

**Strategic Plan**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**University of Nebraska at Omaha**

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I. Mission Statement

We are a liberal arts college within a metropolitan university. Courses of instruction are offered in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to support a liberal education for the students of the college and to provide a significant portion of the general education requirements for all students of the university. We offer disciplinary and interdisciplinary majors and minors at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. The college is committed to significant scholarship and research activities of its faculty and students and encourages involvement with our metropolitan community and the world at large.

The college endorses the goals articulated in the Strategic Plan of the University of Nebraska at Omaha to (1) place students at the center of our academic enterprise, (2) achieve academic excellence, and (3) to actively engage our community.

II. Goals

A. Focusing on students

1. Provide students with the fundamental language and quantitative skills necessary to succeed in college and in a complex technological society.
2. Provide a foundation for a liberal education.
3. Provide high quality majors in the humanities and sciences.
4. Provide high caliber graduate programs in areas where we have or can develop both faculty and support resources and which meet the professional and intellectual needs of our students and the economic and cultural needs of the region.
5. Be welcoming and supportive of a diverse student body.

B. Academic Excellence

1. Provide an educational environment supportive of the wide range of academic preparation and talents of our students.

2. Expect our faculty to be involved in scholarship and research appropriate to their disciplines and that is recognized for its contributions to their disciplines, the nation, and the community.
3. Hold our students to rigorous academic standards.
4. Recruit and support faculty who demonstrate excellence in scholarship.

C. Engagement with Our Community

1. Involve the community in our teaching and scholarship.
2. Provide direct service to the community through effective application of the skills of our faculty and students.
3. Create an understanding in our community as to what we do and why it is important.
4. Seek to understand our community and its needs and how the college might contribute to meeting those needs.

**Indicators of Quality**

Much of the assessment of the extent to which the College of Arts and Sciences fulfills its mission will occur in department and program levels and at the wider campus level. However, it is important that some aggregate assessment be made at the college level. The quality indicators established to date are described below as are the data assessing our progress toward meeting these goals.

**Indicator 1: Outcome measures for general education**

*Goals A1 and A2 address the college's commitment to provide a high quality general education grounded in the liberal arts tradition. The general education curriculum is diverse and variable. We are working to establish specific outcomes for the various components of our general education requirements. We have not set specific quantitative outcomes for this indicator and may never be able to do so. The Educational Policy Committee of the College will have primary responsibility for this function*

**Indicator 2: Number of bachelor's degrees awarded**

*Goal A3 relates to our providing high quality undergraduate majors. We believe we can partially assess our progress toward achieving this goal by monitoring the number of UNO students completing majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. The faculty of the*

college believe that in a dynamic metropolitan university of high quality, the liberal arts college should award approximately 50% of the bachelor's degrees.

**Indicator 3: Research Funding**

*Goals B2 and B4 speak to having a faculty active in research, scholarship, and creative activity. One indicator of our success in this area is the obtaining of external funding for research. We have established a specific goal of accounting for 50% of UNO's external research funding. A secondary goal is to have 10 million dollars in annual research funding generated by the college.*

**Indicator 4: Number and quality of student theses**

*Goals A3 and A4 state in part that we strive to provide high quality majors and graduate programs. One assessment of our efforts in this regard is the number and quality of theses produced by our students. Thus, this is our quality indicator. This indicator is also judged to be an assessment of Goals B1 and B3, which address academic standards and the recruitment and support of exceptional students. One goal for this indicator is that approximately 25% of our graduates participate in some form of a thesis or project.*

**Indicator 5: Service Learning and Internships**

*Goals C1 and C2 call for us to involve the community in our teaching and scholarship and provide services to the community through our students and faculty. Among the reflections of these activities are the numbers of students involved in service learning and internships. Our goal for this indicator is that each of our undergraduate majors will have at least one service learning or internship experience.*