

A kaleidoscopic approach.

ACADEMIC PLAN 2025



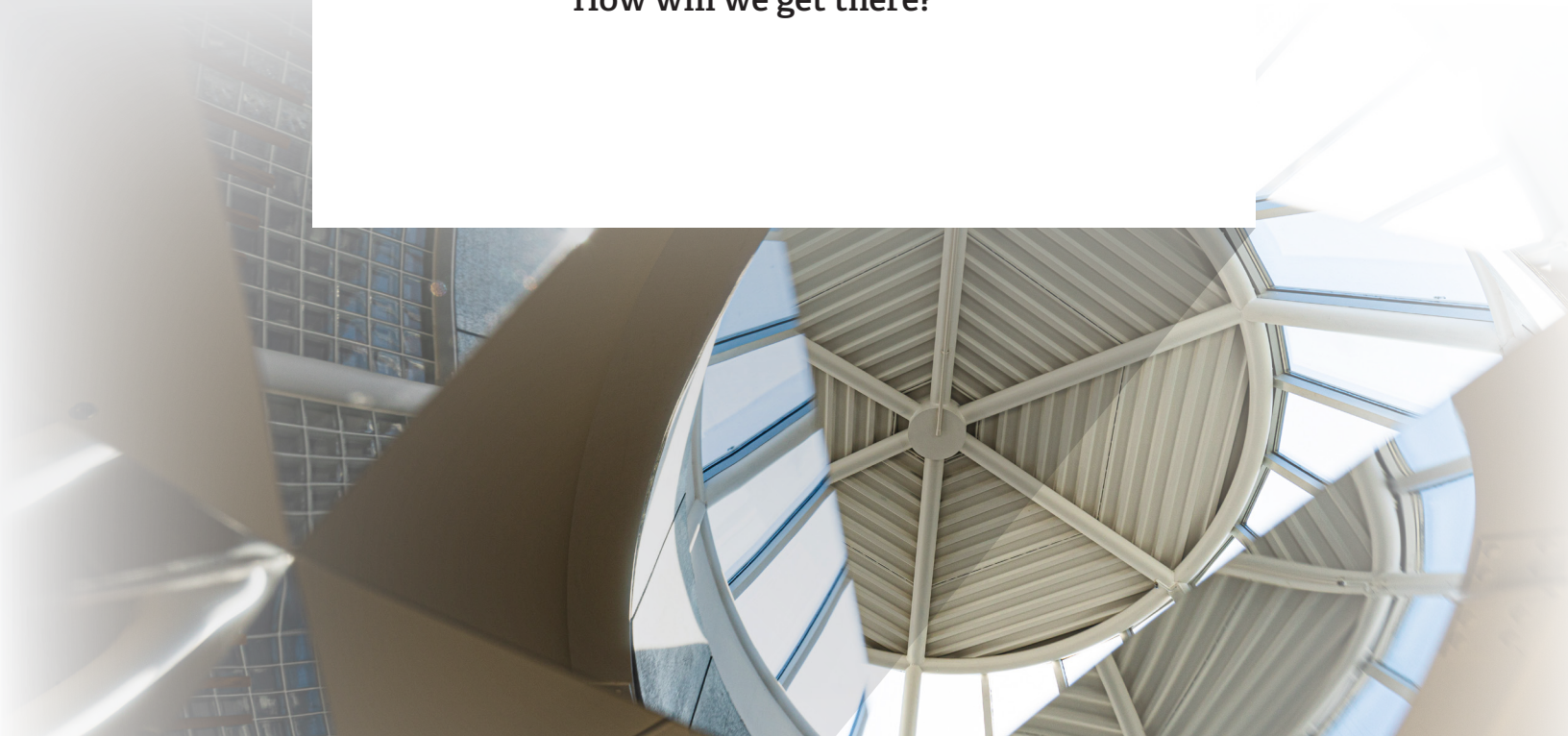
snəwəyət̚ leləm.
THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

Langara.
THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.



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Territorial acknowledgement.

snəwəyət̓ leləṁ Langara College acknowledges with respect our location on Musqueam unceded traditional territory. Our relationship with Musqueam is reflected in our use of the name snəwəyət̓ leləṁ, which means *house of teachings* and was given to the College in 2016 by Musqueam, and in the incorporation of the Musqueam symbol river grass in the College's coat of arms.





Introduction.

snəweyət leləm Langara College's second Academic Plan builds on the work completed and the lessons learned through our inaugural Academic Plan, launched in 2016. The efforts of all Langarans over the past five years informed the Academic Plan Working Groups (APAG) initiatives, a few of which included:

- a proactive focus on our students;
- a continuing commitment to effective teaching and learning;
- the development of the Office of Indigenous Education and Services;
- the creation of the Centre for Intercultural Engagement; and,
- an application to the STARS program for sustainability.

These and other APAG initiatives provided a framework for working together effectively across priorities. Through them we were able to measure and celebrate our achievements from 2016 until today at Langara's annual APAG Conferences.

In this new Academic Plan, the prescriptive pillars that supported the first Plan are gone. Instead, we employ the metaphor of a kaleidoscope, whose changing colours and shapes foster innovation and collaboration in our academic pursuits.

This new Academic Plan will help us create a sense of belonging for students, faculty, and staff at Langara, the Pathways College. As we welcome new students to our campus, we acknowledge them as unique individuals and we commit to guiding and supporting them to achieve their goals. Our faculty and staff lean into this commitment at every opportunity and the College recognizes and proudly celebrates the unique culture that they create and share with new students each and every term.

We began in October 2019 to work towards our new Academic Plan, generating rich dialogue through consultations, facilitated discussions, surveys, and written feedback from faculty, students, and staff. Our Musqueam partners have been integral to the conversation from the beginning as we travel forward in this work together.

This Academic Plan was developed to be flexible while maintaining clarity of purpose. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of remaining nimble; meanwhile, the dedication of our faculty and staff has reminded us throughout the pandemic of the resilience of our Langaran values. These two prominent lenses add brilliant colours and clearly defined angles to the image projected from our kaleidoscope, to guide us through both the anticipated and the unexpected.

This Academic Plan will guide our work together over the next five years to develop responsive goals, clear action plans, and comprehensible metrics in an iterative, developmental process. That work will begin in September 2021 and continue throughout the life of this Plan.

Our work so far has resulted in an Academic Plan that is deeply imbued with our Langaran values, a recommitment to our students, and renewed appreciation and support for the work of our faculty and staff. We commit to working together to continue to champion excellence in our academic programming. We will build on the achievements of the first Academic Plan and imagine together the many facets of our future promised by the kaleidoscope we are creating together.

"Musqueam is now like family. Any plans that come from Langara, Musqueam is there with our hands up acknowledging it, giving input into it, valuing it, and knowing that it is a great work and a great relationship we have. Musqueam is jointly right there with you because we feel it in our soul and in our heart, and it inspires us."



Gail Sparrow,
Musqueam
Special Advisor
to the President



Call to action.

The old metaphors for post-secondary education do not adequately capture the animation of contemporary post-secondary education. When we think of the dynamic, astonishing, and colourful panorama that is post-secondary education today, we are reminded of a kaleidoscope. Containing an infinite variety of views, the kaleidoscope invites us to hold it to our eye and intentionally alter our perspective as we turn its barrel. Colourful symmetry, intriguing shapes, and stunning patterns make the kaleidoscopic experience an aesthetic delight that is difficult to resist. Although seemingly magical, it is the physics of plates and mirrors that reflects and refracts the light, and filters our view of the colourful objects contained within. Perhaps the perfect marriage of art and science, the kaleidoscope effortlessly shows us the importance of light, reflection, differing perspectives, and the relationship between objects. Like each person's individual journey, kaleidoscopic observations are ever-changing, often in surprising and unexpected ways.

Academic Plan 2025 reflects the engaging complexity of higher education through the metaphor of the kaleidoscope. Together, faculty and staff embrace the changing views, bravely participate in those changes, and appreciate the new and different perspectives.



Recognizing that student success is complex with many contributing factors, we move from pillars and priorities to themes which intersect and overlap yielding broader, more inclusive, opportunities for our learning community. Acknowledging the impact of external as well as internal influences, our plan reflects the need to be open and receptive so that we remain responsive and relevant.

Our recent experience has made it vividly clear that our plans must be nimble, informed by who we are, what we believe in, where we are going, and the collective expertise and commitment of our exceptional faculty and staff. We must embrace new ways to respond to our communities, both internal and external, through the complex mirrors of student success and teaching excellence.





Who we are.

At snəwəyət̓ leləm Langara College, we continue to be a unique community with a broad range of academic and career programming. Our reputation is built on excellence in the teaching and exceptional support of our students.

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 paths.

We teach students how to learn and provide them with opportunities to engage inquisitively and critically with the world around them. We embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community by including students with a variety of life experiences and perspectives.

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

Together, we generate the energy to provide the expertise which encourages students to succeed whatever their path.



What our values are.

We continue to value:

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





Lenses for our next five years.



CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION: CREATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER

A community animated by inquisitiveness, imagination, and the intentional seeking of the unknown, Langara College offers opportunities to explore, ideate, and challenge through original, innovative programming, evolving and intrepid pedagogy, and meaningful technology integration. Together we create opportunities for intellectual discovery, work, and play through applied research, interdisciplinary approaches, and honest reflective practice.



HOLISTIC STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

At Langara College we nurture a culture of student engagement through work-integrated learning, experiential learning, service learning, co-curricular learning, undergraduate student applied research, and community service. We support the whole student across their entire learning journey by ensuring a sense of belonging, and by embracing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in curricular and co-curricular offerings and through service delivery and support.



TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Langara College acknowledges, supports, and celebrates the transformational learning experiences of instructors and students.

Building on our extensive student-centred teaching experience, we interweave principles of universal design, open education, digital literacy, and continual learning on our pathway to academic success.

We support students, faculty, and staff through their academic journeys with opportunities to learn and the tools, resources, and services to facilitate their work.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

We, at Langara College, celebrate our vital role in inspiring and nurturing the growth of students, one another, and our society.

We commit to serving our communities by teaching and modeling our social duty to focus on social justice, to provide equity of access and opportunity, to embrace diversity and to intentionally foster inclusion. We commit to caring for our environment in all we do, from pedagogy to infrastructure, and to looking for sustainable solutions in all contexts.



What are we going to do? How will we get there?

Learning from the experience of our past Academic Plan, we approach this new one differently. Goals, action plans, and metrics will emerge developmentally through ongoing engagement with faculty, staff, students, our Musqueam partners, and all members of the Langara community. These separate perspectives will join together –each one exposing a different facet of our shared future, each one uniquely reflecting and enhancing the others to create a vibrant kaleidoscopic pattern.

The work begins with creating our future story together. As we build our pathway forward, we commit to a process that will be creative and nimble enough for us to change direction when we see opportunities or when circumstances require. Along the path, we will identify and define milestones, clarifying the scope and impact of each one and mindfully bringing together the individuals and groups that are best placed to develop and direct it. As we did in our first Academic Plan, Langara will ensure that the students, staff, and faculty who undertake this work are supported with the resources they require.

To guide our journey, we commit to supporting multiple consultation events for faculty, staff, students, and all members of the community. Examples may include World Cafés, Town Hall events, and facilitated workshops to fully engage all Langarans.

Together we will celebrate our progress and determine our next steps. The journey begins in 2021 and will continue through the life of this Academic Plan. We will make space and time to gather our diverse perspectives, offer opportunities for them to mirror and augment each other, and create from them a kaleidoscopic projection that allows us to see the whole without losing the parts.

Join us on this journey and help make snəweyəł leləm Langara College the first choice of students, faculty, and staff.





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Connect with us.



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