

## **Academic Affairs Mission, Goals, and Objectives (11/15/10 DRAFT)**

Shippensburg University places student learning at the center of its academic mission, and the personal attention given to each student both inside and outside the classroom uniquely reflects this philosophy. We seek to promote and enhance student learning through disseminating knowledge, fostering openness to differences, creating an awareness of the interdependence among people and ideas. Instilling the value of life-long learning through quality academic experiences is deeply embedded in the curriculum. We create a community of scholars by anchoring students in a discipline and introducing them to the vibrant, intellectual excitement of the university. We embody this personal approach to student learning through small classes and laboratories, collaborative classroom settings, faculty-student research, team-based projects, internships, service-learning, study abroad, independent study, and pre-professional programs.

The mission includes both undergraduate and graduate education. At the undergraduate level, the liberal arts core informs the major programs of study, broadens students' world view, past and present, and develops an appreciation for the interconnectedness of knowledge. The programs of study (majors and minors) provide the knowledge foundation, context, and current state of the disciplines. At the graduate level, programs of study encourage intellectual advancement, research and scholarship, continuing development of professional skills, and are responsive to regional needs.

The major programs of study (disciplines) in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education and Human Services, structured according to professional standards, prepare students to embark on careers, to engage in advanced study, to be thoughtful leaders, and to constructively engage in the global society.

### **Goal 1: Provide a curriculum and other learning experiences that creatively address the changing needs of a diverse, technology-based, global society.**

SU's division of Academic Affairs will ...

1. Provide pathways for the development of innovative programs, courses, and core experiences.
2. Provide a rich academic climate for students both in and out of the classroom.
3. Support a core program that works in concert with major programs to promote lifelong learning.
4. Use assessment to ensure the curriculum advances student learning.

### **Goal 2: Create a student-centered environment to facilitate students' intellectual growth and success.**

SU's division of Academic Affairs will ...

1. Provide support services that meet students' academic needs.
2. Support strategies that enhance student persistence and retention.
3. Recruit a diverse and highly qualified student body.
4. Increase coordination and collaboration between Academic Affairs and other divisions to enhance student learning.
5. Promote a campus climate of respect, courtesy, and collegiality among students, faculty, staff, and community.

**Goal 3: Cultivate the interaction of theory and practice to deepen disciplinary and professional understanding.**

SU's division of Academic Affairs will ...

1. Support undergraduate and graduate research, field work, internships, and service learning.
2. Increase the number of undergraduate and graduate students involved in research, field work, internships, and service learning.
3. Cultivate university-community relationships to provide avenues for learning, the application of theory to practice, and scholarship.

**Goal 4: Foster a stimulating scholarly environment for students, faculty, and staff that advances new knowledge and enhances the quality of the curriculum.**

SU's division of Academic Affairs will ...

1. Recruit and retain a highly qualified and diverse faculty.
2. Provide a vibrant and supportive environment for faculty professional development.
3. Align resources and organizational structures to support academic priorities.
4. Promote a rich intellectual exchange among students, faculty, and staff.
5. Provide dedicated administrative support for the pursuit, acquisition, and management of grant activities.

**Goal 5: Cultivate leadership, integrity, social equity, global understanding, and civic engagement to prepare students, faculty, and staff for meaningful contributions to society.**

SU's division of Academic Affairs will ...

1. Promote meaningful participation in campus and community life.
2. Develop leaders among students, faculty, and staff.
3. Promote global understanding and challenge the worldviews of members of the university community.
4. Ensure equitable representation and treatment in all facets of university life.