Final draft

Academic Strategic Plan 2017-22

University of Alberta
Faculty of Arts
OUR MISSION & VISION

The Faculty of Arts offers rich academic experiences in the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts; engages in teaching, research, and creative activities that enhance our understanding of the world; and develops the skills and qualities essential to imagining and realizing our personal and collective potential.

Students, staff, and scholars in the Faculty of Arts serve the public good by pushing the boundaries of thinking, creative expression, dialogue, and action on the most pressing issues. Over the next five years, we aim to extend our engagement with local, national, and global communities; expand our Faculty’s diversity; enrich experiential learning opportunities; and enhance fundamental, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative research and creative activities.
OUR VALUES

The Faculty of Arts values intellectual integrity, freedom of inquiry and expression, and the equality and dignity of all persons as the foundation of ethical conduct in research, teaching, and service. We are committed to academic freedom as fundamental to open inquiry, courageous and independent thinking, and the pursuit of truth.

We value diversity, inclusivity, respect, and equity across and among our peoples and disciplines.

We value curiosity-driven inquiry, critical reflection, creativity and imagination, boldness and rigour, and productive opportunities for dialogue and collaboration. We are committed to engaging with the public good through the dissemination of knowledge and sharing of research creations.

The Faculty of Arts values social responsibility, engaged citizenship, and social justice, and is committed to respectful relations with Indigenous peoples within and beyond our Faculty community.
TEACHING & LEARNING

Goal
We will offer integrated, experiential, and student-centred programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels that inspire transformative learning, cultivate the life of the mind, and foster engaged citizenship.

Objectives
● Reinvigorate Arts’ honors programs to provide challenging opportunities for hands-on research and mentoring
● Generate program learning outcomes in order to guide program changes and help our students appreciate what they are expected to know, understand, and demonstrate through their learning
● Strengthen support systems for experiential learning, including global interactions, community service-learning, and work-integrated learning, in undergraduate and graduate programs
● Enhance our graduate programs to equip our students with the skills and credentials to prepare them for a variety of academic and professional careers
● Review and improve how effective and inspiring teaching is fostered and rewarded
RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Goal
We will enable high quality creative activity and research that contribute to the public good.

Objectives
● Encourage and enable increased collaborative and cross-disciplinary research and creative activity
● Support and profile research and creative activities that inspire public discussion of complex issues
● Develop networks of research and creative activity by identifying, developing, and promoting a set of established and emerging signature areas of research, research creation, and teaching
● Enhance supports for the successful pursuit of external funding that contributes to reputation-defining research and creative activities
● Encourage community-engaged research and creative activity that will extend the reach, effectiveness, benefit, and value of our Faculty-community connections
● Improve communication of the social value and impact of the full range of Arts research and research creation
RESPECTFUL RELATIONS

Goal
We will increase the presence and support the success of Indigenous scholars, staff, and students while enriching research, creative activity, and teaching that respectfully engages with Indigenous knowledges and communities.

Objectives
- Develop and implement Arts strategies for recruitment and retention of Indigenous faculty and staff
- Develop and implement Arts strategies for recruitment and retention of Indigenous students
- Create a plan for integrating Indigenous content in Arts curricula and encourage pedagogical approaches that value Indigenous voices and ways of knowing
- Encourage and appropriately reward mutually beneficial research collaborations involving researchers and Indigenous communities
OUR PEOPLE

Goal
We will build an equitable, diverse, engaged, and vibrant Faculty of Arts community.

Objectives
- Enhance equity by recruiting and supporting faculty and staff who reflect diverse perspectives
- Recruit a more diverse range of students, thereby enriching our learning environments and programs
- Support Academic Teaching Staff by recognizing and rewarding educational leadership, curriculum development, and outstanding teaching
- Cultivate engagement and collegiality at all levels in our Faculty
- Foster a culture of excellence by enriching learning and professional development opportunities for our staff and faculty
ALUMNI & EXTERNAL COMMUNITIES

Goal
We will foster vital and enduring relationships with our alumni, community partners, and donors.

Objectives
● Increase and sustain reciprocal community relations and engagement
● Work with alumni and community partners to explore research and learning opportunities that strengthen Faculty-community relations while addressing community-identified concerns
● Increase and deepen engagement with our alumni to create an involved, motivated group of advocates and champions

RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal
We will support our people and sustain our programs by attracting and stewarding appropriate resources.

Objectives
● Secure and manage the Faculty’s resources to sustain, enhance, and promote our mission, vision, and goals
● Ensure that our learning spaces, facilities, and infrastructure meet the current and evolving needs of the Faculty