

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Academic FY 2009-2013 Affairs Master Plan

Strategic Direction 1: Provide Access and Opportunity

We seek to be the university-of-choice for a wide range of students and are committed to providing access and support to students with a variety of backgrounds. We remain responsive, dynamic, and student-centered by determining, evaluating, and improving the aspects of our learning environment which most heavily influence the likelihood of student success.

Goal 1A: Academic Affairs will increase opportunities for students to enroll and graduate from MSUM.

Objectives:

1. To assist under-represented and other at risk students make successful transitions from high school to university life.
2. To target additional student populations to enable MSUM to sustain enrollment at 7500 students each academic year.
3. To work with the Office of the Chancellor to identify and reduce barriers to transfer within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.
4. To achieve graduation and retention rates that equal or exceed those of national peers.
5. To increase the accessibility of graduate program offerings through online programming.

Strategic Direction 2: Foster a Learning Environment for Student Success

We use multiple, creative strategies to foster student academic success and to support effective teaching, learning, and work environments. Our faculty members engage in research and creative activities and routinely involve students in these projects. From campus facilities upgrades to extracurricular programming, we strive to enhance our students' intellectual, vocational, emotional, and physical development.

Goal 2A: Academic Affairs will prepare both undergraduate & graduate students for fulfilling, productive careers.

Objectives:

1. To implement MSUM's Foundations of Excellence® aspirational plan for Student Success in the first year of college.
2. To offer curricular/co-curricular learning opportunities, preparing students for life-long learning, service, and citizenship.
3. To review academic programs and, where appropriate, seek to achieve and retain programmatic accreditation.
4. To study the effectiveness of the University's writing intensive requirement in developing the requisite written communication skills MSUM graduates must have to be successful.

Goal 2B: Academic Affairs will increase efforts to assess achievement of student learning outcomes in the Dragon Core, as well as in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Objectives:

1. To develop and implement a student learning outcomes assessment plan for the Foundation Four Dragon Core courses that relies on faculty involvement and disciplinary expertise.
2. To develop and implement a student learning outcomes assessment plan for the entire Dragon Core that relies on faculty involvement and disciplinary expertise.
3. To make programmatic assessment reporting and communication of results better integrated into the planning and budgeting cycle.

Goal 2C: Academic Affairs will increase collaborative efforts with Student Affairs to develop programming to enhance Student Success.

Objectives:

1. Academic and Student Affairs will partner to implement the aspirational strategic plan developed through the Foundations of Excellence® initiative.
2. Academic and Student Affairs will strive to reduce duplication between the divisions, eliminate barriers, and promote improved communication to students, faculty, and staff. Early initiatives are programming the Academic Resource Office, strengthening New Student Orientation, piloting discipline-based First Year Experience courses.
3. Academic and Student Affairs will collaborate to make progress in Enrollment Management efforts.

Goal 2D: Academic Affairs will work with Facilities and Administration and advocate for facilities planning that enhances Student Success.

Objectives:

1. To play an active and productive role in MSUM Campus Master Planning.
2. To prioritize annual repair and betterment requests in Academic Affairs as part of the Facilities and Administration prioritization process.

Strategic Direction 3: Inspire Life-Long Learning

Commitment to life-long learning permeates the university, from mission statements, through planning and budgeting, to the activities of faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Our commitment is evident both in the classroom and in successful faculty efforts to engage students in critical thinking, research, and service activities outside of the classroom. We strive to bring a life of learning and engaged citizenship to the larger community, the region, and the world.

Goal 3A: Academic Affairs will work within the region and state to provide services and programming for schools, businesses, agencies, and communities that contribute to regional and statewide economic viability.

Objective:

1. To have MSUM recognized as the institution in Greater Minnesota relied upon to support the region through applied research, arts programming, community problem solving, integrated civic engagement initiatives, community-based learning, customized training, volunteerism, and possessing both the commitment and capacity to engage in partnerships that sustain the region and expand choice.
2. To increase participation in and provide administrative support for the **Distinction in Engagement** program.

Goal 3B: Academic Affairs will implement the Dragon Core by Fall 2009. The Dragon Core is MSUM's signature curriculum for life-long learning that meet's today's global demands for professionals who communicate clearly and competently, think critically, engage in active and efficient problem solving, flourish in a team environment, and thrive in a diverse world.

Objectives:

1. To manage seats available in the Foundation Four courses to enable all students prepared to enroll in these courses opportunity to complete the Foundation Four during the first year.
2. To analyze student demand within the Middle Cluster of courses and match resource allocation to demand.
3. To support departments already providing courses in the Outer Cluster and make it possible for additional departments to offer requisite Outer Cluster coursework.
4. To improve communication to students about the Dragon Core.
5. To increase accessible Dragon Core advisor training opportunities.

Strategic Direction 4: Expand and Support Community

We recognize and appreciate the diversity of the region and the constituencies we serve. We focus on shared goals through engagement and collaboration with the larger community of which we are a part. We strive to cultivate a life-long connection with our alumni.

Goal 4A: Academic Affairs will develop and support a learning community that embraces diversity and bases relationships on respect, civility, and affirmation.

Objectives:

1. To implement MSUM's *Racial and Ethnic Diversity Plan*.
2. To work with Program Advisory Boards to strengthen curricular offerings, increase community engagement, and foster additional fund-raising opportunities.

Goal 4B: Academic Affairs will encourage expansion of multicultural content within the curriculum.

Objectives:

1. To support the revision or creation of coursework that infuses multicultural skills, perspectives, and content into the Dragon Core and major programming.
2. To locate a Native American Resource/Research Center on the MSUM campus.

Goal 4C: Academic Affairs will work with Development Officers to increase fund-raising support for academic programs, faculty development, and scholarships.

Objectives:

1. To maintain a strong relationship with the Alumni Foundation, sharing time, talent, and resources, to develop a mutually supportive relationship between the University and its alumni.
2. To enhance public awareness of both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Goal 4D: Academic Affairs will implement a process to identify, catalog, and communicate current and future outreach efforts and initiatives.

Objectives:

1. To survey and compile existing outreach efforts.
2. To conduct a needs assessment for additional outreach initiatives.
3. To publish and distribute an edition of the "Taking your Place" brochure each academic year.

Strategic Direction 5: Innovate to Enhance Efficiency

We seek innovative approaches to meeting current and future educational needs efficiently. We integrate planning and budgeting and allocate resources towards achieving strategic priorities. We are accountable to all our constituencies.

Goal 5A: Academic Affairs will work to strengthen MSUM's planning and budgeting process.

Objectives:

1. To tie Strategic Work Plan Initiative (SWPI) requests to data-driven needs with measurable outcomes.
2. To discuss with the President and/or MSUM Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee the desirability of identifying a small and focused set of University priorities to guide the SWPI requests. Recruitment and retention of diverse students, strengthening the technology infrastructure, increasing living learning communities, and making First Year Experience a mandatory course for all freshmen is an illustrative collection of four potential areas of focus.
3. Complete the work remaining (close the loop) to link the Academic Affairs planning process to the Departmental Annual Report requests across the division.

Goal 5B: Academic Affairs will build capacity for change to meet future challenges.

Objectives:

1. To identify barriers to innovation, such as, state and federal legislation, System policies, formal procedures, and informal practices, which are unnecessary and work to reduce or eliminate them.
2. To build capacity to improve individual and team performance.
3. To build capacity for increased responsiveness for change in academic support, curriculum, and pedagogy.
4. To strengthen academic, student, and administrative ties with Minnesota State Community and Technical College.
5. To create motivation to look critically at existing systems structures and streamline them.

Goal 5C: Academic Affairs will promote accountability for results through internal and external communication.

Objectives:

1. To increase communication from Academic Affairs offices to the MSUM community, Office of the Chancellor, and other external constituents.
2. To collaborate with MSUM's Office of University Advancement to include stronger communication from Academic Affairs in University publications. Examples include faculty research; faculty, student, and staff professional acknowledgments; grants received; and student placement in regional or national competitions.
3. To participate in discussions to recommend avenues for better use of the University's homepage.