

**Student Success
Institutional Distinction
Regional Impact**

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
LEWIS UNIVERSITY
2012-2017

Approved by the Board of Trustees on May 7, 2012



Mission

Lewis University, guided by its Catholic and Lasallian heritage, provides to a diverse population programs for a liberal and professional education grounded in the interaction of knowledge and fidelity in the search for truth.

Lewis promotes the development of the complete person through the pursuit of wisdom and justice. Fundamental to its Mission is a spirit of association which develops community in all teaching, learning and service.

Vision Statement

Lewis University will be recognized as an outstanding, innovative, mid-sized Catholic university, offering programs of academic distinction to a diverse population.

In the Lasallian tradition, Lewis will prepare graduates, who are intellectually engaged, ethically grounded, socially responsible and globally connected.

Distinguishing Characteristics of a Lewis University Education

Lewis University's distinctive programs blend liberal and professional education and focus on the interaction of knowledge and fidelity in the search for truth.

In the Catholic tradition, this values-based approach to higher education is rooted in the Lasallian philosophy of high-quality teaching, a supportive environment, personal interaction between students and faculty, a commitment to service and social justice, and sensitivity to poverty and the marginalized.

This education prepares ethically grounded graduates who are intellectually engaged, socially responsible, and globally connected and ready to make a unique contribution to their communities, the region and the world.

Focus

Lewis University is dedicated to providing distinctive academic programs for our students. We are committed to continuous improvement and collaboration. To support our growth, we will strategically invest in new programs and facilities while expanding key partnerships to develop and apply new and emerging knowledge and technology.

Purpose

The Strategic Plan is intended to create a shared, coherent focus and to establish priorities for Lewis University. As a dynamic, evolving and growing organization we cannot list every new planning initiative taking place among faculty, students and staff in support of our goals. Instead this plan focuses on the key strategies that will propel us to even greater levels of achievement. It identifies initiatives that have notable potential to transform Lewis from a good comprehensive university into a university of distinction.

Strategic Plan: Process and Integration

The foundation for the Strategic Plan is the Mission and Vision of the University. Environmental scanning, analysis and quality improvement goals provide input to the Plan's strategic directions. Guiding principles set forth the key assumptions and values driving the Plan. The Strategic Plan for Lewis University serves as the unifying framework for University initiatives for the next five years. This Plan further informs the development of the technology plan, budget plan, campaign focus, college, division and unit plans, AQIP action projects and the campus master plan.

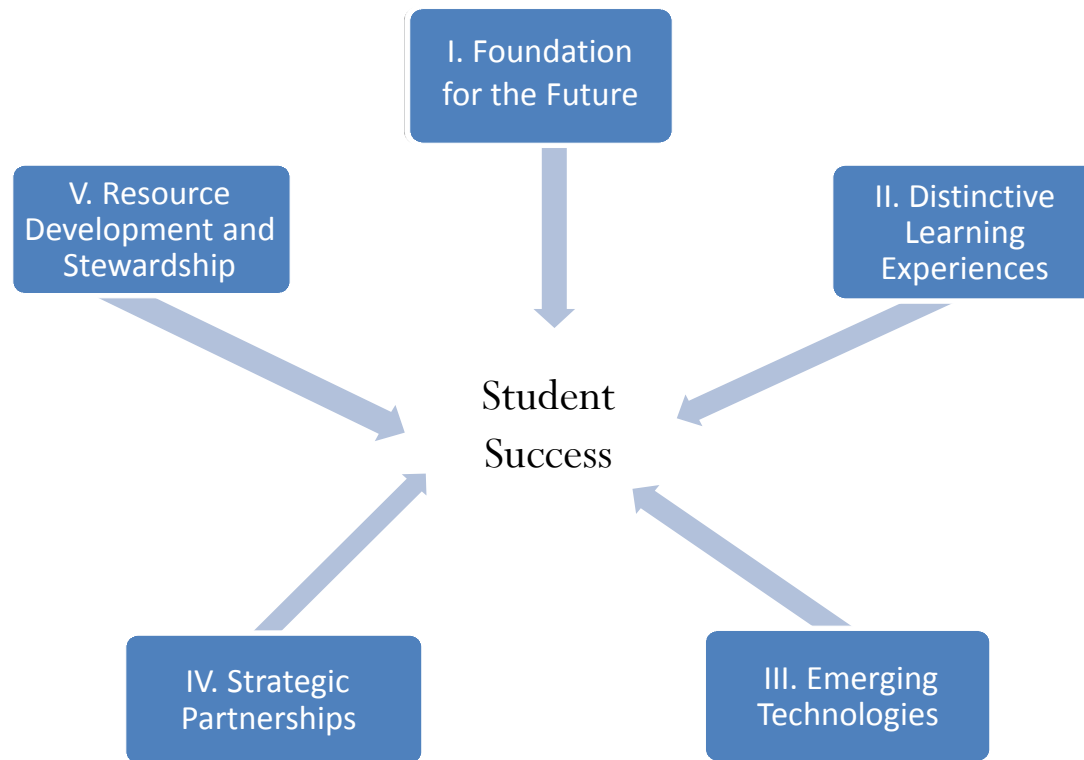


Guiding Principles

1. **Student success** is central to all that we do.
2. The Strategic Plan is the foundation for achieving the University's vision as **outstanding, innovative, mid-sized**, and growing in regional influence.
3. We are committed to a culture that values **excellence** and **continuous improvement**.
4. **Collaboration and mutual respect** across divisions, colleges, programs, and departments are essential.
5. Planning is strengthened by **constant analysis** of the internal and external environment.

Strategic Directions

A key element in the Lewis University Mission is to provide a high quality, values-based educational experience that prepares students to make unique contributions to their communities, the region and the world. To that end, each of the strategic directions is directed toward the success of the student.



I. Foundation for the Future

Build the foundation for an outstanding, innovative, mid-sized Catholic university

Plan for a teaching-focused, doctoral research level, mid-sized, regional university with 7,400 students by 2017 growing toward a future enrollment of 10,000 students.

- A. In light of size, complexity and aspiration, restructure the organization to advance the University
- B. Achieve optimal capacity in all of its dimensions (e.g. human resources, technology, facilities, and operational support)
- C. Accelerate the assessment process to strengthen teaching and learning and advance continuous improvement for all academic, student support, and administrative units
- D. Increase focus on external relationships directed toward achieving institutional priorities and opportunities

I. Foundation for the Future

E. Address Programmatic Initiatives

1. Expand graduate and postgraduate programs
2. Establish additional Centers of Excellence
3. Increase support for faculty and student scholarship
4. Expand faculty development initiatives
5. Advance transformation of the Library
6. Increase interdisciplinary program development
7. Expand initiatives which promote successful transition into the University for new students
8. Foster success through advisement and mentoring from recruitment to graduation
9. Intensify support for career preparation, internships, and job placement

II. Distinctive Learning Experiences

Advance distinctive learning experiences that will distinguish Lewis and optimize the success of our students.

Translate into practice the four overarching learning priorities: Intellectual Engagement, Ethical Grounding, Social Responsibility, and Global Connectedness.

A. Strengthen Intellectual Engagement

1. Increase capstone experiences
2. Strengthen writing across the curriculum
3. Increase experiential/participatory learning (study abroad/travel, undergraduate research, etc.)
4. Advance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives
5. Create learning communities that extend teaching and learning beyond the classroom
6. Promote a culture of inquiry to support student and faculty scholarship and research

II. Distinctive Learning Experiences

B. Advance Ethical Grounding

1. Strengthen the focus on ethics across the curriculum
2. Pursue ethics-based co-curricular opportunities (e.g. student leadership training)
3. Initiate research to address Catholic and Lasallian values (e.g. children and youth at risk)
4. Establish an institute in support of Catholic and Lasallian P-12 schools

C. Increase Social Responsibility

1. Increase service learning opportunities with a particular focus on addressing the economically poor
2. Embrace sustainability initiatives
3. Centralize and strengthen experiential learning activities (service learning, volunteerism, etc.)
4. Promote civic knowledge and engagement activities

II. Distinctive Learning Experiences

D. Expand Global Connectedness

1. Integrate global awareness throughout the curriculum
2. Expand initiatives for intercultural, interfaith engagement
3. Expand study abroad/study travel
4. Create partnerships with other universities and institutions worldwide to advance learning and scholarship, with special attention to Lasallian institutions
5. Intensify international recruitment
6. Establish Lewis academic programs internationally

III. Emerging Technologies

Engage learners, streamline processes and enhance communication through emerging technologies.

Identify and implement the technologies that will enable Lewis to increase efficiency and build capacity in anticipation of emerging teaching, learning, and administrative needs.

- A. Advance effective teaching and learning everywhere through state-of-the-art technology.
- B. Enhance learning through technology-based experiential and co-curricular opportunities.
- C. Develop comprehensive, efficient and sustainable technology systems to support teaching and learning, planning and decision-making, and administrative processes.

IV. Strategic Partnerships

Expand strategic partnerships that impact the student experience while addressing the needs of the region.

Establish mutually beneficial relationships that enhance student success, advance the image of the University, address external needs, and leverage resources.

Categories of Partnerships

Business/Industry/Healthcare

Academic (Articulations, etc.)

Community Colleges, Schools (P-20)

Global Partners

Military

Government and Public Sector

Community Organizations

Church and Faith Communities

Worldwide Lasallian Network

National Laboratories (Argonne, etc.)

Foundations

V. Resource Development and Stewardship

Develop and allocate resources that support student success and the strategic plan.

The innovative development and stewardship of resources in support of student success.

- A. Strategically grow enrollment
- B. Invest in human resources, technology, facilities and operational support for targeted growth areas
- C. Align budget priorities in support of the strategic plan
- D. Establish a budgetary strategic fund and allocation process
- E. Expand sponsored research grants
- F. Develop alternative revenue streams
- G. Launch new capital campaign

Strategic Directions & AQIP Categories

I. Foundation for the Future

Category 5:
Leading and
Communicating

Category 8:
Planning and
Continuous
Improvement

II. Distinctive Learning Experiences

Category 1:
Helping
Students Learn

III. Emerging Technologies

Category 4:
Valuing People

Category 6:
Supporting
Institutional
Operation

Category 7:
Measuring
Effectiveness

IV. Strategic Partnerships

Category 2:
Accomplishing
Other Distinct
Objectives

Category 3:
Understanding
Students' and other
Stakeholders'
Needs

Category 9:
Building
Collaborative
Relationships

V. Resource Development and Stewardship

Category 6:
Supporting
Institutional
Operations

Conclusion



- Lewis University has arrived at a defining moment in its history as a maturing organization reaching with confidence to the future.
- The Strategic Plan for Lewis University (2012-2017) is not simply an extension of prior plans. It is a call for Lewis to assume a more influential, impactful and prominent place within the higher education community. It is a call with purpose, meaning, and an unrelenting focus on the success of our students.

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