



# Academic Plan

2014 – 2019

**Langara.**

THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

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## New beginnings.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

I am pleased to introduce Langara College's first Academic Plan, an ambitious, collaborative initiative that will guide much of our work over the next five years. After more than 18 months of discussions with faculty, staff, students, and outside consultants, five academic priorities have been identified that will guide us on our path to becoming Canada's leading college.

The Academic Plan identifies who we are as an institution, what we believe in, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. It builds on what we are doing well, identifies where we can grow, and is designed to be adapted in response to new opportunities and challenges.

The Academic Planning Committee is deeply grateful for the interest and support of the Langara community throughout this process, and we look forward to continued collaboration as we chart our course towards the next horizon.



**Brad O'Hara**  
Provost & Vice-President,  
Academics & Students  
Langara College

## A work in progress.

### HOW WE GOT HERE

The Academic Plan is not intended to be a static document. Rather, it is a dynamic framework for ideas and action that will be reviewed, adjusted, and reaffirmed annually. Over the past year, the Academic Planning Committee has engaged the Langara community through group interviews, town hall meetings, and online feedback to ensure the plan represents the interests of all students, staff, and faculty.

With a focus on building pathways into, within, and out of the College, the Academic Plan reflects our commitment to the academic excellence required to foster a highly trained and educated workforce. Langara College offers an environment in which students can grow and prosper, whether they choose to enter the job market upon graduation or continue their education at one of our partner institutions.

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.

There will be many opportunities to further shape these priorities, to suggest and organize activities that will help us advance our goals, and to offer feedback on how we are doing. As a living, collaborative initiative, the Academic Plan will be updated annually to monitor our progress, address our challenges, and celebrate our accomplishments.



## The next five years.

### IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

To realize the vision articulated in the Academic Plan, each of the five priorities will be supported by an Academic Plan Action Group (APAG). Each APAG will be responsible for ensuring the success of their assigned academic priority by identifying potential actions from across the campus and bringing them to the attention of the Academic Planning Committee. In some cases, the APAGs will lead their own initiatives once they have been approved by the Academic Planning Committee.

Each APAG will be chaired by a member of the Academic Planning Committee, and will consist of faculty, staff, and students who are interested in working to advance and support a specific priority. The Academic Planning Committee will be chaired by the Provost & Vice-President, Academics & Students, and will monitor and provide guidance to the five APAGs with assistance from the Office of the Provost.

In addition to suggesting and implementing activities, the APAGs will be responsible for developing benchmarks and interim targets to assist the College in measuring progress towards specific goals. By focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities of each priority, the APAGs will provide the necessary implementation support to help the Academic Planning Committee work towards a common purpose.



## 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 learning and teaching

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 continuing education. We will continue to grow and to 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.

The five priorities are:

- Learning and Teaching
- Student Support
- Aboriginal Initiatives
- International Initiatives
- Environmental, Financial, and Social Sustainability

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.

## How we will get there.

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

Langara's first Academic Plan was built by engaging our academic community in a dialogue. For the Plan to be successful, that engagement and dialogue must continue. We all need to understand what we are doing well, how we can build on our strong foundation, and how we can grow in a collaborative yet focused way.

Over the next five years, the five priorities of the Academic Plan will guide our direction and resource allocation within our economic and social realities. They will also inform our next Strategic Plan.

Therefore, these priorities have been expanded and clarified with goals and objectives. A task force will be assigned to each priority to engage and support individuals and departments as they identify and work with relevant goals. The entire Langara community will be kept informed, asked for feedback, and invited to celebrate successes along the 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 objectives within each priority are better suited to certain departments, disciplines, or programs. However, every member of the Langara academic community will find opportunities for growth in this Plan.



## Learning and teaching.

### PRIORITY ONE

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:

#### 1.1 Promote and support innovation and quality in teaching and curriculum design.

Objectives: Define and celebrate best practices in teaching and curriculum design; promote, support, and expand the work of the Teaching and Curriculum Development Centre; develop new academic offerings that capitalize on institutional strengths.

#### 1.2 Advance the application of innovative technologies that support learning and teaching.

Objective: Develop a comprehensive strategy for technology to support learning and delivery.

#### 1.3 Maintain and expand experiential education opportunities. These include work-integrated, lab, and field-based learning opportunities, service learning, and applied research.

Objectives: Identify best practices internally and externally; promote, develop, and celebrate success in these innovative learning options; encourage and support curriculum outcomes that reflect a commitment to experiential education.

## Student support.

### PRIORITY TWO

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:

#### 2.1 Strengthen and develop student support systems.

Objectives: Promote and streamline access to existing support services; develop new systems that encourage engagement and success; strengthen processes for identifying and assisting at-risk students.

#### 2.2 Manage enrolments to maximize student access and success.

Objective: Initiate and establish a strategic enrolment-management system.

#### 2.3 Continue to develop and refine external and internal student pathways.

Objectives: Identify and reduce bottlenecks and barriers in existing student pathways; create new student pathways that support mobility of learning.



## Aboriginal initiatives.

### PRIORITY THREE

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:

#### 3.1 Increase recruitment, retention, and graduation of Aboriginal students.

Objectives: Develop and offer targeted Aboriginal student recruitment; expand transition support systems that reflect Aboriginal cultures; advance and implement support services to ensure Aboriginal learner success.

#### 3.2 Expand awareness, acceptance, and inclusiveness of Aboriginal cultures within Langara.

Objective: Promote cultural awareness of Aboriginal cultures on campus.

#### 3.3 Strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal communities.

Objective: Formalize partnerships and policies to effect strong college/community connections.

## International initiatives.

### PRIORITY FOUR

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:

#### 4.1 Position Langara as the school of choice for post-secondary international students in British Columbia.

Objectives: Increase international student enrolment to meet or exceed provincial and federal targets; increase the number of international students who complete a credential at Langara; develop and deliver credentials in areas of high interest to international students.

#### 4.2 Increase intercultural supports for students, faculty, and staff.

Objective: Determine and develop appropriate academic and cultural support programs.

#### 4.3 Provide international learning opportunities, both on campus and abroad for students and faculty.

Objectives: Create a system that encourages and supports student and faculty exchanges; increase the number of sustainable institutional partnerships.



# Environmental, financial, and social sustainability.

## PRIORITY FIVE

The Langara community has a strong commitment to environmental, financial, and social sustainability, which includes responsibility to students, faculty, staff, the institution, our community, and the world. We will:

### 5.1 Create and strengthen programming that encompasses the cross-disciplinary nature of sustainability.

Objectives: Create opportunities that encourage cross-disciplinary dialogue and action; create programs and courses focused on sustainability.

### 5.2 Advocate and model sustainable practices.

Objectives: Transform the campus into a vibrant living laboratory for experiential education and interdisciplinary partnerships in sustainability; integrate sustainability into all aspects of college operations; promote Langara as a community leader in sustainability.

### 5.3 Build sustainable partnerships with employers, community partners, and alumni.

Objectives: Expand Langara's relationship with City Studio and the City of Vancouver in becoming the Greenest City by 2020; explore the creation of a Centre for Social Entrepreneurship; engage alumni and retired faculty in extending the impact of Langara.



## Academic Planning Committee Members

**SARAH BOWERS**  
Chair, Educational Technology Department

**SPENCER DANE**  
Chair, School of Management

**LEELAH DAWSON**  
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Management

**MARG HELDMAN**  
Dean, Faculty of Science

**GERDA KRAUSE**  
Chair, Mathematics & Science Division

**JULIE LONGO**  
Dean, Faculty of Arts

**TESS MACMILLAN**  
Chair, English Department

**BRAD O'HARA**  
Provost & Vice-President, Academics & Students

**JANET READY**  
Chair, Recreation Studies Department

**TOMO TANAKA**  
Chair, Creative Arts Division

# Connect with us.

## LANGARA AND YOU

Although the Academic Plan is an important step for Langara, the ongoing process of engagement – idea generation, discussion, activity, and recognition – will be just as important. There is a place for everyone in Langara's first Academic Plan, and we encourage feedback to help us shape these priorities by suggesting activities that will advance our goals. An email address has been established at [academicplan@langara.bc.ca](mailto:academicplan@langara.bc.ca) to receive and review this input.

### Langara's Social

#### FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/langaracollege](https://facebook.com/langaracollege)

#### TWITTER

[twitter.com/langaracollege](https://twitter.com/langaracollege)

#### FICKR

[flickr.com/langaracollege](https://flickr.com/langaracollege)

#### YOUTUBE

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