirements related to writing and technology.

GSU Institutional Goal 4

Pursue initiatives that make GSU a preferred destination in the region, that create a vibrant public dialogue, and that increase the university's effectiveness as an economic catalyst in the region.

CAS Program Goal 4

Integrate CAS programs into the broader context of the university's mission and strategic priorities, both within the university and in the external community.

- 4.A. Establish an external advisory board to advise CAS on goals, priorities, opportunities for outreach, and fund raising.
- 4.B. Establish partnerships with GSU's other colleges, the Center for Performing Arts, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, and other units on campus to create enriched learning experiences for internal and external constituencies.
- 4.C. Seek new partnerships to boost international enrollment, study abroad opportunities, and other forms of cultural exchange.
- 4.D. Serve as a campus leader in promoting learning as a lifelong activity.

GSU Institutional Goal 5

Build an institution that is socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible.

CAS Program Goal 5

Establish internal and external partnerships that model environmental, social, and ethical responsibility.

- 5.A. Expand partnerships with local, regional, and state-wide organizations and agencies which advocate environmental sustainability.
- 5.B. Promote social and civic engagement through guest lectures, faculty exchanges, and other campus/community events.

- 5.C. Support CAS faculty, staff, and student community service interests and activities.
- 5.D. Participate actively in campus as well as local events to promote cultural awareness and diversity.