

Provost & Academic Support Units



Mission Statement

Under the Provost's leadership, the Academic Support Units promote and support the students, faculty, and staff within the Division of Academic Affairs and work collaboratively with all WKU divisions to ensure student success.

Organizational and Program Information

The Division of Academic Affairs has primary responsibility for providing positive learning environments for all students, built upon a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. The role of the Academic Support Units involves sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University and maintaining educational records for students. They facilitate the research and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students, and the translation of this activity into enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in the region while advancing WKU's commitment to being a student-centered applied research University.

Through the establishment of budgetary priorities, driven by strategic needs, the Academic Support Units are committed to helping attract and retain exceptional students, faculty and staff, as well as increasing the diversity and international profile of the campus. They assist with the Division's mission of utilizing faculty and staff expertise to provide engaged learning and professional development opportunities for students, while addressing social and economic problems through applied research and service to the state, the region, the nation, and the world. As such, they are dedicated to providing quality educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens in a global society.

Through close interaction between students and faculty, the Academic Support Units encourage the intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. They help to prepare a diverse student population for meaningful careers in a multicultural and globally competitive environment while fostering in them a sense of civic responsibility, public service, and human understanding. They support and encourage



students and faculty to participate together in the process of research and creative activity which enhances and underpins all aspects of the educational mission of WKU. This includes providing grant opportunities to support a comprehensive research agenda, fostering the garnering of extramural funding from pertinent federal, state and local sources, and promoting the innovative work of faculty, staff, and students.

The University offers 100 undergraduate majors and 75 minors leading to baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options within these degree programs. Six (6) associate degree programs and 30 certificates are also offered. The Graduate School offers majors that lead to 47 different master's degrees, the Specialist in Education degree, Rank I and II Teacher Certification programs, 39 graduate certificate programs, and four professional doctorates in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Nursing (DNP), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Psychology (Psy.D.).

The Academic Support Units reporting to the Provost include the University Libraries, the Mahurin Honors College, the Graduate School, and Global Learning & International Affairs. Other Academic Support Units include the Office of Research and Creative Activity; the Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro; the Office of the Registrar; Student Publications; the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex; and Institutional Research. In addition, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning also report to the Provost.

Goals and Anticipated Program Activities

The Academic Support Units, working in concert with each College and other units of the University, are responsible for supporting the primary educational and research missions of the institution. They are committed to advancing institutional strategic goals and objectives, as well as other initiatives and strategic priorities consistent with that plan, including those promulgated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Advancing academic quality, building student success, promoting research and creative activity, and supporting the work of faculty, staff, and students are the cornerstones of the strategic agenda for the Academic Support Units. In addition, they are responsive to other institutional imperatives, such as CPE mandates and directives, which are reflective of WKU's purpose as a public institution. The following list summarizes some of the Provost's priorities for Academic Support Units relative to institutional strategic priorities:

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- Establish regional, national, and international conduits for attracting undergraduate and graduate students.
 - Work with the Associate Provost for Global Learning along with faculty and staff to continue to expand off-campus and on-campus educational opportunities.
 - Through the Colonnade Program and the student's degree program we will provide a quality education with common intellectual experiences and high-impact practices to develop strong career knowledge and skill sets for success.
 - Support and enhance the Colonnade Program, working to tailor learning outcomes to students' professional aspirations.
 - Review current teaching methodologies, integrate appropriate best practices, support requisite physical structures and technologies, provide ongoing training for faculty in pedagogy, and include multiple ways to evaluation instruction in tenure and promotion reviews.
 - Facilitate high impact practices, process-learning practices, and collaborative learning and instructional opportunities.
 - Schedule course offerings and course modalities to maximize student progression and completion.
 - Create a portfolio of academic offerings in multiple modalities that align with student and employer demand while meeting the strategic plan established by the University.
 - Bolster the stature and fiscal support of WKU's Graduate School, and strengthen its external reputation.
 - Include scholarly activities coupled with student mentorship in hiring, annual review, the tenure and promotion process, merit pay allocations, and faculty workload decisions.
 - Increase fiscal resources, expand physical space, and enhance virtual support for student and faculty scholarly activities.