



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



2020-25

Augustana Strategic Academic Plan

AUGUST 2020



Aerial view of Augustana Campus and surrounding area, Camrose, AB.

Contents

Identity & Mission **3**

The Plan **4**



Founders' Hall, Augustana Campus.

Identity & Mission

“...providing for their young people an education that would fit them for living, not merely to make a living.”

Chester Ronning, former Camrose Lutheran College president (1942)

The Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta provides an outstanding undergraduate liberal arts and sciences education. Settlers founded the campus in 1911 on Treaty 6 land at *asiniskaw sipisis* (Stoney Creek), a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples. Today, as a faculty of the University of Alberta, Augustana welcomes students from all walks of life to participate in a learning experience that blends theory with practice and encourages active engagement with each other and our environments. We prepare and educate students for life.

We are committed to providing a unique undergraduate education through a project-based core and a variety of multidisciplinary majors and professional programs. Our programs are delivered by a diverse community of scholars who challenge and support students to engage creatively and critically in their studies for the public good. We aspire to cultivate problem solvers who ask difficult and important questions and pose innovative solutions for the classroom, for our communities and for the world.



Students interacting with Indigenous teaching pedagogies through land-based learning opportunities. This traditional medicine picking workshop was offered to students in first-year seminars as part of orientation in 2022.

The Plan

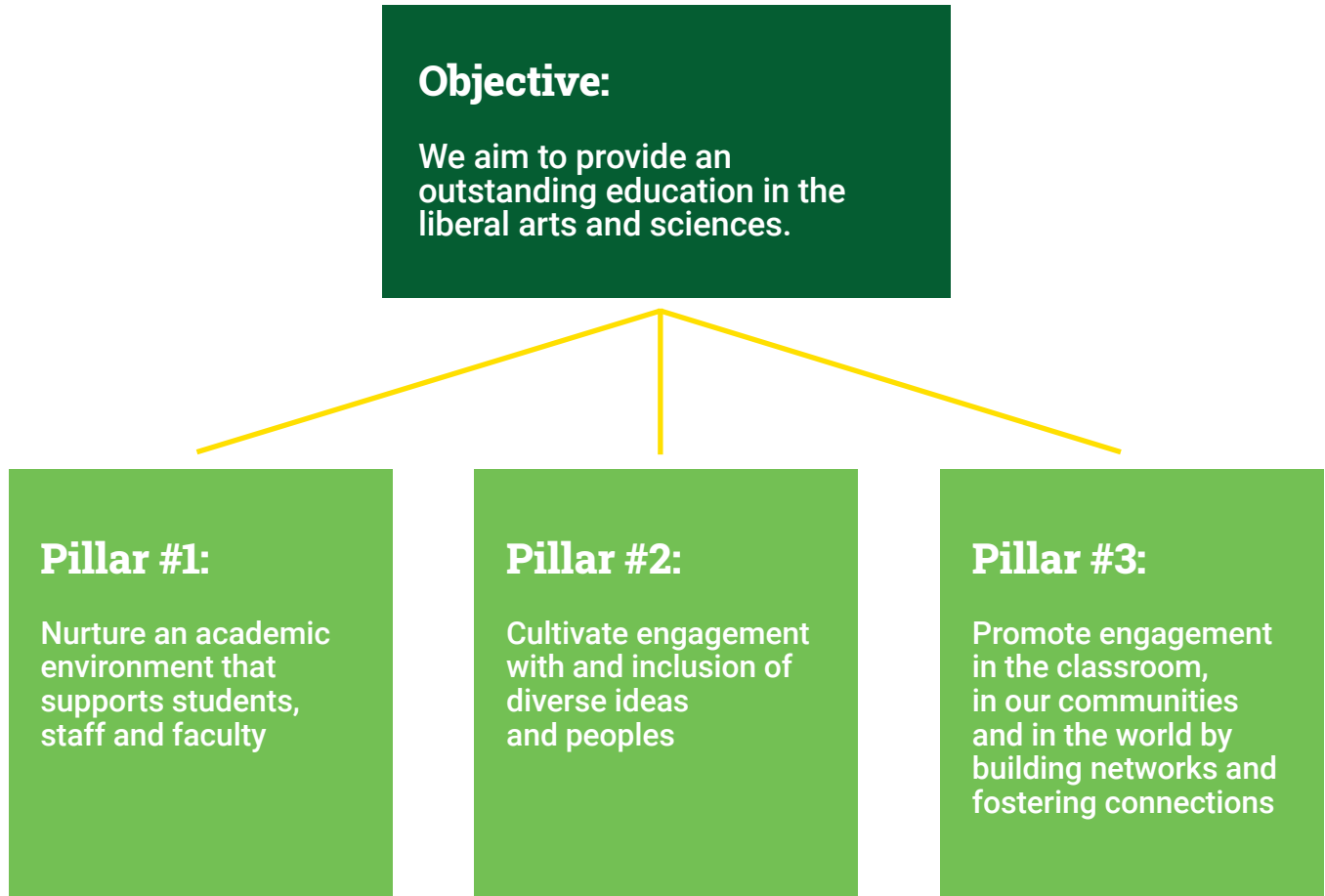
“...where students may obtain a liberal education in the arts and sciences.”

Act of Corporation, Alberta Norwegian Lutheran College Association (1913)

As a leading liberal arts college, the Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta aspires to advance the whole person through an innovative education in the liberal arts and sciences. Augustana’s intimate size enriches the university experience, allowing students to engage with confidence as they become active members of their community and develop life-long relationships. A liberal arts and sciences education has enduring value, regardless of the evolving nature of workplaces and life challenges.

Augustana offers multidisciplinary and professional programs developed around our core set of project-based courses. These transformative experiences, which take place in our unique 3/11 calendar structure, equip students to develop the thinking, research, communication and collaborative skills needed to support their lives, endeavours and future careers. This academic plan reflects the values that enable us to offer that education. Our aim is to provide an outstanding education in the liberal arts and sciences rests equally on three pillars.

Plan Overview



We aim to provide an outstanding multidisciplinary undergraduate liberal arts and sciences education

- Implement multidisciplinary majors in the fine arts and humanities, social sciences and sciences, and develop program-level plans for assessing student achievement of learning outcomes.
- Implement our project-based core and assess its impact.
- Increase the capacity for faculty to involve students in their research — as research assistants or for credit.
- Increase the number of students participating in place-based and/or experiential learning.
- Create knowledge and enhance communication about research as a key component of a liberal arts and sciences education.

PILLAR #1: NURTURE AN ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY

- Raise awareness, encourage acceptance and promote conversation about the diverse needs of students, staff and faculty.
- Provide support for minority and marginalized students, staff and faculty, and those needing a variety of accommodations.
- Create opportunities to develop healthy habits through physical activity, recreation and creative pursuits.
- Develop a campus-wide approach with multiple access points for students to receive health and wellness support from a range of helping professionals.
- Increase engagement with and enhance career path planning services for students.
- Provide professional development opportunities to enhance learning opportunities across programs by supporting staff and faculty in their use of the 3/11 calendar.
- Implement robust, multifaceted teaching evaluation.
- Develop an Augustana-specific strategic research plan that recognizes our teaching responsibilities, funding opportunities, staffing and infrastructure.
- Support all stages of the research and creative process, from initial curiosity and identification of research questions through to final dissemination and recognition.

PILLAR #2: CULTIVATE ENGAGEMENT WITH AND INCLUSION OF DIVERSE IDEAS AND PEOPLES

- Build capacity for reconciliation and for living in treaty relationships by continuing to offer workshops that address the process of reconciliation, developing our relationship with maskwacîs, implementing our Indigenous Student Access program and incorporating Indigenous content across academic programs.
- Collaboratively engage in excellent and wide-ranging areas of research and pedagogy, using a diverse set of approaches, methods and theories that challenge and examine perspectives and assumptions.
- Provide diversity and inclusion training for all students, staff and faculty.
- Create a trusting and welcoming environment that enables our students, staff and faculty to address questions of inclusion in an open and transparent manner.
- Encourage the hiring of faculty and staff from Indigenous and marginalized groups.
- Develop an Augustana Faculty Equity, Diversity and Inclusion plan.

PILLAR #3: PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM, IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN THE WORLD BY BUILDING NETWORKS AND FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

- In consultation with the local community, develop assessment and quality-control mechanisms in order to support our project-based core and Community Service-Learning programs, such as through the Carnegie classification program for Community Engagement.
- Ensure that all students have a meaningful interaction with Camrose and the broader community during the course of their degree.
- Refine, increase and assess the integration of opportunities for experiential classroom and co-curricular learning.
- Offer national and international courses consistently.
- Develop funds for the support of student travel for study and research, including conference presentations.
- Create a fund to support small-scale community-engaged research, programming and teaching.
- Encourage interaction with and leverage benefits from the current research centres (Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities and Chester Ronning Centre), Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station, Hejse Observatory, Canada Research Chair(s) and other University of Alberta faculties and colleagues.
- Support research into teaching and learning that serves Augustana's role as a leader in teaching innovation within the University of Alberta.



Students presenting at Augustana's Student Academic Conference, December 2022.



**UNIVERSITY
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