

CAS Strategic Plan

Mission

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) supports and implements College- and University-wide initiatives to ensure student success from recruitment to graduation and beyond, through its promotion of high-impact pedagogical practices, and through its rigorous support in all areas of academic success. The CAS promotes academic success and disciplinary best practices, including ongoing assessment, feedback and improvement. The CAS also actively engages in community partnerships with local organizations, schools and universities that positively impact the surrounding community, region and world. Our graduates engage in the larger community, not only as life-long learners, but as life-long change-makers.

Vision

Through scientific, social and cultural awareness, the CAS offers rich learning environments and abundant opportunities for intellectual discovery. The CAS offers programming that prepares our students for leadership, service and success in a diverse and multicultural world, with academic and support programming that values NEIU's urban mission. The CAS nurtures an inclusive environment for teaching and learning and helps students develop their individual worldviews, acquire social and cultural awareness, and gain a broad knowledge of a variety of disciplines. CAS programs of study offer opportunities for academic and career development, and enable our graduates to be informed and responsible citizens. The CAS supports faculty/student research, peer-led team learning, internships and community-based fieldwork. CAS students have the opportunity to learn from professors who are outstanding in their fields and passionate about teaching.

Goal 1: Commitment to Liberal Arts Education

Through the breadth and depth of the Liberal Arts programs offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, provide students with a variety of approaches to inquiry and problem-solving and a broad array of skills to prepare them for successful personal and professional lives and civic engagement.

- 1.1 Provide a diverse, flexible, and comprehensive curriculum that allows students to find their passion and educates the whole person.
- 1.2 Provide a mix of programs that cultivate students' abilities to think in multiple ways and help them acquire skills that will allow them to adapt in an ever-changing world.
- 1.3 Develop students' knowledge and ability to contribute in their communities and in the world.
- 1.4 Develop and support robust CAS programming at all university locations.

Goal 2: Interdisciplinarity

Support, sustain, and cultivate interdisciplinary connections among programs.

- 2.1 Foster the development and coordination of interdisciplinary programs, courses (including learning communities and co-taught courses) and seminars, by providing support, space, and time for faculty from different programs and colleges to meet, brainstorm, and collaborate.
- 2.2 Develop cross-disciplinary degrees, certificates, and minors that provide students with skills that prepare them for existing and emerging careers.

2.3 Provide space, time, and support to foster, facilitate and coordinate interdisciplinary scholarship across programs and colleges.

Goal 3: Diversity and Inclusion

Embrace diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work to promote equity and the development of diverse knowledges and ways of understanding the world.

3.1 Sponsor professional development for CAS faculty and staff to facilitate greater understanding of the intersections of social inequality in all forms.

3.2 Maintain and cultivate diverse faculty and staff that represent the identities and experiences of our students and the communities the college serves.

3.3 Support programs in the CAS in increasing diversity and inclusion in all research, teaching and service activities. Support opportunities for instructors to participate in the lives of their departments and in CAS.

3.4 Actively engage in initiatives that continuously and intentionally enhance interactions across group identities, in curriculum design, campus initiatives, and community engagement.

3.5 Facilitate engagement with culturally-relevant pedagogy and curricula across disciplines.

Goal 4: Student Success and Retention

Support student success and retention by identifying, implementing, and supporting high-impact pedagogies, best disciplinary practices, and targeted interventions.

4.1 Work with other units on campus (e.g., Academic Advising, Student Affairs, Financial Aid) to ensure that students admitted have the resources necessary to succeed.

4.2 Encourage collaborations among multiple programs in support of student success and retention, based on existing models such as the Student Center for Science Engagement.

4.3 Expand undergraduate research, civic engagement, and internship opportunities to prepare students for further education and/or lives of civic engagement and participation in the world as public intellectuals.

4.4 Work to ensure that the General Education curriculum fosters cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches among disciplines.

Goal 5: Faculty Scholarship

Support research and creative activities that foster intellectual and cultural vitality inside and outside the classroom, and that enable students and faculty to contribute to discussions of key issues facing our communities.

5.1 Strengthen and expand opportunities for faculty to engage in scholarship and to deepen the footprint of the CAS as a vital scholarly enterprise.

5.2 Work with the College of Graduate Studies & Research and the Grants Accounting office to improve institutional support for obtaining and administering grants that support scholarship and teaching.

5.3 Provide resources and professional-development opportunities for staff, all ranks of faculty including instructors, and department chairs that promote and facilitate excellence in scholarly endeavors.

5.4 Seek additional support for faculty and student travel necessary to present their scholarship and to participate in the professional organizations of their disciplines.

Goal 6: Visibility and Community Engagement

Increase the extent and quality of relationships between the CAS and communities beyond campus in order both to serve those communities and to draw energy and inspiration from them.

- 6.1 Strengthen the CAS's identity and enhance its visibility with internal and external communities.
- 6.2 Enhance relationships with CAS alumni and between CAS students and alumni.
- 6.3 Engage with actual and potential employers of CAS graduates as consultants for designing courses or learning objectives for our curricula.
- 6.4 Integrate CAS programming into our local communities by engaging in conversations with representatives of local governments and community leaders to assess and address the needs of the community.
- 6.5 Organize events specifically for and with the input of the community. Publicize events and opportunities on our campuses among community members, organizations, and businesses.

Goal 7: Resources and Infrastructure

Improve fiscal stability, use available resources effectively, and improve the infrastructure for teaching and scholarly activities.

- 7.1 Increase philanthropic giving to the CAS and its programs in order to support scholarships and programmatic needs.
- 7.2 Increase alternative revenue streams by expanding the college's already-existing professional development series, cohort course offerings, etc.
- 7.3 Maximize resources by identifying existing courses that could serve multiple programs, and by fostering the creation of new service courses for the College.
- 7.4 Work with other units (e.g., University Technology Services, Facilities Management) on campus to improve the technological and physical infrastructures for teaching, learning and scholarship.