

GOAL 2: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CAREER READINESS

*ENGAGE ALL STUDENTS IN APPLYING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS LEARNED
IN THE CLASSROOM TO REAL-LIFE SETTINGS*

Initiative 1: Incorporate career readiness into the curriculum

ISU will infuse career readiness competencies into the undergraduate curriculum through the major and the foundational studies program. As a result, every graduate across all degree programs will complete career management tasks and earn the Sycamore Career Ready Certification.

Initiative 2: Create a professional development structure within each college

Each college will develop and offer career programming and work closely with the Career Center college liaison to connect university-wide career learning outcomes to college programming, identify college-specific outcomes, and develop new and leverage existing career-related programming to achieve goals.

Initiative 3: Strengthen the collaboration between alumni and the Career Center

The Alumni Association and Career Center will offer programs that encourage alumni utilization of career services, expand and improve alumni employer development, and increase alumni engagement with current students.

Initiative 4: Expand undergraduate research opportunities

ISU will continue to support summer undergraduate research experiences and look to grow similar academic year research opportunities. Funding will support efforts to broaden faculty and disciplinary participation.

Initiative 5: Support global and domestic cross-cultural experiential learning

Non-traditional study away programs will provide more domestic students with opportunities to experience difference and develop global competency skills. Additional programming will bolster inclusion and cross-cultural campus interaction for international students.

Initiative 6: Increase the number of women and ethnic minority students with STEM degrees

STEM professionals are in high demand, locally and nationally. To meet the current and projected need, ISU will introduce recruitment and retention strategies to enroll and graduate more women and minorities in STEM programs.

Initiative 7: Incorporate experiential learning into the curriculum

Each undergraduate major will ensure that a significant, culminating, experiential learning experience is a requirement for the respective degree. For those majors that do not currently meet this standard, it is expected that the faculty will revise the curriculum as appropriate. To satisfy this requirement, students may complete a professional experience such as an internship, practicum, co-op, advanced clinical practice, or student teaching assignment. Others may have a senior recital, exhibit, or research project. To be effective, each experience should have clearly defined expected outcomes and a work plan that provides the students with increasing opportunities to perform. The guiding principle is that students demonstrate higher order mastery of their discipline.

Initiative 8: Enhance career readiness within student employment

Student employment experiences on campus will be enhanced to align with the university's career readiness goals. Opportunities for enhancement include: improving professional development for students, utilizing personnel evaluations with student employees, improving training of student employees, and providing opportunities for individual student employees to assume progressively increasing levels of responsibility in their jobs.