

Faculty of Social Sciences

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

2018–2023

VISION STATEMENT

To foster well-being, social justice, and sustainability locally, nationally, and globally through contributions to theoretical and applied knowledges, collaborative scholarship, transformative learning, and meaningful partnerships that harness our inherent interdisciplinarity.

GOALS

- Strong Academic Programs
- Renowned Research
- Indigenous Reconciliation
- Global Citizenship
- Productive Collaborations and Partnerships
- Effective Communication



University
of Victoria



STRONG ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

To further develop and deliver rigorous and enriching learning experiences and programs, including experiential learning, that equip and inspire learners to meaningfully engage locally, nationally, and globally.

- Support teaching innovation and professional development for graduate students, faculty, and sessional instructors
- Facilitate and support diverse teaching models and pedagogies, including new co-teaching, experiential learning, and online courses
- Enhance writing, critical thinking, and other skills for academic excellence and for success in diverse postgraduate opportunities
- Provide the funding, systems, and infrastructure necessary to support instructors and staff to enable all students to have opportunities for meaningful experiential learning

RENOWNED RESEARCH

To engage in excellent and relevant research on contemporary issues and provide exceptional support for researchers at all stages in their careers.

- Define, inspire, and promote our research excellence
- Encourage faculty members and graduate students to pursue external research funding and help improve success rates by supporting the development of excellent proposals
- Support high-quality research and innovation at all scales, including innovative small-scale initiatives
- Develop methods for evaluating non-traditional forms of scholarship
- Improve graduate student funding opportunities

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

To share the responsibility and work of indigenization and decolonization by infusing teaching and research with Indigenous knowledges, ways of knowing, and content in our teaching and research, and by ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous voices, scholars, students, and communities across all departments.

- Increase recruitment, retention and success of Indigenous students by fostering welcoming places and opportunities to create community
- Increase the recruitment, retention and success of Indigenous faculty and staff through mentorship, allyship and support
- Ensure that students graduate with proficiency in Indigenous knowledges, history, realities, and ways of knowing, while supporting faculty working towards decolonizing and indigenizing the curricula
- Value, support, and promote Indigenous research
- Be accountable to the Social Sciences Indigenous Plan, including promoting engagement and collaboration among the social sciences and Indigenous communities and targeting fundraising to support Indigenous students, programming, and initiatives

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

To share, broaden, deepen, and support meaningful and international, inter-cultural, and Indigenous connections and experiences within and beyond campus that foster and integrate diverse ways of being and knowing in research, learning, and teaching.

- Facilitate and increase student participation in study-abroad opportunities
- Support faculty and students to connect globally
- Create opportunities for students to engage globally and enhance interaction among international and domestic students on campus
- Diversify the international student population
- Increase the number of high-achieving international students

PRODUCTIVE COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

To inspire connections across the Faculty and the university that enrich sense of community, and to nurture meaningful and reciprocal relationships with local, national, global, and Indigenous communities, and with alumni and donors.

- Enhance and support collaboration in teaching and research within the Faculty and internationally
- Encourage student engagement within the Faculty and provide opportunities for students to participate in research, teaching, and service
- Strengthen connections between the Faculty and other units across the university by creating avenues for knowledge, programs and systems sharing
- Facilitate, cultivate, and support sustainable and deep external relationships with alumni, international academic institutions, and the broader community
- Provide and celebrate opportunities to learn from protocols, practices, and mutual impacts of internal and external collaborations and partnerships

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

To connect our key audiences and the general public to the Faculty's excellence and impact through diverse dialogue and storytelling.

- Increase and facilitate opportunities for students, post-docs, faculty, sessional instructors, and staff to share their work with each other and with the broader community
- Highlight the relevance and impact of the social sciences to future students, including Indigenous and graduate students, through stories that highlight the student experience and research opportunities in the Faculty
- Demonstrate how the Faculty and, in particular, the units from which alumni have graduated are involved in issues that matter to alumni, and show how alumni support is being used to make a difference in students' lives and in communities around the globe
- Highlight how funders' financial support is being used effectively to create an impact on issues of common interest that matter to people, places, and the planet