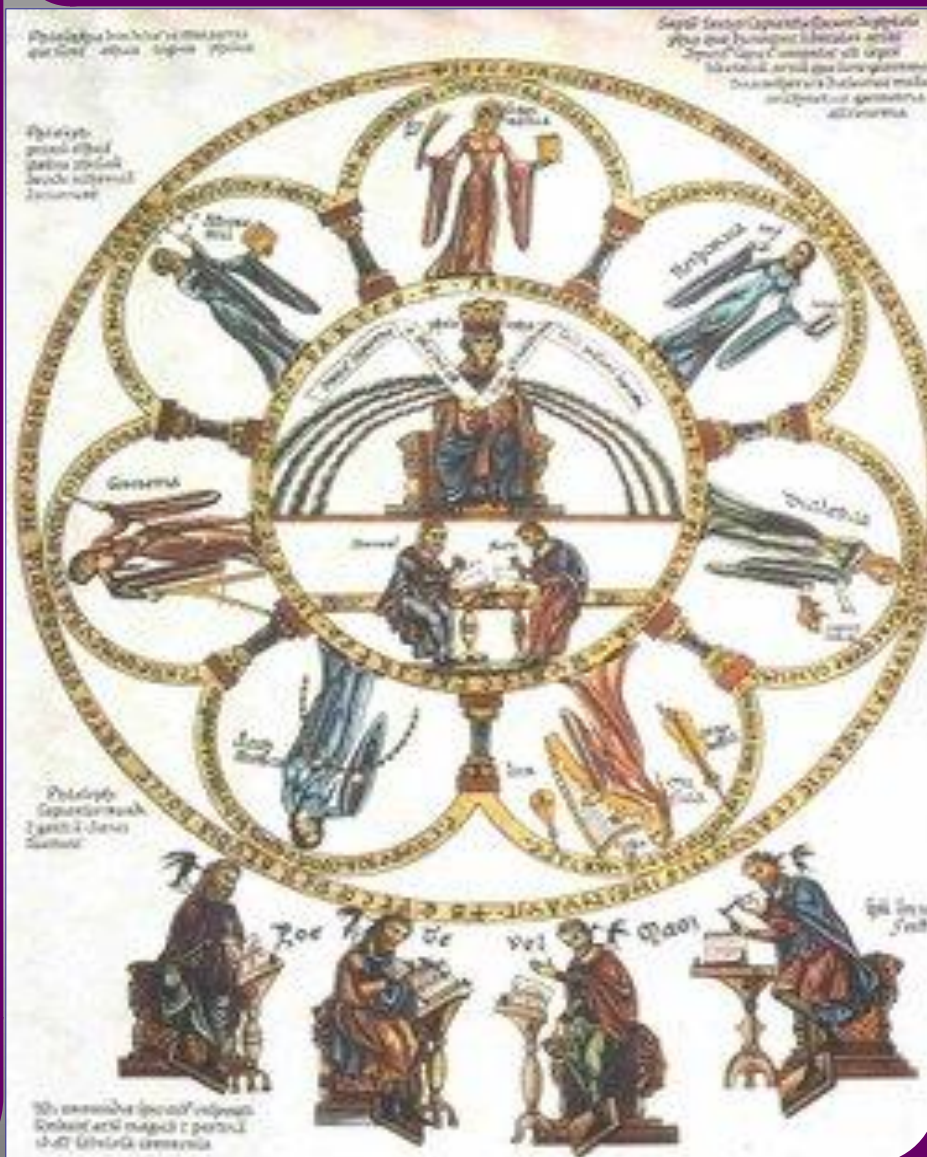


# College of Liberal & Applied Arts

## Exploring the Future



# *Draft Strategic Plan*

*"Excellence is not an act but a habit." Aristotle*

## Headline Goal

To become the best liberal and applied arts public college in the state by 2020

## Elements of Excellence

Cutting-edge curriculum  
Rigorous academic standards  
High performing students  
Innovative faculty

## Planning Assumptions

The national trend is for the liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences to lose students. This pattern exists at SFA as well. The strategic plan for the College is built on three principles that seek to address the trend:

- ✧ The liberal arts will remain relevant to the future because its disciplines deliver the knowledge and skills that equip students to compete successfully in a marketplace dominated by career mobility.
- ✧ The College must convey the practical value of the knowledge and skills developed in our students.
- ✧ The College should distinguish itself through branding and convey this image consistently to all stakeholders.

# The Strategic Plan: Goals

## Curricular Design



The curriculum should be built around the following priorities to ensure student success by:

- ◆ Making the skills needed for success embedded in a liberal arts degree a more visible and pervasive part of the curriculum. These include the following:
  - Critical thinking/creative problem solving/integrative thinking
  - Communication (oral and written)
  - Intercultural and global citizenship
  - Collaboration among students and faculty
  - Coordination with other institutions
- ◆ Emphasizing the enduring value of a broad-based, comprehensive education that cultivates the habits of the mind and blends specific knowledge with big questions.

## Faculty & Staff Development

The College should facilitate faculty and staff of distinction in teaching, service, and scholarship by.

- ◆ Cultivating pedagogies that facilitate achieving the College's curricular goals, including:
  - Fostering collaborative learning
  - Encouraging integrative (interdisciplinary) learning through senior capstones
  - Promoting professionalization of student development
  - Promoting experiential learning: study abroad, internships, community projects, social engagement
  - Emphasizing independent and self-directed learning
  - Promoting faculty scholarship
  - Encouraging professional and community service
- ◆ Improving and streamlining the system of advising and course selection

## Outreach & Development

The College should promote itself in a manner that encourages students, faculty, and alumni to invest their time, effort, and money in the growth of the College

# The Strategic Plan: Action Plans

*"The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust*

## Cutting-Edge Curriculum

The College should develop an identity that distinguishes its curriculum.

The College should create a set of interdisciplinary programs with higher admission and continuation standards.

Introductory courses in the College should focus on a "big question" theme that bridges disciplinary boundaries.

Students should complete a capstone seminar either within their academic major or in an interdisciplinary format.

## Rigorous Academic Standards

The College should expect its departments to meet one or more of the following goals within a five-year time frame:

- Critical thinking/creative problem solving/integrative thinking
- Communication (oral and written)
- Intercultural and global citizenship
- Collaboration among students and faculty
- Coordination with other institutions

An annual review of proposals should allocate resources competitively.

External validation of program performance should be diagnostically assessed in comparison to regional peers.

# The Strategic Plan: Action Plans

## High Performing Students



A summer residency program should be established for high performing high school juniors.

A one credit-hour incoming freshmen experience should be launched to build student identity with College programs.

Students should develop a digital portfolio for post-graduation purposes.

Advising and career counseling should be separated and emphasized.

An alumni mentoring program should be formalized.

Multiple forms of media should be used effectively to disseminate information about the College's excellence.

## Innovative Faculty & Staff

Regular workshops should be offered to enhance faculty and staff skills and knowledge.

A priority should be placed on securing grants to supplement faculty and staff resources.

A College-wide development council should be established to coordinate and enhance endowment opportunities.

The College should schedule alumni programs (e.g., summer seminars, travel abroad) to generate revenue and reconnect.

A teaching award for innovation should be created to promote cutting-edge pedagogy.

Regular College-wide forums should engage faculty and staff in informal discussions on topics of interest.

As Good As We Want To Be

The text "As Good As We Want To Be" is rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font. It is presented as a 3D object, with a dark blue shadow cast beneath it. The shadow is shaped like a wide, shallow V, with its point at the bottom center, suggesting the text is floating or standing on a surface. The background is a smooth, light gray gradient.