

Academic Affairs Mission, Goals, and Objectives

The division of Academic Affairs is the University's driving force. The mission of the division is to promote and enhance the creation and dissemination of knowledge, to foster openness to differences and an awareness of the interdependence among people or ideas, and to instill a value of life-long learning through quality academic experiences.

The major programs of study in the three colleges, informed by appropriate professional standards, prepare students to be thoughtful leaders, to embark on careers or advanced study, and to be constructively engaged in the global society.

The liberal arts foundation informs the major programs of study, broadens students' perspective of the world, past and present, and fosters an appreciation for the interconnectedness of knowledge.

The major undergraduate programs of study provide the foundations, context and current state of the disciplines.

Graduate and continuing professional programs encourage intellectual advancement, research and scholarship, while emphasizing the development of applicable professional skills.

The academic mission of Shippensburg University places student learning at the center of the university, and the personal attention given to each student uniquely reflects this philosophy. Academic Affairs values and encourages student learning by emphasizing cross-divisional opportunities for faculty-student research, team-based projects, internships, service learning, study abroad, pre-professional programs, and living-learning communities.

Goal 1: Provide a curriculum and other learning experiences that creatively address the changing needs of a diverse, technology-based, global society.

1. SU will provide pathways for the development of innovative programs, courses, and core experiences.
2. SU will provide a rich academic climate for students both in and out of the classroom.
3. The SU core program will work in concert with major programs to promote lifelong learning.
4. SU will use assessment to ensure the curriculum advances student learning.

Goal 2: Create a student-centered environment to facilitate students' intellectual growth and success.

1. SU will provide support services that meet students' academic needs.
2. SU will support strategies that enhance student retention and persistence to graduation.
3. SU will recruit a diverse and highly qualified student body.
4. SU will increase coordination and collaboration between the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to enhance student learning.
5. SU will promote a campus climate of respect, courtesy, and collegiality among students, faculty, staff, and community.

Goal 3: Cultivate the interaction of theory and practice to deepen disciplinary and professional understanding.

1. SU will support undergraduate research, field work, internships, and service learning.
2. SU will increase the number of students involved in undergraduate research, field work, internships, and service learning.
3. SU will cultivate university-community relationships to provide avenues for learning, the application of theory to practice, and scholarship.

Goal 4: Foster a stimulating scholarly environment for students, faculty, and staff that advances new knowledge and enriches the curriculum.

1. SU will recruit and retain a highly qualified and diverse faculty.
2. SU will provide a vibrant environment for faculty professional development.
3. SU resources and organizational structures will support academic priorities.
4. SU will support and encourage a rich intellectual exchange among students, faculty, and staff.
5. SU will provide dedicated administrative support for the pursuit, acquisition, and management of grant activities.

Goal 5: Cultivate leadership, integrity, social equity, global understanding, and civic engagement to prepare students, faculty, and staff for meaningful contributions to society.

1. SU will promote meaningful participation in campus and community life.
2. SU will develop leaders among students, faculty, and staff.
3. SU will promote global understanding and challenge the worldviews of members of the university community.
4. SU will ensure equitable representation and treatment in all facets of university life.