



School of Library & Information Science

Strategic Plan: 2018-2025

VISION

The School of Library & Information Science will be a leader in analyzing the complex intersections among individuals and communities, human communication and information, and informational, educational, and cultural heritage institutions.

VALUES

The School values and promotes equity, diversity, accountability, and intellectual openness. We engage with and are driven by real world issues and communities, and promote the essential role played by informational, educational, and cultural heritage institutions in all spheres of life.

MISSION

The mission of the School is to prepare leaders who will guide, direct, and administer informational and cultural heritage institutions in the 21st century. The School accomplishes this mission through research, discovery, and publication of knowledge in the field and by educating the next generation of leaders in:

- collaboration, creative problem solving, innovation, and the management of information and institutions
- the knowledge and skills needed to identify and understand individual and community needs, and to facilitate progress through engagement with informational and educational materials and resources
- the theory and practice of evaluating, collecting, describing, organizing, and disseminating information in any format and/or environment
- the skills needed to teach individuals and communities to understand, manage, and preserve digital content
- fostering engagement with communities through professional service and collaboration

Goal 1: Discovery/Research. The School will contribute to LSU's research-intensive mission by providing scholarship to advance knowledge and practice.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: From 2018 to 2025

- Scholarly, peer-reviewed publications will average a minimum of two per year per tenure-track faculty
- Sponsored research program proposals will reach a total of 10 proposal submissions annually
- The average number of awarded grants will be 3 per year

STRATEGIES:

- A faculty member will apply for and receive the Russell Long Professorship every year to support scholarship; the award decision will be based on the faculty member's proposed research and deliverables
- The School will work with the College Office of Development to identify potential donors for additional professorships to support faculty scholarship
- Create mechanisms to encourage collaborative projects within the School and with external units
- Mentor faculty about opportunities for small-scale financial support of pilot research projects and refereed presentations at conferences that lead to publications and grant proposals
- Explore avenues to the creation of a SLIS Research Institute which would become a regional and national center for research in methods of providing access to information for the underserved populations of the South, including people of color, incarcerated people and ex-offenders, rural populations, and people with disabilities.
- Establish a plan to use revenue streams (sponsored grants, certificate programs, LSU Online) to hire a staff member to assist faculty with identifying and applying for appropriate grant opportunities

Goal 2: Teaching/Learning. The School will offer innovative and challenging programs to attract, retain, and graduate students who excel in critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, and leadership.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: From 2018 to 2025

- Undergraduate credit hours will increase by 100%
- Enrollment of graduate students will increase by 7%
- Graduate student credit hours will increase by 7%

- Graduate level degree completers will remain stable at 80%
- Communication-intensive and honors courses will increase by 10%

STRATEGIES:

- Continue our comprehensive marketing and recruitment plan for undergraduate and graduate students
- Increase faculty and staff lines in targeted areas
- Receive approval for a competitive tuition rate for non-resident students (comparable to LSU Online tuition)

Goal 3: Diversity. The School will develop and nurture educational and professional environments that serve diverse, under-represented, oppressed, and vulnerable populations.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: From 2018 to 2025

- Student enrollment from under-represented populations will increase by 2% each year
- 25% of scholarly activities per year will be related to diversity

STRATEGIES:

- Develop partnerships with Historically Black Colleges & Universities for recruitment
- Create courses and programs with broad definitions of inclusiveness and diversity as a focus
- Integrate diversity topics into existing courses
- During faculty and staff searches, demonstrate that resources have been used to target traditionally under-represented groups
- Participate with the College Diversity Committee to create programming to develop and nurture a diverse educational and professional environment in the School

Goal 4: Engagement. The School will cultivate engagements among our local, national and global communities focused on addressing contemporary challenges to deepen civic and academic learning, enhance community well-being, and enrich scholarship.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: From 2018 to 2025

- Increase the number of faculty engagement activities by 10%
- Increase the School's number of service learning courses by 100%
- Increase participation in the School's continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities by 25%

STRATEGIES:

- Create an ongoing dialogue with community leaders and policy makers to identify community needs and make faculty research accessible to the general public
- Develop contacts and establish relationships with private, public, and not-for-profit agencies to consult, train, and provide professional development opportunities
- Develop a plan of continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities in consultation with the School's stakeholders