
Faculty of Applied Science and Technology Academic Plan

2019–2024

UPDATED: APRIL 2020



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 Applied Science and Technology

Message from the Dean

I am delighted to share with you the Faculty of Applied Science and Technology Academic Plan for 2019–2024. It is a bold plan that is well aligned with Sheridan's *Strategic Plan 2024: Galvanizing Education for a Complex World*, and it supports the institution's vision of providing groundbreaking and standard-setting higher education that both unleashes potential and empowers people to flourish in and shape an ever-changing world.

The Faculty of Applied Science and Technology is a respectful and caring community, a diverse and inclusive one that supports exceptional teaching, research and creativity. In addition, we support the cultivation of boundless opportunities for lifelong learning and success as well as a selection of skills and abilities that promote agility, collaboration, critical thinking, sustainable practices, and initiative for confident navigation through a shifting work and life landscape.

Reflecting the mission, vision and values of Sheridan, we deliver cutting-edge, relevant, high-quality engineering, science, technology, apprenticeship and trades-related programming that responds to labour market trends and positions adaptable, resilient and highly skilled graduates to thrive in a dynamic, technology-driven, multidisciplinary workplace.

We look forward to having you join us on this voyage.

Vertha Coligan

Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Technology

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Sheridan acknowledges that all of its campuses reside on land that for thousands of years before us was the traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Anishinaabe Nation, Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. 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 on this land.

Priority #1

Build community by embodying Sheridan's unique character.

The Faculty of Applied Science and Technology (FAST) offers a practical and career-oriented postsecondary education in applied science, engineering and technology.

Our professors are leaders in their respective fields and renowned in their industries and communities. As representatives of the Faculty and its programs, professors further our ambassadorship by engaging our learning community with core values and best practices.

By distributing regular and varied communications to FAST community members about Faculty and Sheridan news, academic plans and teaching strategies, we will foster awareness and collaboration, building an ambassadorship that supports FAST's diverse and inclusive community.



Goals

Actions to achieve this initiative

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| » Establish an engagement program reflecting core Faculty values and practices. | » Develop opportunities to support School mentorship initiatives.
» Schedule in-class visits and other opportunities for our colleagues to observe examples of teaching excellence and to encourage collaboration. |
| » Develop an orientation/onboarding process for Faculty and Schools. | » In partnership with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), develop and implement a faculty and staff orientation.
» Develop and maintain an electronic handbook defining Sheridan, Faculty and School best practices.
» Create and distribute a Faculty teaching compendium. |
| » Produce a communications strategy connecting the FAST community. | » Produce a communications strategy, with input from all stakeholders, to serve students, faculty, administrators, support staff and alumni.
» Generate regular e-newsletters.
» Develop an online and social media plan for delivering content about activities and initiatives. |
| » Everyone in the FAST community will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) by 2024. | » In collaboration with the Centre for People and Organizational Development (CPOD), develop an IDP program for FAST employees. |

Metrics

- » Establish an engagement program reflecting core Faculty values and practices.
 - » Engage a Faculty committee to identify and initiate mentorship opportunities.
 - » Connect new professors with an experienced faculty mentor.
 - » Develop and launch a mentorship pilot.
- » Develop an orientation/onboarding process for Faculty and Schools.
 - » Onboard faculty on Accessible Learning (AL) policies and procedures.
 - » Educate all faculty about Accessible Learning services.
 - » Adapt Applied Computing wiki model at a Faculty level.
- » Produce a communications strategy connecting the FAST community.
 - » Launch a Faculty online presence.
 - » Everyone in FAST has an IDP.

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.

FAST programs deliver quality teaching and deep learning through practical, innovative and industry-driven curricula. Formal accreditation of programs, where available, validates our expertise and reflects Sheridan's relationship to industry.

It also reflects our commitment to deliver a consistently high-quality curriculum, delivered by skilled and inspired faculty.

In FAST, students gain work-ready skills and knowledge from subject matter experts connected to their industries. To support our diverse student body along the FAST Learning Continuum, we will further develop the service excellence of our faculty and staff by providing learning sessions with Student Services, the Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support (CILS), and the International Centre. In broadening our knowledge of our distinctive student body, we will enhance our teaching strategies and provide focused academic support to our diverse student population.



Goals

Actions to achieve this initiative

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| » Attain formal accreditation for all FAST programs, where reputable external certification exists. | » Draft and initiate a multi-year plan to obtain relevant program accreditations. |
| » Support the diversity of our students. | » Build connections with our diverse community of students and colleagues to cultivate inclusivity and support outreach activities.
» Explore incorporating Indigenous and international perspectives into the curriculum with CILS and the International Centre. |
| » Creative approaches to structures and curriculum will ensure the exceptional quality of FAST's full suite of credentials while setting up multiple seamless options for further education. | » Draft and submit visionary plan for the expansion of engineering degree programs in Brampton. |
| » Learner-centric approaches to scheduling, curriculum and assessment will support more fluid pathways, improve access for learners with diverse life circumstances, and make transferable skills and knowledge more visible. | » Expand pathways into FAST programs, between FAST programs and into graduate studies. |

Metrics

- » Attain formal accreditation for all FAST programs, where reputable external certification exists.
 - » Create an accreditation plan detailing specific accreditation bodies.
 - » Develop curriculum for certification in compliance with the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) requirements.
- » Support the diversity of our students.
- » Participate in three events recruiting women into science, technology and skilled trades careers.
- » Partner with CILS to attract Indigenous youth to science, technology and skilled trades programs.
- » Deliver a wide representation of student diversity in online communications.
- » Expand engineering degree program offerings.
- » Expand pathway opportunities.

Priority #3

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

FAST embodies a polytechnic education combining practical, career-oriented curricula with innovative, collaborative scholarship, research and creative activities (SRCA). We enthusiastically promote SRCA, especially those which engage community and industry partners, as part of our progressive learning experience on the FAST Learning Continuum.

We will continue to add value for our students, faculty and community partners through scholarship, research and creative activities, both in our schools and in our two applied research centres: the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies (CAMDT) and the Centre for Mobile Innovation (CMI). Avenues such as funded research, the scholarship of teaching and learning, capstone coursework, industry projects and special events offer opportunities to engage in a variety of scholarly academic pursuits that promote the development of creativity and innovation in all who participate, while contributing valuable knowledge and practical solutions to our communities.

Goals

» Create an environment for faculty and students to explore participation in SRCA.

» Promote and support SRCA activities.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Construct a mentorship program to support our colleagues interested in engaging in SRCA, in partnership with the Research Office.

» Create a community of practice and an engagement plan to support SRCA activities.

» Deliver regular seminars, given by students and professors, on current SRCA activities.

» Provide support to professors in the initial stages of SRCA project development.

» Collaborate with the Research Office and the Library to catalogue and communicate SRCA projects via Sheridan Scholarly Output, Research, Creative Excellence (SOURCE).

» Partner with the Research Office to deliver SRCA Recognition and Excellence Awards.

Metrics

» Create an environment for faculty and students to explore participation in SRCA.

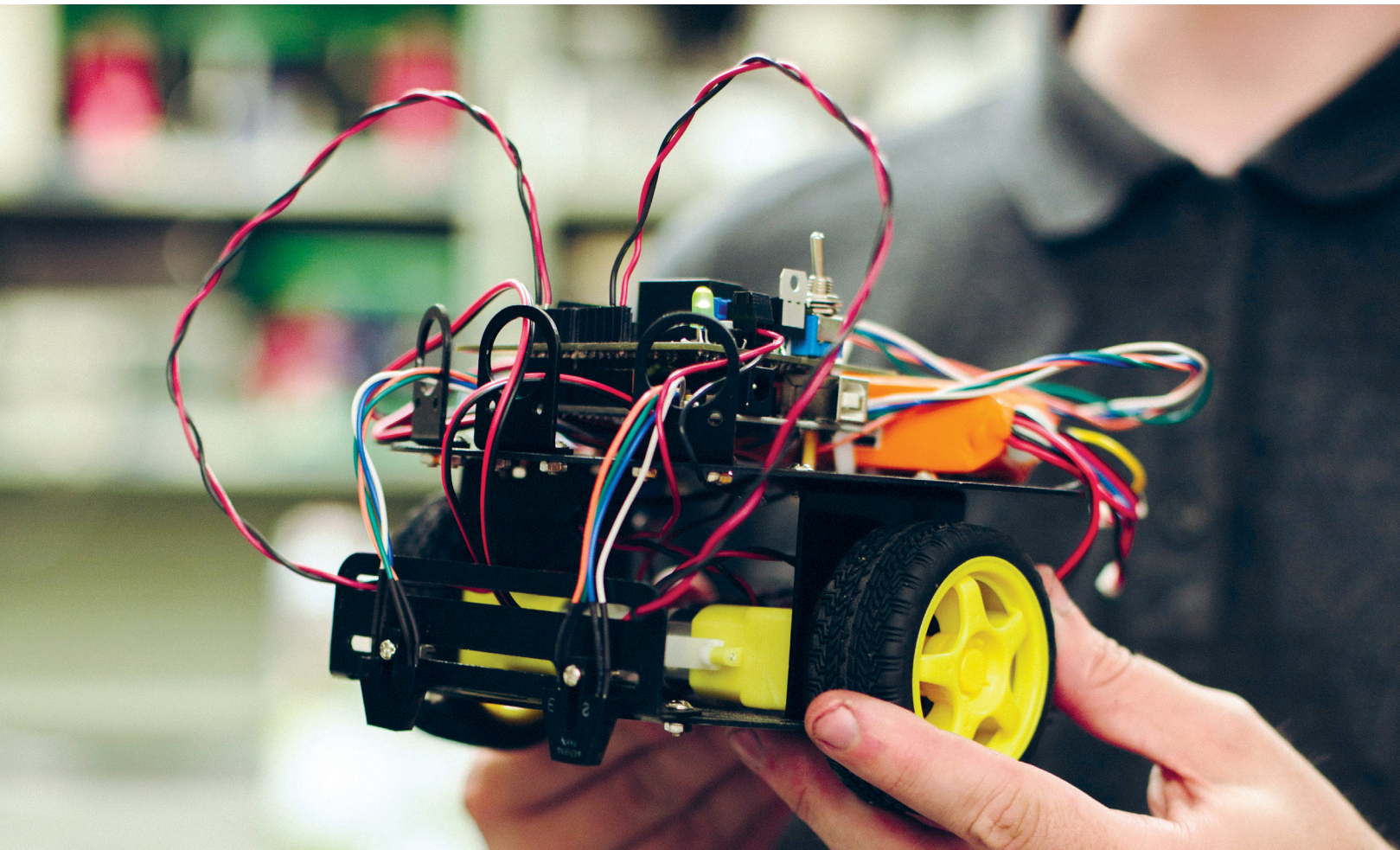
» Produce and implement a process for engagement in SRCA activities.

» Promote and support SRCA activities.

» Implement a minimum of three SRCA dissemination events (e.g. seminars).

» Collaborate with the Research Office to establish a robust tracking and reporting mechanism for all FAST SRCA projects.

» Build a SRCA dissemination schedule.



Priority #4

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

FAST students are inspired, engaged and motivated to participate and achieve academic success. Our industry-connected professors offer students many opportunities to engage with our community through innovative learning experiences such as capstone projects, academic competitions and SRCA. FAST fuels career success with respected, experiential, work-integrated learning. We drive interest in a range of directions and extend our creative undertakings through a variety of opportunities including co-op, field placements, industry projects and capstones. To deepen this experience, we will increase collaborations with Co-op, Alumni, other Faculties and Sheridan entrepreneurs (EDGE).



Goals

» Engage students directly with industry to develop a network before graduation.

» Create opportunities to showcase student competencies and successes.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Expand work-integrated learning opportunities.
- » Collaborate with internal stakeholders to deepen existing industry relationships and broaden industry contacts (e.g. Community Employment Services (CES), Alumni Department, Co-op, EDGE).
- » Engage industry partners and Program Advisory Councils (PACs) in new levels of involvement.
- » Promote entrepreneurship and innovation through student clubs and activities.

- » Deliver a series of academic competitions for students.
- » Provide opportunities to attend external academic competitions.

Metrics

- » Engage students directly with industry to develop a industry network before graduation.
 - » Support student clubs.
 - » Engage students from Applied Computing and Architectural Technology schools with EDGE Entrepreneurship Hub.
 - » Partner with Faculties, Departments and Community Employment Services (CES) to promote job fairs.
- » Create opportunities to showcase student competencies and successes.
 - » Participate in a variety of school competitions and events, such as hackathons, MakerSpaces, Architectural Technology Week, open houses and skills competitions.

Priority #5

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

Student success is a construct of academics, extracurricular engagement, applied learning, networking and practical research opportunities. FAST facilitates student success by providing diverse learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

First-year student success initiatives will support the transition to Sheridan's education and encourage academic improvement. We will expand our co-curricular activities to promote engagement and collaboration for all of our students across the continuum of academic background and ability.



Goals

» Enhance supports for first-year students.

» Increase Co-Curricular Record (CCR) activities, in collaboration with partners across Sheridan.

» Develop a strategic space plan.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Partner with Library and Learning Services to maximize the effectiveness of the Tutoring and Peer-Assisted Learning program.

» Explore extending first-year supports to all levels of programming.

» Conduct a gap analysis to identify areas that would benefit from new or enhanced co-curricular activities.

» Develop a FAST space utilization plan based upon Sheridan's Space Plan, Campus Master Plan, Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) and Facilities Management (FM).

Metrics

» Enhance supports for first-year students.

» Evaluate and enhance Tutoring and Peer-Assisted Learning program use.

» Launch a "First-Year Student Experience" working group to support a purposeful and inclusive introductory year.

» Develop a "First-Year Student Experience" white paper.

» Integrate academic orientation for students from SLATE module into a sample of first-year courses.

» Increase Co-Curricular Record (CCR) activities, in collaboration with partners across Sheridan.

» Publish all co-curricular activities available within FAST.

» Determine growth percentage in CCR activities.

» Develop a strategic space plan.

» Based upon the Campus Master Plan and SEM, partner with FM to publish a FAST space utilization plan.

Priority #6

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

Accountability and continuous improvement are ongoing endeavours. In FAST, we strive to evolve and expand program offerings, deliver progressive curricula, enrich the student experience and nurture a community that supports academic excellence.

We will commit to engage in continuous operational improvements to build a sustainable, efficient, transparent and inclusive community that is both agile and planful.



Goals

» Create a Faculty-wide culture of continuous improvement and accountability.

» Document and publish operational processes and procedures.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Review school-based budgets and implement Activities Based Budgeting (ABB).

» Implement the People Plan at a Faculty level.

» Promote collaborative curriculum oversight.

» Develop an academic quality assurance toolbox to support implementation of program reviews and curriculum development, compliant with institutional policies and procedures.

» Create a committee and generate procedures for allocation of FAST PD funding.

» Define processes for identifying preferred vendors and vendors of record.

Metrics

» Create a Faculty-wide culture of continuous improvement and accountability.

» Deliver annual reports on Faculty academic plan progress.

» Examine definitions and expectations of coordinators, course leads and advisers.

» Develop an employee recruiting and progression plan.

» Implement ABB metrics to be aligned with institutional progress.

» Document and publish operational processes and procedures.

» Define the process and tools to store relevant information for program and curriculum reviews.

» Document purchasing responsibilities for the roles of lab managers and technologists.

» Partner with HR to update PAQ and PDF job descriptions in relation to procurement roles.

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