

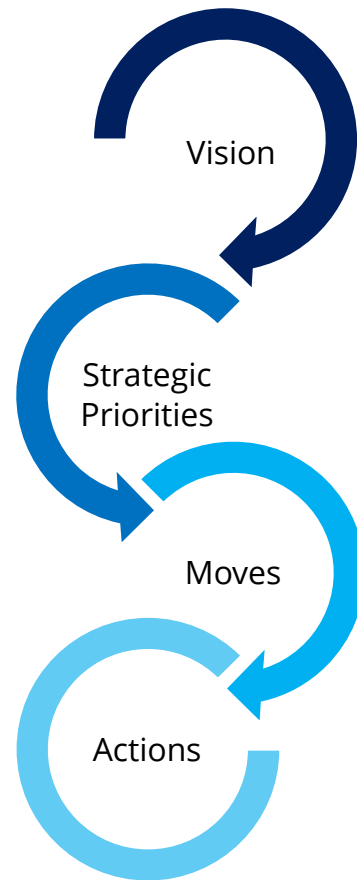
Division of Academic Affairs

Strategic Framework 2025-2030

Introduction

Academic Affairs stands at the heart of our institution's mission to foster intellectual growth, innovation, and societal impact. This strategic framework presents a collaborative vision for the future, centered on academic excellence, curricular and pedagogical innovation, transformative student experiences, teaching and scholarly activity, and engagement with our communities.

This framework is both a roadmap and a call to action. Together, we will shape a vibrant future that empowers learners, inspires discovery, and contributes meaningfully to the public good. Our framework is integrated and supports strategic leadership and engagement within and across Academic Affairs. As we look ahead, Academic Affairs will lead with purpose by ensuring that our academic enterprise remains future-ready, resilient, and deeply connected to the world around us.



Anchored in the need to:

Advance student success

Foster connections and community

Spark discovery and partnerships

Ensure a positive impact for people, place, and planet.

Vision

The Academic Affairs' vision serves as a guiding light to propel us towards our future. This vision is not just a destination—it is a call to act.

As we drive Grand Valley's mission, we:

Lead with intention. Collaborate with purpose.

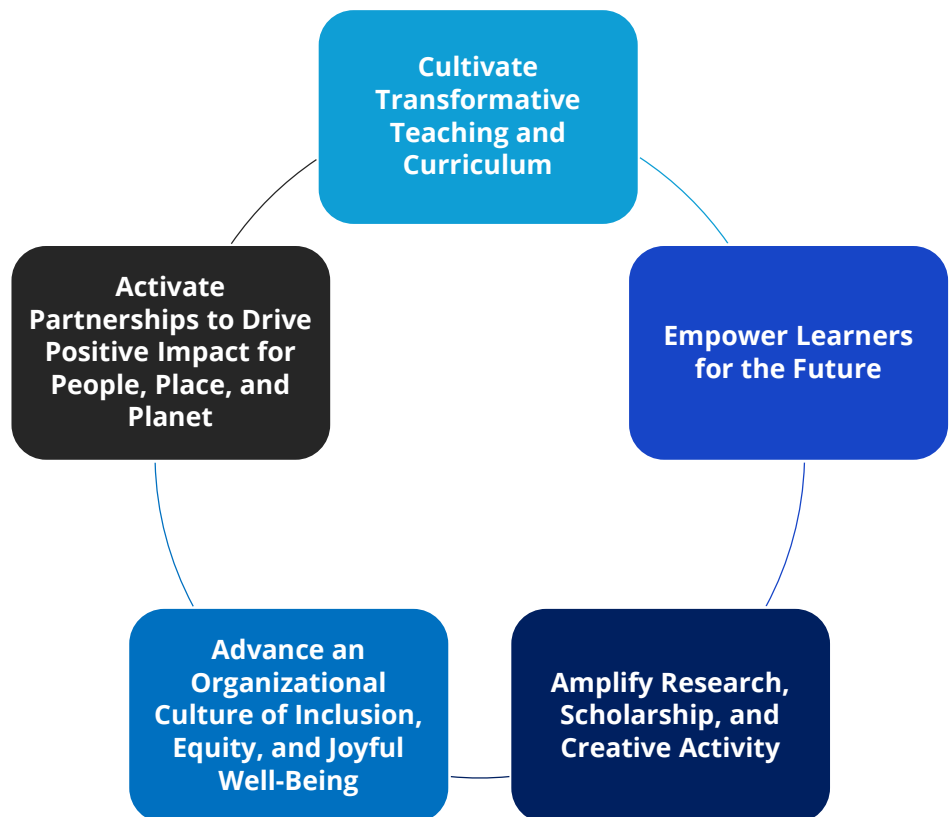
Create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Strategic Priorities

Academic Affairs' strategic priorities support and enhance the University's commitments.

We acknowledge that the nature of our work exists in an ecosystem.

Our strategic priorities are distinct yet interrelated and interconnected. They are anchored in the teacher-scholar model in support of the public good.





A. Cultivate Transformative Teaching and Curriculum

We shape our academic portfolio and teaching practices to address the diverse needs of the learners and communities we serve.



B. Empower Learners for the Future

We blend liberal education with career-focused preparation to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and agency to flourish in work and life.



C. Amplify Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

We engage in a broad range of research, scholarship, and creative activity to activate the teacher-scholar model and advance the public good.



D. Advance an Organizational Culture of Inclusion, Equity, and Joyful Well-Being

We cultivate an inclusive, equitable, and supportive Academic Affairs organizational culture where all faculty and staff thrive at Grand Valley.



E. Activate Partnerships to Drive Positive Impact for People, Place, and Planet

We engage with external partners to drive economic growth, cultural vitality, and environmental sustainability towards the public good.

Strategic Priorities and Moves

A. Cultivate Transformative Teaching and Curriculum

We shape our academic portfolio and teaching practices to address the diverse needs of the learners and communities we serve.

- 1) Advance inclusive, authentically engaged, effective teaching.
- 2) Build and sustain an innovative curriculum that supports our mission and growth.
- 3) Ensure both broad and discipline-specific digital expertise.
- 4) Integrate curricular experiential learning opportunities to foster real-world application and meaning making.

B. Empower Learners for the Future

We blend liberal education with career-focused preparation to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and agency to flourish in work and life.

- 1) Design academic journeys that center belonging, agency, and excellence to create transformational experiences for every learner.
- 2) Solidify the first-year academic experience to meet learners where they are and create a foundation for long-term success.
- 3) Ensure barrier-free access to multiple experiential learning opportunities.
- 4) Become a model for learner readiness as we advance educational equity, grow educational attainment, and foster career resilience.

C. Amplify Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

As teacher-scholars, we engage in a broad range of research, scholarly, and creative activities to advance the public good.

- 1) Advance research infrastructure, support systems, and recognition mechanisms to drive all scholarly innovation and creativity.

- 2) Cultivate and nurture collaborative, interprofessional, and interdisciplinary approaches to research, scholarship, and creative activity.
- 3) Build strong relationships with partners to accelerate externally engaged, mutually beneficial research, scholarship and creative activity.
- 4) Develop research capacity to solve problems and meet societal needs related to technology, healthcare, and the environment.

D. Advance an Organizational Culture of Inclusion, Equity, and Joyful Well-Being

We cultivate an inclusive, equitable, and supportive Academic Affairs organizational culture where all faculty and staff thrive at Grand Valley.

- 1) Foster a connected Academic Affairs community through intentional shared leadership, purposeful collaboration, and meaningful celebration.
- 2) Champion meaningful work and continuous professional growth for faculty and staff.
- 3) Optimize policies, processes, and practices to foster equity, drive operational excellence, and enhance the working experience.

E. Activate Partnerships to Drive Positive Impact for People, Place, and Planet

We engage with external partners to drive economic growth, cultural vitality, and environmental sustainability towards the public good.

- 1) Coordinate a strategic approach to external engagement to advance strategic priorities and external impact.
- 2) Deepen authentic community, professional, institutional, and industry partnerships for mutual benefit.
- 3) Strengthen our networks of alumni and donors for long-term growth.
- 4) Lead boldly in areas of excellence to drive human and environmental resilience.