Strategic Plan Update: Transforming Education

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Penn State Strategic Plan
Transforming Education

Penn State will be a leader in the transformation of education, including enhancing access to it, as it fulfills its land-grant mission in a 21st-century context and continues to drive discovery-focused research across disciplines.

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Five Goals

- Advance the frontiers of knowledge

- Foster a curriculum that integrates multiple modes of delivery, while leveraging online capabilities and enhanced and emerging digital learning options

- Support and empower our outstanding faculty and staff

- Prepare our students for success in their careers and in life

- Partner more effectively with pre-college educators

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Background Foundations

- Reviewed all unit level strategic plans (campuses and colleges)

- Reviewed relevant prior task force and committee reports

- Set up subcommittees to consider each of University Strategic Plan's goals

- Narrowed down to three major overarching strategies and nine goals

- Identified existing and/or new committees/task forces to advance the goals under the strategies

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Vision Statement

One Penn State: 2025 builds on our strong tradition of working as one university to provide a world-class education and drives us to be more integrated and flexible. By 2025, we will develop a culture and curriculum that facilitates seamless access by students across instructional modes, be they fully in-person, online, or hybrid. Responsive online processes will be embedded in every part of Penn State enabling us to become a 24/7/365, agile, diverse, and inclusive institution. One Penn State: 2025 will be an individualized and collaborative environment for students, faculty, and staff to achieve their goals regardless of their location on our campuses or in the world.

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Strategies

1. Advance Student Success

2. Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

3. Provide Professional Development for All Instructors

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Strategy

1

Advance Student Success

Goal 1   Experimentation and implementation of **learning analytics**; Evaluate efficiency of Civitas, PAR, Unizin, and StarFish platforms in supporting academic advising and information interventions to enhance student success

Goal 2   Implementation of **Student Engagement Network**; Develop inventory of engagement opportunities; Create HUB-based and virtual Engagement Space

Goal 3   **Partnership** with K-12 toward college readiness and retention; Programs designed for veterans and other lifespan communities

Continue progress with micro-scholarships, Enhanced Educational Pathways (EEP), student transition and college completion programs, financial literacy, online dual enrollment and additional pilot projects

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Strategy

2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Goal 1 Review and expansion of **Open Educational Resource (OER)** initiatives; Integration with pedagogical innovation and broader educational transformation

Goal 2 Advancement of **curricular integration and experiential impact in General Education**; Developing scholarly expertise in the evaluation of information and curating knowledge in all students at all levels; Promoting contextual learning in STEM and other fields and preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist

Goal 3 Experimentation with and expansion of innovative **learning spaces** and web-based instruction; Action on the recommendations of the Transforming Education Task Force: Framework for the **Future of Online Learning and World Campus**

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3

Provide Professional Development for All Instructors

Goal 1   Assessment and preparation of coordinated plan for **instructional design resources**; Expand and ensure support for instructors and faculty and future faculty across the University

Goal 2   Survey of **available training** and support for pedagogical innovations in the classroom and from course to curricular levels; Explore flipped classrooms, hybrid instruction, and blended curricula

Goal 3   **Research** on educational transformation; Promote scholarly research and dissemination of resources on advances in teaching and learning

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Strategy

1

Advance Student Success

Goal 1 Experimentation and implementation of learning analytics; Evaluate efficiency of Civitas, PAR, Unizin, and StarFish platforms in supporting academic advising and information interventions to enhance student success

Group Vision Penn State will use appropriate learning analytic tools and share relevant data with students, faculty, and staff members on a timely basis to enhance student success.

Identified Actions

- Develop a vision for learning analytics
- Guide the implementation of select tools and applications as well as future system integrations (Exs. LionPATH, Starfish, Canvas, Civitas)
- Coordinate the communication and assessment strategies
- Coordinate research related to learning analytics
- Recommend policy and procedures regarding the appropriate use of learning analytics

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Strategy

1

Advance Student Success

Goal 2 Implementation of Student Engagement Network; Develop inventory of engagement opportunities; Create HUB-based and virtual Engagement Space

Group Vision The SEN Advisory Group convenes to provide insight, comments, and ideas/advice regarding the planning, design, and creation of both the physical engagement space in the HUB as well as the digital/online portal.

Identified Actions

- Launch the Student Engagement Network by December 2018, including both the online presence and physical Engagement Space in the HUB-Robeson Center

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1

Advance Student Success

Goal 3 Partnership with K-12 toward college readiness and retention; Programs designed for veterans and other lifespan communities; Continue progress with micro-scholarships, Enhanced Educational Pathways (EEP) student transition and college completion programs, financial literacy, online dual enrollment and additional pilot projects

Group Vision Identify opportunities and pursue initiatives to improve access to, and affordability of, a Penn State education.

Identified Actions
- Use existing knowledge or develop an understanding of the factors that contribute to the cost of a Penn State degree
- Identify opportunities to address those factors from a systems-level perspective, with harmonized interventions that will advance our mission through access
- Pursue the projects with the greatest potential for short-term (1-3 year) and mid-term (3-5 year) impact

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Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Goal 1 Review and expansion of Open Educational Resource (OER) initiatives; Integration with pedagogical innovation and broader educational transformation

Group Vision Penn State will become a leader in open and affordable course content among its peer institutions in support of President Barron's access and affordability imperative.

Identified Actions
- The working group will convert at least 100 courses/sections to open or more affordable course content options (defined as $50 or less) over the next three years
- Use a multi-faceted approach to reach that goal, including open and affordable course content creation, adoption, adaption, and systematic leveraging of library-licensed content

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2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Goal 2 Advancement of curricular integration and experiential impact in General Education; Developing scholarly expertise in the evaluation of information and curating knowledge in all students at all levels; Promoting contextual learning in STEM and other fields and preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist

Group Vision
We will work to ensure that the General Education curriculum is a transformative experience for all students. We will identify, propose, and pilot initiatives with potential to significantly enhance learning in General Education.

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2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Working Group | Transforming Teaching and Learning in General

Goal 2 Advancement of curricular integration and experiential impact in General Education; Developing scholarly expertise in the evaluation of information and curating knowledge in all students at all levels; Promoting contextual learning in STEM and other fields and preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist

Identified Actions

- Create strategic proposals rooted in assessment data with the greatest potential for positive impact
- Promote contextual learning in STEM and other fields
- Help students learn to evaluate information and curate knowledge by developing faculty expertise in this area
- Assure appropriate course availability for students
- Identify opportunities to scaffold learning in General Education
- Examine opportunities for the expansion of SoTL within General Education

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2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Goal 3 Experimentation with and expansion of innovative learning spaces and web-based instruction

Group Vision

Penn State will be the leader in developing learning spaces that are grounded in sound research, proven pedagogies, and emerging technologies. The spaces created at Penn State will drive new teaching methodologies, empower engaged student experiences, and provide a platform for transforming education through research proven spaces, technologies, and pedagogies. In addition to the spaces, the University will provide a sustained and robust faculty development program and ongoing technical, instructional design, and research resources to support and empower our outstanding faculty.

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2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Working Group | Learning Spaces Leadership Committee for Learning Spaces

Goal 3 Experimentation with and expansion of innovative learning spaces and web-based instruction

Identified Actions

- Redefine the decision-making process for general purpose classrooms (GPC) to include increased faculty and student input and a research-based approach to learning spaces
- Redesign the proposal process to reflect University priorities, develop a complete budget, identify lifecycle funding, and present annually to University leadership
- Promote learning spaces experimentation and innovation that includes experimental spaces, faculty development, research support, and technology solutions to rapidly test and share results of emerging learning spaces

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2

Transform the Teaching and Learning Environment

Goal 3 Action on the recommendations of the Transforming Education Task Force: Framework for the Future of Online Learning and World Campus

Group Vision The group will create a vision and framework for online learning and its delivery in 2025.

Identified Actions
- Develop a culture and curriculum that will advance and expand:
  - quality online education across Penn State
  - support online education including multiple modalities of education (blended, hybrid, and fully online)
  - student access to courses
- Articulate a comprehensive approach that considers the learner experience from admission to graduation and beyond

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3

Provide Professional Development for All Instructors

Goal 1 Assessment and preparation of coordinated plan for instructional design resources; Expand and ensure support for instructors/faculty and future faculty across the University

Group Vision Create a coordinated plan for providing effective instructional design support for faculty across the University.

Identified Actions

- Develop a coordinated plan to identify and assess instructional design resources and make them available to faculty
- Consider instructional design resources that meet both general needs and those nuanced by delivery modes (residential, hybrid, and fully online) and instructional environments (seminars, lectures, laboratories and field work)
- Recommend actions to expand and ensure support for current and future faculty by considering distributed resources and the University's learning design community

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3

Provide Professional Development for All Instructors

Goal 2 Survey of available training and support for pedagogical innovations in the classroom and from course to curricular levels; Explore flipped classrooms, hybrid instruction, blended curricula

Group Vision The vision for the FDR group is for all Penn State faculty and graduate instructors to be engaged in their own instructional development and willing to implement innovations that enhance students' learning by knowing where and how to access information, people, and services.

Identified Actions
- Inventory currently available resources and support for faculty and instructional development
- Identify gaps in resources and support for current and future faculty and graduate students
- Recommend additional resources to enhance support for faculty development

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3

Provide Professional Development for All Instructors

Working Group | (*David Monk Group*)

Goal 3 Research on educational transformation; Promote scholarly research and dissemination of resources on advances in teaching and learning

Group Vision

Identified Actions

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Thank you.

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