

Langara College
2014 – 2019 Academic Plan
Updated April 3, 2014

Langara College's first Academic Plan prepares us for several exciting initiatives that we will undertake over the next five years. Designed to position Langara as Canada's leading college, the Academic Plan presents a vision based on consultation with the College community. Our community has reinforced the need to move forward with creativity and innovation, guiding more integrated planning and decision-making throughout the College. While this first Academic Plan provides a starting point, its ultimate success will be based on an ongoing, thoughtful, collaborative and engaging process for the entire Langara community.

The Academic Plan is dynamic; it is designed to be adapted in response to new opportunities and challenges. It identifies who we are as a College, what we believe in, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. It builds on what we are doing well and identifies where we can grow. The Academic Plan will be updated annually to monitor our progress and celebrate our accomplishments.

Who We Are

Langara is a unique community with a broad range of academic and career programming. Our reputation is built on excellence in teaching. We are proud of our well-established reputation for providing students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to achieve their goals, and we are dedicated to engaging students in learning and providing them with the foundation to succeed, whatever their future path.

We teach students how to learn and provide them with opportunities to engage critically with the world around them. We embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community by welcoming students from many backgrounds.

We have dedicated faculty who offer outstanding learning opportunities and committed staff who provide exceptional support and guidance, inside and outside the classroom.

Together we generate the energy and provide the expertise to encourage students to succeed.

What We Believe In

We value:

- Our students and their success. This is a responsibility shared by all members of the College community
- Excellence in learning and teaching
- Innovation and creativity in supporting and teaching our students
- Accessible, high quality, flexible pathways to enable students to achieve their academic and career goals
- Social and cultural opportunities that shape students into globally aware citizens
- A culture of acceptance and inclusion of all persons

- Integrity, transparency and collaboration

Where We Are Going

Our vision is to be the leading college in Canada. We will achieve this vision by:

- Encouraging innovation and creativity
- Offering unique and relevant university transfer and career courses and programs at the certificate, diploma, degree, and post-degree levels
- Ensuring relevance and currency in the curriculum through the ongoing development and review of our programs and courses
- Enhancing support for excellence in teaching and learning

Our success will be evident from the high levels of engagement of our students, faculty, and staff. Our graduates and transfer students will be well prepared to succeed in their careers and further education. We will continue to grow/build on our solid reputation with students, graduates, transfer institutions, employers and community partners.

What We Are Going To Do

Student success is the focus of our Academic Plan. Innovation and creativity frame the activities we will undertake to enhance our strengths and grow new opportunities.

Programming, curriculum, and teaching form the core of the college and underlie the five priorities on which we will focus during the next five years. Each priority has specific goals and we will develop and implement comprehensive action plans for each goal. This will keep our core dynamic, encourage innovation, and enable further collaboration across disciplines and between academic and support areas.

The five priority areas are:

- 1) *Learning and Teaching.*** How we engage our students in learning is critical to their success. Using our extensive experience in different learning and teaching approaches, combined with best practices, we will:
 - Maintain and expand experiential education opportunities. These include work-integrated, lab, and field-based learning opportunities, service learning and integrated applied research
 - Promote and support innovation in teaching and curriculum design
 - Develop a comprehensive strategy for technology to support learning and delivery
- 2) *Student Support.*** Diversity of student backgrounds, constantly evolving subject matter, and the complexity of external demands require that we support our students in their educational goals. This support creates essential student engagement, enhances student progression, and ultimately encourages success. We will:
 - Continue to develop and refine pathways and strengthen support services for students to succeed

- Manage enrolments to maximize student access
- Strengthen processes for identifying and assisting at-risk students

3) *Aboriginal Opportunities.* Situated on Musqueam land, Langara has an opportunity to expand understanding of aboriginal cultures and peoples and to welcome aboriginal students to our campus. We will:

- Increase recruitment, retention and graduation of aboriginal students
- Expand awareness, acceptance and inclusiveness of aboriginal cultures within Langara
- Strengthen partnerships with aboriginal communities

4) *International Opportunities.* Vancouver is a multicultural city of growing global influence and appeal. This provides a rich opportunity to learn about other cultures and shape individuals into globally aware citizens. We will:

- Strengthen Langara's position as the school of choice for post-secondary international students
- Provide international learning opportunities, both on campus and abroad for students, faculty and staff
- Increase intercultural supports for students, faculty and staff

5) *Sustainability: Social, Financial, and Environmental.* The Langara community has a strong commitment to sustainability and understands that it has social, financial, and environmental implications. It includes our responsibility to our students, our institution, our community, and the world. We will:

- Create and strengthen programming that encompasses the cross-disciplinary nature of sustainability
- Advocate and model sustainable practices
- Build sustainable partnerships with employers, community partners and alumni

How We Will Get There

Action strategies (*underdevelopment*) are attached to each goal in each priority. We need to understand what we are doing well, how we can build on this foundation and how we can grow in a collaborative, yet focused way. As we build on our culture of learning and encourage faculty and staff to take risks and be innovative, we know that some of the goals and strategies within each priority are better suited to certain departments, disciplines, or programs. However every member of the Langara academic community can find opportunity for growth within this plan.

Worksheets to help Departments evaluate their opportunities and roles in implementing Academic priorities and goals can be found at (TBC).

The Academic Plan will be evaluated and updated each year to monitor our progress and celebrate our accomplishments.