

Academic Mission Statements

7/13/08

College of Arts and Sciences – The central mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to provide students with a nationally recognized, contemporary education in the liberal arts and sciences. The College fosters an environment that advances innovative and integrative inquiry and engagement, builds on faculty expertise and institutional heritage, and involves students as collaborators in enhancing and developing the public good.

Department of African & African American Studies

The faculty in the Department of African and African American Studies provide students with a clear understanding of African and African American perspectives on issues relevant to the education of all people, especially people of African ancestry. The program enables students to contribute through research, teaching, and service to the quality of life in society, particularly in urban America and throughout the African diaspora. It also serves as a forum for academic inquiry into the vast range of the Black intellectual tradition. Department objectives include the enhancement of knowledge that furthers the growth of the field, and the cultivation of an appreciation of African and African American life and development.

A degree in African and African American studies prepares students for professional careers in human services, education, law, business, community development, and journalism. More generally, course work in African and African American studies prepares students for careers in the public sector, particularly urban institutions, and for leadership roles in intercultural relations and international affairs. Majors and minors in African and African American studies are also equipped to pursue graduate studies in the humanistic, social, and behavioral sciences, especially where the focus of study is the Black world.

The department's faculty upholds the highest standards of instruction at the undergraduate level and participates actively in the General Education Program. The faculty is dedicated to academic excellence in research and scholarship, and features a diversity of intellectual and practical interests that draws the humanistic, social, and behavioral sciences into a rich interdisciplinary framework.

Department of Art

The mission of the Department of Art is to promote excellence in the creation, understanding, appreciation of, and education in the visual arts. Through a comprehensive curriculum in studio, graphic design, art education, art history, and art appreciation, students are provided with the essential elements of a visual arts education in an environment that is responsive, critical, and challenging. Along with its primary mission to its student, the Department contributes to the aesthetic and cultural atmosphere of the campus, community, region, and state.

Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry and Physics does not have an approved mission statement. The mission of the Department is certainly consistent with that of the University, but a statement for the Department will have to be developed and approved this coming year.

Department of Communications

Competition in the workplace demands that today's students possess effective communication skills. At the start of a new century, the need to understand, produce, and use effective communication strategies is more important than ever. It is vital to the success of individuals, communities, states, and nations. The task is further complicated by the many new communication technologies now in use, and the increasing importance of working in the global context.

The Department of Communication at Indiana State University recognizes these changes and offers programs of study to prepare students to work in this new and evolving environment, while maintaining the traditions of a strong liberal arts education. Communication at ISU allows students to study both the practical and theoretical, while tailoring a program that maximizes personal growth and professional development. With this approach, students receive the best of both the professional and academic worlds.

Students may earn their degree in one of the areas of specialization in the department: Journalism, Human Communication, Public Relations, and Electronic Media. In support of the liberal arts and sciences mission of the college and Indiana State University, the Department of Communication participates in the General Education Program, the Honors Program, the International Studies Program, the Women's Studies Program, and the First-Year Learning Communities.

Department of Criminology

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Indiana State University has as its major goal for all of its students the achievement of a sound liberal education and the accumulation of knowledge about criminal behavior, the criminal justice system, and the relationship of these phenomena to the larger society in which they exist. Students electing to major in criminology and criminal justice are prepared for careers in the criminal justice field as well as for entry into law school or a graduate program in criminology or a related discipline. The wide variety of courses offered enables each student to determine his or her program in terms of interests and aspirations. An integral part of the criminology and criminal justice program is the internship which allows students to gain a clearer understanding of criminal justice agencies.

Department of Economics

The goal of the Department of Economics is excellence in its courses, its programs, its research, and its professional service. To that end it is committed to providing outstanding service to its students, the University, the state, and the profession through superior teaching, scholarship, advising, mentoring, student recruitment, grant seeking, consulting, and other professional activities.

Department of English

The discipline of English is uniquely situated to provide students both professional skills and a humanistic education. In other words, the study of English can make a student a better human being while also helping him or her to get a job. The Department's "vision" begins with a recognition of its role in providing an essential academic foundation for all students at Indiana State University through its General Education offerings. The Department's courses in literature, writing, and language are fundamental to the University's General Education program—representing the majority of Basic Studies courses, as well as elective courses in three of the five core areas of Liberal Studies: Social and Behavioral Studies; Literary, Artistic, and Philosophical Studies; and Multicultural Studies: U.S. Diversity and International Cultures. In General Education English courses, students from all disciplines engage in the analysis of American, English, and world literature; the practice of rhetorical, expository, and creative writing; and the study of the history, structure, and function of the English language. The Department's vision also includes a recognition of its responsibility to its undergraduate and graduate majors to provide a curriculum that challenges them and addresses their diverse personal and professional needs. For majors, as well as General Education students, the Department's courses offer exposure to enriching humanistic experiences and enhancement of essential academic skills. Outside of the classroom, the Department supports the activity of its faculty and students in the production and dissemination of scholarship and creative work through public readings, competitions, conference presentations, and publication—recognizing the value of our discipline not only to the academy but also to society. The discipline of English faces several developments in the future: expanding the definition of "text," embracing an increasing multiplicity of critical approaches to literary analysis, and exploring new ways to read the word and read the world. At the same time, there is an increased acknowledgment from the world of work that the study of English provides the essential skills that employers in all disciplines demand. Similarly, the Department itself looks forward to development in the future. Based on the past several years of steady growth, we anticipate a continued increase in the number of students declaring the English major. We will also enhance our recruitment efforts in attracting minors. An English minor can benefit students in any discipline by enhancing the critical thinking and analytical skills employers seek. Furthermore, the addition of a humanities-based minor such as English to a business, science, or technical-based major supports the University's commitment to interdisciplinary education. Finally, we agree with the literature that recognizes that "the study of English is vitally important to students seeking academic and professional success" (The Relevance of English: Teaching that Matters in Students' Lives, ed. Robert P. Yagelski and Scott A. Leonard, 2002). We also agree with our students who demonstrate that the study of literature can change lives: "So what has Shakespeare done for me? It has broadened my mind and taught me new ways of learning. It enriches one's mind and soul." – Danny Ross, ENG 460

Department of Family & Consumer Sciences

Vision Statement

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences will be a leader in improving the quality of life of individuals and families in their near environments, expanding the horizons of students to identify and address the needs of a diverse and

changing global community.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is to prepare men and women for critical thinking and problem solving in professional careers influencing the psychosocial, physical and economic well being of individuals and families in a changing global community.

In order to achieve the FCS Mission Students across programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences should integrate the unique concepts involved in the analysis and evaluation of individuals, families, and communities through human systems theory and life span development.

Such integration necessitates the understanding of a core knowledge base that includes: dynamics of capacity building of individuals in their near environments; concepts of global interdependence in relation to individuals, families, consumers and communities; and resource development and sustainability and the impact of those concepts on the dynamic nature of individuals, families, consumers, and communities.

A. By the time they leave the university, students in programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences will be able to:

- Analyze interrelationships among human systems theoretical framework and diverse cultural, historical, social, economic and political environments.
- Evaluate personal and professional ethical behavior
- Evaluate professional development opportunities
- Integrate hypothetical professional plan of action in collaboration with their peers in the profession.
- Apply concepts and processing in practical settings related to their careers.

B. • To enhance faculty scholarly/creative activities and service to support holistic student growth, it is essential to develop faculty integration of human systems theory into courses through professional development and ongoing administrative support.

- FCS faculty will be provided professional opportunities to expand opportunities which they include their students in scholarly/creative activities and service to enhance and support holistic growth.

Department of History

The Department of History offers a variety of programs and courses which lead students to knowledge of the human past, to ways of understanding that past, and to an appreciation for the great variety of uses of the past. The rewards of historical study include a disciplined intellect and a well-furnished imagination, which facilitate recognition of both the unity and diversity of the human experience. The broad liberal arts foundation available through a major in history will deepen students' understanding of the complex world in which they live. This knowledge stimulates effective participation in contemporary society, and enables students to cultivate those mental skills required for success in a wide range of employment areas. A major or minor in history provides an excellent background for a career in law, theology, business, government service, writing, or college and secondary teaching, and for specialized work as a museum curator, librarian, archivist, editor, archeologist, historical society administrator, historic site specialist, or research historian. In support of the liberal arts and sciences mission of the College of Arts and Sciences and of Indiana State University, the Department of History participates in the Social Science Education, African and African American Studies, General Education, Honors, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Women's Studies Programs.

Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics

"Undergraduate work in languages, literatures and linguistics educates and prepares students for active involvement in an increasingly global society by fostering competency in and sensitivity toward languages and cultures. While linguistic fluency is a primary focus, the program aims to provide a broad education in language, literature, linguistics and cultures. As such, in addition to sharpening students' communicative skills in one or more languages, the program also provides students with the tools of general linguistic, cultural and literary analysis to help them learn other languages and cultures later in their careers."

Department of Math & Computer Science

The mission of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is to provide quality education in mathematics, computer science, mathematics education, information technology, and related fields and to expand knowledge in these fields. The Department strives to hone the thinking skills of the students. This effort is sustained and informed by the faculty's pursuit of enquiry-based research and scholarly activities. The faculty also have the mission of preparing quality

teachers for the schools and providing students with the foundational knowledge, skills, and relevant experiences to succeed in their chosen professions.

Department of Music

The Department of Music provides high-quality music instruction within an experience-based and personalized environment, supports the professional development of its faculty, enhances the cultural life of the University and region, and fosters international and educational exchange.

In support of this mission, the Department: 1) educates music majors and minors to meet the highest professional standards in all music fields; 2) offers musical opportunities to other University students; 3) encourages a variety of faculty activities outside the classroom; 4) enriches the cultural life of the area as well as the State and the Midwest through a variety of educational/musical programs and events; 5) furthers an understanding and appreciation for contemporary and international musics; and 6) promotes an environment that leads to an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect for all the Department's endeavors and undertakings.

Department of Philosophy

Mission Statement/Department of Philosophy: The Department of Philosophy seeks to meet the twin objectives of educating students and advancing disciplinary knowledge through curricular development, teaching, scholarly activity, and service.

Curricular Development. Department faculty have the responsibility to develop courses, both for degree programs and for General Education, that empower students to think critically. Faculty must also establish course objectives and standards, and establish teaching loads and class enrollment limits which enable them to fulfill their professional responsibilities and commitments. Finally, the Department must regularly review course offerings and programs in order to preserve the traditionally valuable within the discipline, while simultaneously meeting students' practical needs.

Teaching. Department members should be active in the profession, provide instruction informed by current scholarship, and be sensitive and responsible in the classroom. The last of these includes the obligation to provide students a syllabus and series of assignments designed to meet departmentally established course objectives. Finally, the Department is obliged to evaluate the instructional competence of its faculty.

Scholarly Activity. The Department must challenge faculty to contribute knowledge in their areas of expertise and reward them for their contributions. Department members, especially those who belong to the graduate faculty, should publish books and articles, and present papers at professional conferences. Procurement of grants and other financial support for professional involvement should also be a continuous function of the Department.

Service. The Department must encourage and appropriately reward its faculty for service. Not only should it recognize traditional forms of departmental service--such as committee work, advisement of students, and sponsorship of student organizations--, but it should also advocate faculty service to the College, the University, the community, and the profession.

Department of Political Science

Political Science does not currently have an explicit mission statement. However, the mission of the Department is as follows:

The Department of Political Science is committed to providing a quality academic experience for its students in and out of the classroom. Its programs are learning-centered, and are focused on helping students to be:

- 1) liberally educated, with broad exposure to political theory and practice, normative debates, and empirical evidence;
- 2) capable of critical and analytical thinking, and effective oral and written communication skills;
- 3) well-trained academically and experientially for productive careers in public service, politics, law, education, community service, business, journalism, or other professions, as well as for graduate or professional studies.

Finally, the Department is committed to helping its students to be prepared for citizenship in a democratic society and in an increasingly interdependent global community.

Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology strives to assist our students to achieve their personal and professional potential through development of a broad background in psychological methods and knowledge, a spirit of active inquiry and critical

thought, an enduring commitment to personal and professional development, and an active sense of social responsibility. Faculty advance this mission by excellence in instruction, mentorship, role modeling, and advising. [Although consistent with the University's mission, this statement will need revision to reflect the assimilation of four sociology faculty into the department].

Department of Social Work

The Mission of the ISU Department of Social Work is to provide a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) education grounded in a strong liberal arts foundation in order to prepare competent social work generalist practitioners and to prepare students for graduate education.

The Department is committed to contributing to the professional body of knowledge, promoting social and economic justice, and fostering an environment that promotes leadership, community engagement and service opportunities from a local to global context.

The Department of Social Work goals are derived from the departments' mission and reflect the purposes of social work education as defined in the Educational Policy, Section 1.1. The Department's mission embodies the following key ideas:

1. Providing an academically challenging BSW curriculum grounded in a strong liberal arts foundation,
2. Preparation of competent generalist practitioners,
3. Preparation of students for graduate studies,
4. Contributing to the professional body of knowledge,
5. Commitment to social and economic justice,
6. Promotion of leadership, community engagement and service, and
7. Infusion of a global perspective of social work practice. These key ideas are linked to the Department's program goals.

Department of Theater

The undergraduate program in the Department of Theater provides interested ISU students with a broad and solid foundation in the artistic, intellectual and practical aspects of theater through its diverse selection of courses and its many production opportunities. The program fosters a working environment inside and outside the classroom, onstage and off – that is serious, focused rigorous, nurturing and energetic. It encourages students to collaborate, experiment and take initiative in the development of new plays and the thoughtful reinterpretation of established ones. Directly linked to Crossroads Repertory Theater, a professional summer theater company, the department seeks to endow its students with a deep sense of professional ethics and standards as they create significant theater while at ISU and for the rest of their careers.

College of Business – The Indiana State University College of Business is dedicated to providing a nationally accredited professional education to qualified students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our primary focus and commitment is to excellence in teaching. In tandem with this commitment, faculty engage in applied and educational research, develop relationships with the business community, and provide service to the region and to their professions. Students are participants in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them to take leadership roles in both public and private organizations.

Analytical Department

The Analytical Department consists of several disciplines (Accounting, Finance, Insurance and Risk Management, and Operation Management and Analysis) and does not have its own mission statement. The department subscribes to the mission of the College of Business which is:

The Indiana State University College of Business is dedicated to providing a nationally accredited professional education to qualified students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our primary focus and commitment is to excellence in teaching. In tandem with this commitment, faculty engage in applied and educational research, develop relationships with the business community, and provide service to the region and to their professions. Students are participants in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them to take leadership roles in both public and private organizations.

Organizational Department

The Organizational Department consists of several disciplines and does not have its own mission statement. The department subscribes to the mission of the College of Business which is:

The Indiana State University College of Business is dedicated to providing a nationally accredited professional education to qualified students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our primary focus and commitment is to excellence in teaching. In tandem with this commitment, faculty engage in applied and educational research, develop relationships with the business community, and provide service to the region and to their professions. Students are participants in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them to take leadership roles in both public and private organizations.

College of Education – To prepare, promote, and advance educational and human service professionals for a diverse and ever-changing world.

Department of CD & Coun, School, & Ed Psych

Mission: To develop professionals to promote well-being, educate, and serve others.

Values:

Excellence in Practice- Reflecting on our practice.

Being creative and innovative in delivery.

Inquiring intellectually.

Providing leadership.

Collegiality- Creating collaborative relationships.

Demonstrating integrity in all we do.

Having passion for and enjoyment of our roles and responsibilities.

Social Justice- Embracing diversity.

Accepting Differences.

Being socially responsible.

Advocating for others.

Vision: Our department is a learning community comprised of faculty, staff, and students who are welcoming, supportive, and nurturing. We value diversity in all forms, and actively seek to understand other perspectives and ways of knowing. Our engagement with diverse ideas stimulates innovation in the classroom, in our research, and in service both on and off campus. An important aspect of our programs is an ongoing partnership within the broader community, and collaboration with institutes of higher learning around the world.

Our faculty and students constitute a department of excellence due, in part, to our promotion of critical and creative thinking about complex problems. Faculty members and students are highly engaged with the content and process of teaching and learning, both in the classroom and in the larger community. Faculty members and students actively seek ways to employ technology creatively to further enhance teaching, research, and service. Due to our proactive and trendsetting practices, students are assured of positive educational outcomes, and are motivated to become lifelong learners.

Diversity Statement: Diversity enriches us all. From the workplace to the community, as individuals and in groups, diversity brings together many different voices, creating rich harmony. The faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Communication Disorders and Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology are committed to recognizing the contributions of all groups, such as those formed by gender, ethnicity, race, culture, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, and personal experience, in the creation of a diverse, inclusive environment. An honest commitment to and explicit recognition and affirmation of diversity in the teaching and learning process promotes our effectiveness as professionals, educators, citizens, and full partners in our local, national, and global societies.

Department of Curriculum, Instruction & Media Tech.

Focusing on an experiential programmatic approach, the departmental faculty provide superior professional programs to:

1. Foster the development of essential knowledge, dispositions, and performance capabilities of all students who desire to teach or assume positions of service or leadership in schools or other service organizations;
2. Engage in scholarly activities that advance the knowledge base of education; and
3. Conduct collaborative development of state-of-the-art curricula, educational projects, and technologies in order to provide continual professional development that will enhance teaching and learning for all people.

These are accomplished through collaborative, supportive, professional relationships in a collegial learning community

Department of Educational Leadership, Administration, & Foundations

The singular mission of the Department of Educational Leadership, Administration and Foundations at Indiana State

University is to prepare today's practicing and promising educator to be tomorrow's complete administrative professional.

Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education

The Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education is committed to developing exceptional undergraduate and graduate educators who demonstrate the knowledge, dispositions, and performances required in the teaching profession. Graduating students will be equipped with the pedagogical, attitudinal, and content knowledge necessary to educate children in a variety of settings. Our students understand the importance of applying developmentally appropriate practices in collaborative educational settings. These educators represent complete professionals who are responsible for educating those who contribute to the society in which we live.

College of Nursing, Health and Human Services - Through responsive, collaborative relationships with faculty, staff, students, alumni, schools, and business and industry, the schools' purpose is to propagate an end product of high esteem which impacts societal needs.

Department of Athletic Training

The mission of the Athletic Training Department is to provide excellence in the didactic and clinical education of undergraduate and graduate students; progressive comprehensive health care to student athletes; mentorship in the quest for new knowledge through research; the tradition of unprecedented athletic training history; and the growth and development of quality, productive citizens. "tradition of excellence in education, research and athlete health care"

Department of Health, Safety, & Environmental Health Sciences

The mission of Department of Health, Safety, and Environmental Health sciences is to advance understanding about human health and well being through research, instruction and service. The central concerns of Department faculty and students are to prevent unhealthy and dangerous conditions from harming people, correct these situations where they exist, and to help people adopt healthy behaviors. Our overreaching goals are to prevent premature death and disability and promote productive, high- quality lives.

Department of Nursing

The Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Department shares the mission of the former College of Nursing. Indiana State University College of Nursing is part of a public-assisted opportunity institution of higher learning. The mission of the College of Nursing is to foster the development of students who will become productive citizens who function as competent nurses, and who strive to enhance the quality of life of the members of society.

The mission of the College of Nursing is accomplished by the dissemination of knowledge through research, creative and scholarly activities, and service to the university and the public.

This is a mission that extends beyond local and state boundaries to include a national and international scope. To meet the needs of a diverse society, the College of Nursing provides education at various levels using multiple delivery methods. The academic programs encompass the associate degree program and the baccalaureate and higher degree programs. As part of the our dedication to life-long learning, the College of Nursing assists nurses in maintaining and developing competencies in nursing by offering continuing education programs.

The College of Nursing is committed to being an inclusive academic community by providing a supportive environment for students who are diverse in many ways, including age, gender, economic status, and ethnicity. In the pursuit of excellence, the College of Nursing is dedicated to continuous systematic assessment for the purposes of quality improvement.

Department of Physical Education

I have not been able to find a mission statement for the physical education department. I have asked the previous chair (now acting associate dean), and the current co-dean. I have searched the files. Perhaps we need to write a mission statement.

Department of Recreation & Sports Management

Mission: As a Department, we serve OUR students, the University, public, and professional communities. We accomplish our mission by providing opportunities for learning, scholarship, service, and leadership, through fostering an environment for learning, community engagement, publications and presentations, and mentoring students, colleagues, and practitioners.

College of Technology – The College of Technology will provide exemplary undergraduate and graduate programs, generate solutions and knowledge through research, and serve the technology needs of the State, the nation, and the international community.

Department of Aerospace Technology

The mission of the Department of Aviation Technology is to prepare our students for a lifetime career in the dynamic and challenging world of aviation. Indiana State University's Department of Aviation Technology is internationally recognized for the excellence of its facilities, faculty, and graduates.

Department of Electronics, Computer and Mechanical Engineering Technology

During the fall of 2007, the College of Technology at Indiana State University has gone through a reorganization process. New departmental structures were created during the process. One of the major tasks achieved was realigned faculty (and related physical resources) from two different departments, namely Industrial and Mechanical Technology (IMT) and Electronics and Computer Technology (ECT), to form a new department called "Electronics, Computer, and Mechanical Engineering Technology (ECMET)". The old mission statements by former departments are no longer appropriate for the new department. The effort to develop a new mission state for the department started last fall.

Mission of the department: As mentioned earlier, the reorganization within the College of Technology created this new department during the fall semester of 2007. After the formation of the department, a draft of a department mission statement was made and provided to the faculty in the department for discussion and approval. The draft was discussed in at least two department meetings. While the faculty did provide some feedback to modify the draft, they have not approved the modified version yet. One objective in developing department mission statement is to be consistent with the university and college's mission. It was not until late February we received the approved ISU mission statement. This has also caused the delay of the formulation of our departmental mission statement.

Department of Technology Management

TM Vision Statement:

Continue to develop graduates with superior value-added education. This shall be accomplished by:

- 1) Instruction in well-equipped technical laboratories w/qualified full-time faculty.
- 2) Course work that continually maintains relevance--taught by faculty who continue to be involved in technical professional organizations.
- 3) Continuing to meet program accreditation standards.

Proposed Learning Objectives:

Knowledge

TM graduates shall be familiar with:

- 1) administrative systems and procedures.
- 2) basic principles of business and management relative to the major.

Skills

TM graduates shall be able to:

- 1) communicate effectively.
- 2) think critically to solve industry problems.
- 3) demonstrate proficiency using information technology required by their specialization.
- 4) contribute to the development of new knowledge.
- 5) manage personnel and equipment.

Values

TM graduates shall value:

- 1) safe and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and resources.
- 2) ethical solutions to industry problems.