
Library and Learning Services Academic Plan



Summary Statement

Moving forward to 2022, 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 polytechnic education by promoting and supporting scholarship, research and creative activities.
- » Fuel academic and career success by cultivating curiosity, a passion for growth and learning, perseverance, fun and a sense of purpose.
- » Enhance the student experience through programs, services and space design.
- » Develop an operational culture of planning, accountability and continuous improvement.



Library and Learning Services Academic Plan

Libraries and learning commons are communal spaces designed to facilitate learning outside of the classroom. Like all civic spaces, Sheridan's Learning Commons is a place where beliefs are challenged and conversations thrive. Our spaces are designed to encourage reflection, collaboration and creativity. More than just safe, inclusive and accessible spaces, Sheridan's Library and Learning Services offer students essential academic supports (research help, writing, math and other tutoring topics), relevant collections (digital and print) and innovative technology. Our mission is to provide meaningful services to advance teaching and learning, build research capacity, promote scholarly communication and encourage creative activities. Library and Learning Services' Strategic Plan articulates our vision for the future and expresses our pledge to work with faculty partners and the greater Sheridan community to deliver the best student experience, both in and out of the classroom.

Joan Sweeney Marsh,
Director, Library and Learning Services

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Sheridan would like to acknowledge 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.

As Sheridan's living room, Library and Learning Services welcomes our diverse community and cultivates relationships to promote a sense of belonging. Spaces showcase our scholarship, research and creativity, provide emerging technologies, and are designed to stimulate learning and foster academic skill development in a comfortable, accessible setting. The location on campus where interdisciplinary activities, academic services, and creative works and exhibits enhance learning and inspire reflection, our spaces are a place to call home when at Sheridan.



Goals

- » Boost engagement by embracing the Library as the community's living room.
- » Feature Sheridan's diversity across Library and Learning Services.
- » Inspire the community by showcasing Sheridan's creativity to spark discussion and foster innovation.
- » Promote the values associated with academic integrity (AI): honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Host events with our partners in the community.
- » Engage faculty members on interdisciplinary activities that support the intersection of STEM, business, arts and humanities in Library spaces.
- » Reflect diversity in our spaces through events, activities, symbols, collections and creative works to promote a sense of belonging.
- » Strive to provide services that are flexible, responsive and accessible.
- » Display creative works and collaborate with the Director, Creative Campus and faculty members on hosting exhibitions.
- » Support the development of a community of academic integrity best practices to advance a culture of integrity.

Metrics

- » Number of events and exhibits hosted.
- » List of partners who collaborated in Library Learning Commons spaces.
- » Amount of budget dollars allocated to materials/collections in support of marginalized cultural and social communities.

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.

Through our close relationships with faculty members and the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Library and Learning Services develops and enhances student academic skills in alignment with curriculum and learning outcomes. It is our mission to ensure everyone in our richly diverse community has access to meaningful supports, emerging technologies and relevant collections. We are committed to fostering collegial relationships and faculty development by sharing library-related knowledge and research expertise.



Goals

» Strengthen the quality of Sheridan's programs and augment student learning by aligning academic support services and Library collections with the curriculum.

» Support faculty development by sharing Library-related expertise.

» Design culturally responsive and inclusive academic support services¹.

» Optimize technology to deliver services and connect users to quality information.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Work with faculty and the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to design tutoring and Library services in support of distinct curriculum needs.

» Inform and train faculty members on new Library resources and current research tools.

» Collaborate with CTL by participating in, and planning, faculty development events.

» Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities associated with copyright.

» Produce Library and Learning Services learning tools in a variety of languages.

» Consult with CTL and International department to further enhance inclusive and culturally responsive collections and services.

» Collaborate with the Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support to develop Library and Learning Services orientation for Indigenous students.

» Utilize digital tools to provide better access to collections and services.

» Embed Library collections and services into the learning management system.

» Acquire and provide access to emerging technology for students.

Metrics

» Total number of students participating in Library workshops (online and in-person combined).

» Total number of Tutoring Centre appointments, by faculty.

» Consultations with faculty members (in support of individual research, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) and class assignments).

» Total number of digital resources by format (ebooks, databases, electronic journal subscriptions, videos and other digital media).

¹ Pendell, Kimberly and Robert Schroeder. "Librarians as Campus Partners: Supporting Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Curriculum," accessed September 25, 2017, <http://crln.acrl.org/index.php/crlnews/article/view/16748/18272>.

Priority #3

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

Library and Learning Services is committed to the development of research skills and the discovery, dissemination and preservation of Sheridan's Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities (SRCA). We lead the discussion at Sheridan about the changing scholarly communication landscape, such as Open Access (OA) publishing and Open Education Resources (OER), and explore opportunities to implement new models. Our spaces are equipped with the tools and services to support faculty members and students with their SRCA initiatives. Scholars and creators from across the college come together to gather inspiration, collaborate and build community.



Goals

- » Maximize the discovery and dissemination of Sheridan's Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities to internal and external audiences.
- » Develop data services to support student and faculty member research initiatives.
- » Collaborate with CTL to incorporate research skills across the curriculum.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Increase faculty member and student use of SOURCE, Sheridan's digital institutional repository.
- » Invite the community to share ideas in the Library's Scholars & Creators Hub and pursue scholarly communication.
- » Launch an open access journal under the advisement of the SRCA Subcommittee of the Senate, Undergraduate Research, and in collaboration with faculty.
- » Build digital and physical display spaces to showcase SRCA.
- » Build spaces, tools and expertise to support and advance a community dedicated to data research expertise.
- » Embed research skills across the curriculum utilizing the Library Liaisons.

Metrics

- » Total downloads from SOURCE, Sheridan's institutional repository service.
- » Total number of student SRCA works in SOURCE.
- » Total number of digital research guide views (LibGuides).

Priority #4

Fuel academic and career success by cultivating curiosity, a passion for growth and learning, perseverance, fun and a sense of purpose.

We do our best to demystify the academic world as our students encounter it. Developing academic skills in a positive and nurturing environment is our strength. First-year students require unique attention as they transition to postsecondary education, whereas senior students benefit from assistance with developing more advanced skills to prepare them for lifelong learning and their careers. Coordinating with our colleagues in Student Affairs and with our faculty partners ensures a comprehensive approach to student success.

Goals

- » Implement services that enhance and strengthen the academic skills of first-year students.
- » Acquire collections that mirror those adopted by industry to prepare students for the workplace.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Collaborate with Student Affairs and CTL to coordinate first-year student success initiatives.
- » Support the distinct needs of first-year students and their professors to ensure the successful delivery of curriculum.
- » Consult with faculty members on collection development with a focus on industry relevant resources.

Metrics

- » Total number of students participating in Library instruction workshops in first-year courses (online and in-person combined).
- » Total number of first-year course sections utilizing Peer-Assisted Learning.
- » Number of students enrolled in Academic Integrity Remediation.



Priority #5

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

Not only do Sheridan students live in Library and Learning Services spaces, but many are team members, too. We provide meaningful employment opportunities that reinforce self-reflection and ongoing professional development. Our students play a major role in enhancing the community experience; we depend on them for their feedback and input to ensure our physical and virtual spaces meet student needs.



Goals

» Create welcoming, safe spaces to support different kinds of learning (research, study and collaboration).

» Enrich the student experience through employment and co-curricular opportunities.

» Prioritize the student experience in Library spaces.

Actions to achieve this initiative

» Make use of student feedback as well as space design research to build spaces to meet community needs.

» Employ Sheridan students in responsible and motivational roles to support their professional development.

» Engage students in participating in and/or leading events in Library spaces; highlight student work.

Metrics

- » Number of student hires (Peer-Assisted Learning Leaders, Peer Tutors, Academic Integrity Ambassadors and Library Pages, Library Peer Mentors).
- » Number of events and activities led by students in Library spaces.
- » Number of student works and exhibits in Library Learning Commons spaces.

Priority #6

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

Sharing and advancing knowledge are foundational to the fabric of Library and Learning Services. We collect and assess information to improve services, resources, spaces and ourselves. Our success depends on colleagues engaged in the core mission and values of the college, their related skills development and, in turn, the recognition of their contributions and commitment to our learning community.

Goals

- » Support a culture of assessment to inform decision making about collections, spaces, and services.
- » Champion and support lifelong learning for Library and Learning Services employees.
- » Recognize outstanding service and commitment to students.

Actions to achieve this initiative

- » Inform planning by consulting with Institutional Research to identify relevant methods of assessment.
- » Complete a skills assessment inventory and identify gaps to successfully deliver innovative and student-focused services.
- » Encourage employees to self-assess and prepare a professional development plan.
- » Support professional development that advances individual and team aspirations.
- » Explore opportunities in collaboration with the International department to develop intercultural competencies.
- » Acknowledge scholarship, research and creative activities (SRCA) in the department's annual report and at staff gatherings.

Metrics

- » Breakdown of involvement in SRCA, service and committee work by department members.
- » Number of publications and conference presentations by department members.
- » Number of professional development activities engaged in by department members.



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