

Provost & Academic Support Units



Mission Statement

Under the Provost's leadership, the Academic Support Units promote and assist the students, faculty, and staff within the Division of Academic Affairs and work collaboratively with all WKU divisions to ensure student receive a quality educational experience that is committed to student success.

Organizational and Program Information

The Division of Academic Affairs has primary responsibility for providing positive learning environments for all students, built upon a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. The role of the Academic Support Units involves sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University and maintaining educational records for students. They facilitate the research and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students, and the translation of this activity into enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in the region while advancing WKU's commitment to being a student-centered applied research University.

Through the establishment of Academic Affairs goals, budgetary priorities, and driven by strategic planning , the Academic Support Units are committed to increasing recruitment, retention, degree completion and placement of all students, recruiting and retaining a diverse community of outstanding faculty and academic leaders and continue to foster their professional development, promote and embrace continuous improvement by guiding development of academic programs and curricula and monitoring them for academic quality, sustainability, productivity, and student success, and increasing our populations of underrepresented students, staff, and faculty fostering a culture of equity and inclusion that support their success. Additionally, the Division is also committed to working with faculty and staff to provide engaged learning and professional development opportunities for students, while addressing social and economic problems through applied research and service to the state, the region, the nation, and the world. Thus, we are dedicated to providing educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens of society.



Through close interaction between students and faculty, the Academic Support Units encourage the intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. They help to prepare a diverse student population for meaningful careers in a multicultural and globally competitive environment while fostering in them a sense of civic responsibility, public service, and human understanding. They support and encourage students and faculty to participate together in the process of research and creative activity which enhances and underpins all aspects of the educational mission of WKU. This includes providing grant opportunities to support a comprehensive applied research agenda, fostering the garnering of extramural funding from pertinent federal, state and local sources, and promoting the innovative work of faculty, staff, and students.

The University offers 95 undergraduate majors and 74 minors leading to baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options within these degree programs. 5 associate degree programs and 36 certificates are also offered. The Graduate School offers majors that lead to 48 different master's degrees, the Specialist in Education degree, Rank I and II Teacher Certification programs, 37 graduate certificate programs, and four professional doctorates in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Nursing (DNP), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Psychology (Psy.D.).

The Academic Support Units reporting to the Provost include the University Libraries, the Mahurin Honors College, the Graduate School, and Global Learning & International Affairs. Other Academic Support Units include the Office of Research and Creative Activity; the Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro;; the Office of the Registrar; Student Publications; the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex; and Institutional Research. In addition, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning also report to the Provost.

Goals and Anticipated Program Activities

The Academic Support Units, working in concert with each College and other units of the University, are responsible for supporting the primary educational and research missions of the institution. They are committed to advancing institutional strategic goals and objectives, as well as other initiatives and strategic priorities consistent with that plan, including those promulgated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

GOAL ONE - Increase recruitment, retention, degree completion and placement for all students

GOAL TWO - Recruit and retain a diverse community of outstanding faculty and academic leaders and continue to foster their professional development.

GOAL THREE - Promote and embrace continuous improvement by guiding development of academic programs and curricula and monitoring them for academic quality, sustainability, productivity, and student success.

GOAL Four - Prioritize the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work at WKU with the goal of increasing our populations of underrepresented students, staff, and faculty fostering a culture of equity and inclusion that support their success.

GOAL FIVE - Promote and enhance the profile of our research and creative scholarship

GOAL SIX - Build a better resourced and more highly functioning division.

GOAL SEVEN - Ensure a positive SACSCOC outcome for 2025.