
Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design Academic Plan

2019–2024

UPDATED: SEPT 2020



Sheridan

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Summary statement

Moving forward to 2024, the Sheridan learning community will invigorate our enviable organizational **character**; maintain and intensify our pursuit of **quality**; and continue to develop, implement and deploy tools that promote individual and organizational **accountability**.

Academic priorities

- » Build community by embodying Sheridan's unique character.
- » Advance quality teaching and deep learning through inclusive, learner-focused design and academic support services that embrace the diverse strengths of our students.
- » Cement our commitment to groundbreaking education by promoting and supporting scholarship, research and creative activities.
- » Fuel academic and career success by actively supporting the potential of students and pushing for unfettered access to ongoing learning.
- » Enhance the student experience through programs, services and space design.
- » Develop an operational culture of planning, accountability and continuous improvement.



Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design

Message from the Dean

It is my great pleasure to share the Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design's academic plan. A product of the values, expertise and aspirations that are at the heart of the Faculty, this organic and thoughtful plan purposefully supports the college's strategic plan — *Sheridan 2024: Galvanizing Education for a Complex World*.

Known for its focus on studio-based learning that seamlessly integrates cutting-edge technologies, the Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design has throughout its long-standing history been a model for the possibilities inherent in arts education. Responding to the ongoing 21st-century implications for pedagogical best practices, as well as the evolving landscape of the arts and arts industries themselves, our plan articulates a clear pathway for the Faculty to continue to be at the forefront of the increasingly rapid changes characterizing our historical moment, preparing students to be positive and highly-prepared agents for innovation in their respective fields.

Sean McNabney

Interim Dean, Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design

Land acknowledgment statement

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather has been and still is the traditional territory of several Indigenous nations, including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat, the Métis and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Since time immemorial, numerous Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples have lived and passed through this territory. We recognize this territory is covered by the Dish with One Spoon treaty and the Two Row Wampum treaty which emphasize the importance of joint stewardship, peace and respectful relationships. Sheridan College affirms it is our collective responsibility to honour and respect those who have gone before us, those who are here and those who have yet to come. We are grateful for the opportunity to be working and living on this land.

Priority #1

Build community by embodying Sheridan's unique character.

The unique character of the Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design (FAAD) is built upon the delivery of professional education through studio-based learning. "Studio" derives from the word for "study" and, as such, is a space dedicated to learning through research, making and experimentation; a way to integrate theory and practice.

Studio-based learning delivers a professional education by developing communities of learners and creators, embodying creativity through collaboration, technology and innovation. It is a unique teaching methodology based on shared values of inclusivity, respect, belonging and engagement. It augments the learning relationships to include peer learning and learning from external guest critics invited into studio spaces to reflect on student work.

Through a commitment to studio-based learning, and with support from and partnership with the Office of Student Affairs, FAAD will build communities of learners and professional partnerships locally and internationally.



Goals

Actions to achieve this initiative

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create opportunities for learning and social communities to form across campuses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Make the work of students manifest on campus through a student art acquisition program, and the creation of an art-lending program for all Sheridan employees. » Develop or carve out a student-run gallery space. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop global reach to our community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Leverage FAAD membership in National Association of Schools of Art and Design to establish a higher profile in the U.S. for recruitment purposes, and strategic partnerships. » Continue to develop a FAAD communication strategy to enhance our blog and our presence in social media, and to develop a newsletter. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Internationalization as transformational. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop articulations and pathways with international institutions. » Develop a strategic plan to support and promote student and faculty travel and exchange where students and faculty become ambassadors for transformational cultural points of view (Italy, Srishti, China, Caen, etc.). |

Metrics

- » Measure inventory of artwork displayed in public spaces and offices.
- » Track volume of student exhibits.
- » Measure student learning in exhibition leadership through program review process.
- » Track awareness in media of community building through partnered projects.
- » Measure cultural diversity content in curriculum.

Priority #2

Advance quality teaching and deep learning through inclusive, learner-focused design and academic support services that embrace the diverse strengths of our students.

The Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design has an ongoing commitment to broadening perspectives and deepening empathy for all members of our learning community, including students, faculty and staff.

Student creative work and public evaluation of it must be rooted in rigorous research and informed awareness of the diverse audiences that might receive it. To that end, we have begun a process for faculty professional development, partnered with multiple departments and stakeholders across Sheridan. We will continue to deepen and develop this program.



Goals

» Incorporate diverse and global perspectives in curriculum and classroom culture, working closely with other institutional partners, such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning and Indigenous Centre for Learning.

» Effect change in our learning environments to be more dynamic, hybrid and open while incorporating leading-edge technology.

» Leverage FAAD NASAD accreditation to enhance the rigour of our academic curriculum in the arts.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Build on “Classroom as Community” with at least one annual event for faculty development.

» Create a FAAD Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council and create professional development for faculty and staff while also building partnerships with external community groups for hosting symposia.

» Help build new Indigenous education with the full participation and informed consent of Indigenous peoples with culturally appropriate curricula.

» Hire Indigenous full-time faculty to partner with the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

» Develop a new framework of space utilization with help of faculty and staff research in order to study best practices for space optimization, accounting for technology, accessibility, wellness and diversity issues.

» Annually host public master classes that enrich students and faculty around various themes, such as “storytelling.” Leverage our alumni as guest critics for master classes.

» Prepare for NASAD recertification in 2020.

Metrics

» Use focus groups in program review process to track faculty awareness of cultural diversity issues.

» Use focus groups in program review process to track student understanding and connection to public creativity.

» Measure amount of FAAD-sponsored faculty PD events and within FAAD department clusters.

Priority #3

Cement our commitment to groundbreaking education by promoting and supporting scholarship, research and creative activities.

A commitment to engage in scholarship, research and creative activities is taking root across Sheridan. Besides FAAD staff's commitment to their own creative activities and individual research projects, there is a growing appetite to engage in public research and define public creativity. Faculty bring their own research work and expertise to bear on projects that engage groups of students for the benefit of Sheridan and communities beyond.

Goals

» Promote faculty, staff and student research through curriculum, funded projects, community and industry partnered projects, committing resources to identify partnership opportunities.

» Position the studio as a locus for interdisciplinary research through creation, design thinking and problem solving.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Encourage faculty to contribute to their respective research and creative activities communities, and ensure these activities find their way back to Sheridan communities.

» Encourage faculty to showcase their work and students' work at Sheridan and write reflectively about these exhibits, curating such work into a Sheridan publication.

» Partner purposefully with Sheridan Research Centres.

» Support faculty and staff to assemble and lead teams for an annual interdisciplinary Creative Problem-Solving Lab, partnering with community groups.

Metrics

» Measure number of grant applications.

» Measure research project activity among faculty and students.

» Measure creative activities led by faculty that are adjacent to curriculum.

» Track faculty publications.



Priority #4

Fuel academic and career success by actively supporting the potential of students and pushing for unfettered access to ongoing learning.

The Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design is committed to the enrichment of the educational experience for all of our students, faculty and staff. We have sponsored many activities that are embedded both inside and outside of the curriculum where students work across program levels to produce collaborative work. These activities then attract community and industry partners who are involved in mentorship and adjudication. Beneficiaries of this work would also be the Sheridan community itself, where students' creations and services help enrich our physical environment and culture, demonstrating our commitment to "public creativity."



Goals

» Collaborate with institutional partners to build a model for public creativity.

» Support student entrepreneurialism.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Support Art Hive: community-based making and creating for the Sheridan community; potentially open to surrounding communities.

» Extend the Temporary Contemporary art installation program to partner with community groups to function as an arts incubator.

» Develop incubator programming with Sheridan Production House as one model.

Metrics

» Measure student activity in pitch competitions.

» Measure student satisfaction with facilities through KPI data.

» Measure community participation in Sheridan projects and events.

Priority #5

Enhance the student experience through programs, services and space design.

The Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design is committed to innovative academic delivery in a physical setting that inspires well-being, collaboration and creativity. In addition, learning spaces should integrate current technology and resources in a balanced and thoughtful way. “Studio-based learning” provides students with a sense of place and community, but all of our students’ learning environments should have some interface with the broader Sheridan community. Physically and spatially, our students should contribute to the culture of our community through displays of work and other elements that can become visual landmarks to help navigate our campuses. Equally, from a curricular perspective, we should facilitate ease of movement by offering more interdisciplinarity and pathways between all programs.



Goals

- » Simplify degree structures.
- » Continue to build pathways between certificates, diplomas and degrees, and interdisciplinarity between programs.
- » Continue to develop credentials that respond to the needs of the labour market.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Implement new credit:hour relationships and apply to degrees, in order to simplify breadth requirements.
- » Simplify program and course learning outcomes to facilitate individual learning plans for students on exchange programs.
- » Create core electives to share across degree programs.
- » Explore advanced standing credit for diploma programs in affiliated degrees.
- » Explore new model for degree program based on CCIT.

Metrics

- » Measure curriculum innovation through program review process.
- » Track, through qualitative surveys, internal community awareness of public enhancements.

Priority #6

Develop an operational culture of planning, accountability and continuous improvement.

The Faculty of Animation, Arts & Design is committed to maximizing our resources and continually exploring ways to develop additional sources of revenue through innovative extracurricular programming. We are committed to wise and informed deployment of our budgets, which are often complicated by the aggregation of tuition revenues with student fees. We believe that good systems and technology can assist with efficient management of resources, and we will participate in — and in some cases will be in a position to lead — Sheridan initiatives to strengthen those systems.

Goals

- » Optimize sources of additional revenue.
- » Online portfolio submission.
- » Build financial literacy for all managers and faculty.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Develop additional programming for spring and summer.
- » Build cross-appointments for current complement of full-time faculty.
- » By 2020, all programs should use the portal for evaluation of supplementals and share with OTR. All programs should avail themselves of the online portal for their applicants.
- » Involve faculty and staff in the budgeting and planning process and elevate their familiarity with resource and space constraints.

Metrics

- » Work with OTR and faculty to track the effectiveness of the online portfolio evaluation process.
- » Track amount of increased revenues from supplemental programming.
- » Survey faculty through the program review process on their awareness of the revenue status of their program.



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