

GOAL 4: DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS & EXPERIENCES

STRENGTHEN, LEVERAGE AND DEVELOP DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS AND BRING GREATER PROMINENCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OVERALL

Initiative 1: Identify programs of distinction

Several academic programs will be considered as possible programs of distinction, including: BEST/Teacher Education; Networks Financial Institute (NFI); Aviation and Unmanned Systems; Criminology and Policing, and Inter-professional Education.

Initiative 1A: Athletic Training

Indiana State University provides the first and only CAATE accredited Doctorate in Athletic Training (DAT) (57 credits) program in the nation. Uniquely, the program is delivered using a combination of online learning and intensive hands-on learning. Cohorts of up to 25 students engage in periods of both online and face-to-face faculty-student interactions to enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities. Students engage in six semesters (24 months) of continuous, full-time enrollment and come to campus for face-to-face interactions at the end of each semester.

The program develops clinical scholars with knowledge, skills, leadership, and innovation needed for the delivery of advanced patient care and instruction of Athletic Training. Our intention is to develop skilled and effective clinical mentors and advocates for the profession. While serving as a role models, our students and alums utilize effective teaching techniques to guide patients, peers, collaborators and supervisors toward an evidence-based, integrative, and interprofessional approach to patient care. Our program contributes to the advancement of our profession, through the cultivation of life-long learners and advanced practice leaders and through the production of clinically applicable scholarship.

Initiative 1B: Aviation & Unmanned Systems

The Indiana State University Aviation and Unmanned Systems program develops graduates to lead in the unmanned systems industry. The program focuses on the managers, operators, and instructors in the private sector as well as the military. Students learn to control, maintain, and support the vehicles, communication networks, computer systems, and other infrastructure elements in support of operations, research testing, and technology development. Additionally, students learn to collect data and perform data analytics while developing a mindset for entrepreneurship and industry-leading innovation.

The Aviation and Unmanned Systems program maintains a collaborative relationship with educational and industry professionals in aerial, land, and marine systems in order to ensure the curriculum provides pipeline-specific training that meets current and future workplace needs. Uniquely, the program incorporates a cross-disciplinary virtual department that includes automotive engineering, geography, computer science, criminology, and others fields of study. This approach allows students across various academic departments to access faculty expertise and learn about unmanned systems applications within their own disciplines. Students also benefit from participation in international competitions and have experiential learning opportunities with local businesses and military installations.

Initiative 1C: Bayh College of Education Scholars to Teachers (BEST)

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The BEST program at Indiana State University is innovative when it comes to preparing school professionals. This multi-dimensional, by-invitation program is for high-achieving students and includes professional development, leadership opportunities, community service and engagement, mentoring, and diverse placement experiences. Opportunities for research and presentations are also included.

Scholars learn to create and implement events, programs, and presentations that enhance their own development and provide meaningful growth opportunities for their peers throughout the college and campus community. Students benefit from cohort mentoring, learning communities, an education-focused career readiness certificate program, and sharing of international teaching and learning practices. These experiences provide invaluable preparation that extends beyond the BEST program. Through these distinctive opportunities, BEST scholars become educational professionals who transform lives and communities through inclusive excellence. As an Indiana State University program of distinction, the BEST program is part of the university's strong legacy of crating competent and compassionate leaders who positively impact the world.

Initiative 1D: (The) Center for Genomic Advocacy (TCGA)/Genetic Counseling

The Center for Genomic Advocacy (TCGA) was established to further advance research, education, and community engagement by developing a community of genomic advocates focused on interdisciplinary studies in life sciences, political science, business, and ethics. *Genomic Advocacy* promotes the responsible use of genomic technology for the betterment of society, while mitigating the negative effects that such technology may have on individuals. In accordance with this mission, the goals of TCGA are to foster an interdisciplinary academic and research environment, serve society through consultation, education, and the application and advancement of genomics, as well as promoting technological innovation and economic development.

Through the TCGA, two academic programs have been developed. One is the Certificate in Genomics, Health, and Public Policy. This is an online graduate certificate that can be completed in approximately one year. It is intended for professionals or students that would like to expand their knowledge of genomics and the impact of genomics on public health. The other academic program created through the TCGA is the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling. ISU's program is the 33rd accredited genetic counseling program in the US and Canada. Genetic counseling is the process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease. It is a two-year program focused on training students in the technical knowledge and skills in genetics, genomics and psychological counseling. Students receive classroom, laboratory, and hands-on experiences by participating in clinical rotations at pediatric, prenatal, adult and specialty genetics clinics across the country. This combination of classroom and experiential learning allows them to become well rounded professionals prepared for the dynamic field of genetic counseling.

Initiative 1E: Community School of the Arts (CSA)

The Community School of the Arts is the only comprehensive educational outreach of its kind in the state of Indiana, and one of only a few such programs in the entire United States. The CSA provides hands-on arts-learning experiences for residents of all ages – infants to senior citizens – in the Wabash Valley and surrounding areas. Simultaneously, the CSA creates employment and

exposure opportunities for faculty and community artists in the visual and performing arts, and experiential learning and teaching opportunities for ISU students.

The CSA supports a number of community events and scholarships each year, including:

- PACE program at Meadows Elementary,
- Bucket Drumming at Happiness Bag,
- African Drumming at Sarah Scott Middle School,
- Art Smart at 14th and Chestnut,
- Rock Camp Scholarship for the Ryves Neighborhood,
- Terre Haute Children's Choir Scholarship for the Ryves Neighborhood, and
- Music is Key Scholarship.

Through its array of programs and outreach events, the CSA also supports the university's strategic efforts to increase the number of women and ethnic minority students earning STEM/STEAM degrees, grow undergraduate research opportunities, increase co-curricular community engagement, embed career readiness into the curriculum, support global and domestic cross-cultural experiential learning, support the Ryves Neighborhood, and enhance academic achievement partnerships with local schools.

Initiative 1F: Institute for Community Sustainability (ICS)

The Institute for Community Sustainability was funded in February 2012 through Indiana State University's Unbounded Possibilities initiative. The mission of ICS is to promote environmental responsibility and economic vitality, while fostering social equity, on campus and in the surrounding communities. ICS provides opportunities for all students and community members, regardless of degree or field of work, to improve their understanding of how they can advance sustainability in the modern world. ICS will be known locally for its commitment to the sustainable growth of the Wabash Valley and nationally for innovative approaches to sustainability education and operation.

Initiative 1G: Networks Financial Institute (NFI)/Insurance & Risk Management

The Networks Financial Institute prepares Indiana State University students for careers in the financial services industry. NFI attracts high-achieving undergraduate business students and provides them with an opportunity to expand their leadership and team building skills through scholarship, professional development, and experiential learning. Through the intensive four-year program, students engage with multiple community partners to organize and execute the annual Ethics conference, as well as, other events. The Networks program encourages its students to become involved in co-curricular activities and serve in leadership roles to enhance the knowledge and professional skills needed to succeed at ISU and beyond. The Indiana State NFI program continues to develop the next generation of financial services industry leaders; who in turn, become advocates for the university after graduation.

Initiative 1H: Student Media

The Student Media program at ISU provides students with hands-on experience producing news, sports, videos, music programs, websites, graphic design, social media campaigns, and more. Our media outlets include the *Indiana Statesman* campus newspaper; *The Sycamore* yearbook; the WZIS-FM music station; as well as; Sycamore Videos, which produces news and feature material for a campus cable channel; the Indiana State Sports Network, which provides live sports video

to ESPN3; and Syc Creations, which manages our websites and creates web, graphic design and commercial video projects for clients.

Student Media is open to all majors and does not require prior experience to get involved. Students can be writers, editors, photographers, videographers, radio producers, web developers and designers, graphic designers, DJs, publicists, video camera operators, or sports announcers. Opportunities exist for the career-oriented student hoping to work in media, and for students who simply enjoy media and graphic arts as a hobby – both are producing work that shows up in print, online, and on the air and thereby building a portfolio and getting career-ready experience as media practitioners and leaders.

Initiative 2: Build market awareness for programs of distinction

Using the BEST program as a model, ISU will conduct a market awareness study to determine how best practices can be leveraged to build market awareness and improve visibility for other select academic programs.

Initiative 3: Revise promotion and tenure documents within the colleges and departments

A provost-led taskforce will revise college and department-level promotion and tenure expectations to be in alignment with newly-updated handbook language pertaining to promotion and tenure.

Initiative 4: Provide training to new students and Foundational Studies faculty to help build an environment of inclusive excellence

A working group will educate students and faculty regarding inclusive excellence. Goals in this area align directly with ISU's five core values – diversity, scholarship, equity, inclusion, and excellence.

Initiative 5: Embed career ready requirements into the curriculum

ISU will infuse career readiness competencies into the undergraduate curriculum through the majors 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 6: Develop initiative benchmarks for programs of distinction

Each program of distinction identified in Goal 4 will develop a set of initiative benchmarks to promote growth and further enhance the academic quality of the respective program.

Initiative 7: Structure the Foundational Studies curriculum to align with the university vision, mission, and values

The Foundational Studies curriculum and the expectations for students within University College will be adjusted to reflect university priorities, including: career readiness, inclusive excellence, and student success.