

**FY 2005-2010 PRIORITIES STATEMENTS**

The University has identified seven major goals to be pursued during the planning period from FY 2005-2010.

- Goal 1: Recruit and retain a diverse student body at both the undergraduate and graduate levels through coordinated enrollment management.
- Goal 2: Foster a student/learner-centered community that supports successful outcomes.
- Goal 3: Create a University environment that fosters excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship through the use of information technology and learning resources.
- Goal 4: Strengthen and expand international educational opportunities to enhance understanding of social, cultural, economic, political, and scientific aspects of a global society.
- Goal 5: Collaborate with external constituents to provide instruction, research, and service programs that build upon the programmatic strengths of the University and are consistent with the University's instructional, research, and service missions.
- Goal 6: Secure the necessary resources to enhance working conditions for faculty and staff and to meet programmatic needs.
- Goal 7: Allocate resources through integrated budget, planning, and evaluation processes which clearly identify the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, goals, and priorities.

**Goal 1: Recruit and retain a diverse student body at both the undergraduate and graduate levels through coordinated enrollment management.**

**Strategies**

- 1.1 Maintain a diverse undergraduate enrollment that includes the following:
  - Increasing the number of freshmen and full-time students and their rate of degree completion,
  - Maintaining a stable enrollment of students admitted through Special Programs,
  - Increasing programs and enrollments at CICS and El Centro, and
  - Increasing enrollments through expanded weekend offerings.
- 1.2 Increase diverse graduate enrollments and rate of degree completion and increase the number of new graduate students in selected graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business and Management.
- 1.3 Increase overall enrollments by ten percent during the FY2005 to FY20 10 planning period.
- 1.4 Review and enhance the strategic marketing and promotional plan that builds on the University's mission and reputation and contributes positively to Northeastern Illinois University's ability to enroll students at all University sites.
- 1.5 Improve the coordination of student services, including admission, registration, academic advisement, orientation, financial aid, and placement testing and web-enable these services. Ensure that these services are available to all students, including those enrolled during the evenings, weekends, and summer at all campus sites.
- 1.6 Improve the strategic use of financial aid for both the recruitment and retention of students.
- 1.7 Assess retention efforts by analyzing academic performance and persistence rates as well as demographic characteristics related to student access and diversity.
- 1.8 Integrate and expand services such as student support services, internships, job search skills, and career counseling to enable students to secure employment, continue with further education, or pursue professional opportunities.
- 1.9 Increase the number of required course sections and strengthen academic and program advising at all levels to allow students to attain their educational goals more quickly.

**Goal 2: Foster a student/learner-centered community that supports successful outcomes.**

**Strategies**

- 2.1 Articulate, implement, integrate, and evaluate assessment strategies in all areas, including identifying and enhancing "value added" aspects of the curriculum and of students , educational experience.
- 2.2 Expand and refine the use of assessment tools and data to contribute to successful decision-making, particularly in the areas of curriculum and faculty development and increased institutional effectiveness and productivity.
- 2.3 Provide an effective general education program through the review, modification, and assessment of student achievement in designated general education learning outcomes.
- 2.4 Improve the systematic program review process.
- 2.5 Strengthen existing and develop additional opportunities for student research, leadership and volunteer activities, and creative activities.
- 2.6 Strengthen programs, including co-curricular programs, that foster a welcoming atmosphere for students and their families, to assist first-year students in their adjustment to collegiate life and reduce the risk of dropout during the first year.
- 2.7 Develop new academic programs that will prepare students to respond to the needs of the 21st century.
- 2.8 Promote interdisciplinarity and learning from our diversity throughout and across the curricula and colleges.
- 2.9 Strengthen faculty intellectual contributions, including research, publications, and creative activities.
- 2.10 Enhance learning by providing informal gathering places for students.

**Goal 3: Create a University environment that fosters excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship through the use of information technology and learning resources.**

**Strategies**

- 3.1 Continually reassess current and emerging technologies in terms of their ability to support the University's student/learner-centered mission.
- 3.2 Upgrade and enhance remote access to information and computing resources at the University.
- 3.3 Assure reliable and secure access to University networked systems and information resources for faculty, staff, and students independent of location.
- 3.4 Connect and integrate technology with pedagogy in support of the University's student/learner-centered vision through:
  - Expanding training and support for development of web-based and technology-enhanced courses,
  - Developing mechanisms to share and recognize effective faculty integration of learning technologies into their courses, and
  - Integrating assessment into all classroom applications of learning technologies.
- 3.5 Redesign and maintain the University web *site* as a campus-wide information system and use it to connect and integrate all University programs, activities, and services.

**Goal 4: Strengthen and expand international educational opportunities to enhance understanding of social, cultural, economic, political, and scientific aspects of a global society.**

**Strategies**

- 4.1 Establish a University-wide plan that builds upon our strength as a diverse community to engage University learners in international education.
- 4.2 Collaborate with other institutions and associations, including the Illinois Consortium on International Education, committed to international studies to enhance exposure and broaden opportunities for the University learning community.
- 4.3 Target and develop financial and other resources to support the University's international initiatives.
- 4.4 Establish and foster an international identity as a leading institution in international initiatives. 4.5 Provide a cultural framework prior to any international experience. 4.6 Develop a minor in international education.

**Goal 5: Collaborate with external constituents to provide instruction, research, and service programs that build upon the programmatic strengths of the University and are consistent with the University's instructional, research, and service missions.**

**Strategies**

- 5.1 Collaborate with statewide and national initiatives to offer programs cooperatively to better serve the under-served.
- 5.2 Increase involvement in academic outreach programs and initiatives in the metropolitan area by strengthening internships and community partnerships with local schools, colleges, universities, businesses, industry, and professional and social service organizations.
- 5.3 Support the Lake County Initiative and the Multi-University Center by assessing the educational needs of the area and by offering currently approved programs and requesting approval for new, high-demand programs.
- 5.4 Expand, strengthen, and integrate the University's academic and public service offerings at the Center for Inner City Studies and EI Centro and through non-traditional means of program delivery.
- 5.5 Expand programming in the Fine Arts Center to attain greater recognition for the University and the Arts Initiative through expanded marketing and promotion.

**Goal 6:       Secure the necessary resources to enhance working conditions for faculty and staff and to meet programmatic needs.**

**Strategies**

- 6.1   Assure the appropriate levels of faculty and staff to provide the highest quality academic programs and support services.
- 6.2   Provide the appropriate compensation to attract and retain high caliber and diverse faculty and staff.
- 6.3   Rehabilitate and equip the classrooms, the Library, academic and research laboratories, recreational facilities, and support space to better respond to programmatic requirements.
- 6.4   Review space requirements and utilization to meet changing programmatic, legal, and administrative needs.
- 6.5   Strengthen University financial support from private and corporate donors to enhance educational initiatives, faculty scholarship and research, and student financial aid.
- 6.6   Promote and coordinate grant and foundation development activities to increase support for educational initiatives, pedagogic innovations, and academic support services.
- 6.7   Design and implement a staff development program to enhance the delivery of support services to the University community and to expand promotional opportunities for University staff.
- 6.8   Assure the availability of technology training to faculty and staff.
- 6.9   Improve the health, fitness and wellness of the University community by promoting healthy lifestyles; expanding health, fitness, recreational and wellness programs; and developing new avenues for promoting and marketing available programs.

**Goal 7: Allocate resources through integrated budget, planning, and evaluation processes which clearly identify the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, goals and priorities.**

**Strategies**

- 7.1 Strengthen, through shared governance, University-wide planning and budgeting processes to assure University-wide participation and the targeting of public and private resources to the highest institutional priorities.
- 7.2 Strengthen processes to better integrate assessment into planning and budget development.
- 7.3 Review and assess University operations for productivity improvement opportunities.
- 7.4 Prioritize and provide resources for internal and external communication initiatives and annually evaluate effectiveness in meeting set objectives and goals.
- 7.5 Implement a sustainable, life-cycle funding process for the acquisition and replacement of computers and infrastructure to ensure access to current technology across the University.
- 7.6 Integrate technology planning into all University planning processes.