

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

From the “Taking Charge of Our Future” Resolution by the Board of Trustees, March, 2019

Increase educational quality with an emphasis on faculty professional development, faculty and administrative leadership diversity, innovative teaching and measurable learning outcomes that address high impact areas for student learning and experience, and a unique and transformative general education experience that has flexibility while not reducing academic integrity including meaningful experiences possibly linked to institutional learning outcomes, those of which employers nationally have indicated are needed in the work-place as well as creating educational experiences in including study abroad and learning about abroad, and experiential learning opportunities that develop an informed citizenry that is engaged in their work and community the result of which is also related to job placement and a successful career, including assisting students from diverse backgrounds to be academically successful via access to intentional and purposeful systems of support;

A focus on research in a strategic manner that includes the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center, and associated endeavors, and consideration of a limited number of other purposefully selected areas to achieve national distinction, as well as the recognition of scholarship across all disciplines that contribute to academic excellence and scholarly distinction of the institution and that supports improving excellence in teaching that enhances learning;

What is academic excellence?

Academic excellence is the demonstrated ability to perform, achieve, and/or excel in scholastic activities.

How can we achieve academic excellence?

To achieve academic excellence, it is essential to create an environment that fosters the development of a community that can grow intellectually, socially, and ethically, and is therefore able to pursue successful and fulfilling careers.

This is achieved through:

- University-wide learning outcomes that are integrated throughout the curriculum which promote critical thinking, professionalism, physical and emotional health, diversity and inclusion.
- Internships and projects with local businesses and organizations; service, experiential and applied learning projects; and opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in scholarly activity, research projects and the ability to translate this knowledge into practice in real world settings.
- Educating the community in a reciprocal process through arts, symposiums, lectures and services.
- Continuous and regular assessment of student learning outcomes and best teaching practices.
- Allowing students, faculty, and staff access to modern facilities, equipment, and advanced technologies.

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Academic programs that exhibit academic excellence:

- Have sufficient qualified faculty with the expertise, ability, and resources necessary to support instructional effectiveness
- Encourage diverse, adaptable, and applied instructional methods that serve a variety of learning styles and student needs
- Build a culture of community and inclusion that engages with, learns about, and respects individual differences, diversity of opinions, and international cultures
- Is dedicated to continuous improvement through benchmarking, data informed decision making, and alignment with current and projected market conditions
- Facilitates and supports productive scholars in all disciplines, recognizing that scholarship and creative work in all forms, including peer reviewed publications, grants, books, exhibitions, etc., are essential components of student learning, innovation, advancing knowledge, research informed best practice, and enhancing academic stature
- Engages with the community in a variety of ways including lectures, symposiums, media, partnerships with local institutions, public service activities, internships, and service-learning projects
- Collaborates with other disciplines to offer joint teaching and research opportunities
- Emphasize leadership and professional development of faculty, staff, and students
- Regularly engages in program review and assessment of student learning outcomes, ensuring that outcomes and the curriculum are aligned with job market opportunities and overarching themes of the profession
- Emphasize the multiple dimensions of wellness, including emotional, financial, intellectual, physical, social and spiritual dimensions.
- Ensure students are aware of the support and resources that not only enhance academic achievement, but also help address the need for support in other areas of the life.
- Ensure students are exposed and have access to inter- and trans- disciplinary course offerings with outcome-based learning opportunities
- Encourage students to take advantage of co-op or internship opportunities to improve learning.
- Encourage exposure and access to international experiences and diverse populations.
- Encourage students to become engaged in the community and in extra-curricular activities.
- Encourage students to get involved in leadership roles on campus and in the community.
- Encourage students to engage in research and scholarly activities.
- Encourage students to explore solutions to social problems.