

## **PROVOST/ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

Academic Affairs has primary responsibility for providing positive learning environments for all students, built upon a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. The Division develops responsive programs in emerging fields while sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University.

Through the establishment of budgetary priorities and an aggressive annual staffing plan driven by strategic needs and with several components, including a minority faculty hiring initiative, the Division directly addresses and is committed to attracting and retaining excellent faculty and staff, as well as increasing the diversity and international profile. The Division utilizes faculty and staff expertise to provide engaged learning and professional development opportunities for students, while addressing social and economic problems through applied research and service to the state, region, nation and world. Academic Affairs is dedicated to providing educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens in a global society. We strive to be student- and learning-centered in all our activities.

Through close interaction between students and faculty we encourage the intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. We prepare a diverse student population for meaningful careers in a multicultural and globally-competitive environment while fostering in them a sense of civic responsibility, public service, and human understanding.

Overall, the Division contributes to the general advancement of knowledge, participates in transmitting the heritage of world cultures, provides services for the public good, engages in research and scholarship that contribute to economic development and enhanced quality of life of constituencies and community, and seeks to instill the values of lifelong learning.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University offers 107 undergraduate majors and 109 minors leading to one of seven baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options. Sixteen associate degree programs and twenty-five undergraduate certificates are offered. Graduate Studies offers 54 majors that lead to twelve different master's degrees, in addition to offering the Specialist in Education degree in five areas, Rank I and II programs, 26 graduate certificate programs, and three professional doctorates in Educational Leadership, Nursing (DNP), and Physical Therapy (DPT).

Academic units reporting to the Provost/Academic Affairs division include: Potter College of Arts and Letters; Gordon Ford College of Business; College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Ogden College of Science and Engineering; College of Health and Human Services; University College; the Honors College; University Libraries; and the Graduate School. Other reports to the division include the Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro; the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach; Academic Policies and Personnel; Academic Budgets and Administration; Planning and Program Development; Academic Enrichment and Effectiveness; Campus Scheduling; Academic Relations/Special Events; Student Publications; the Office of International Programs; and Institutional Research. In addition, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, and the Forensics program also report to the Academic Affairs division.

### **GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

The Provost/Academic Affairs division, working in concert with other units of the University, is responsible for advancing the primary educational mission of the institution. Academic Affairs is committed to performing its responsibilities optimally to advance the goals of the University's Strategic Plan, as well as other initiatives and strategic objectives consistent with that plan, including those promulgated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The Division is committed to the University vision of becoming "A Leading American University with International Reach."

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES:**

Advancing academic quality and supporting the work of faculty and staff are the cornerstones of the Academic Affairs division’s strategic agenda. In addition, the Division is responsive to other institutional imperatives, such as CPE mandates or directives, which are reflective of our purpose as a public institution. The following list summarizes Academic Affairs’ divisional priorities relative to institutional strategic priorities:

- Ensure a strong, contemporary, liberal foundation in student learning through support for, and comprehensive assessment of, general education and the core curriculum (Objective 1.1);
- Support learning and teaching redesign to facilitate broad access to education and develop students’ digital learning and thinking skills (Objective 1.1);
- Support continued enhancement of library services through judicious allocation of resources and maintaining an inflationary index for library budgeting (Objective 1.1);
- Recruit and retain outstanding faculty through enhanced compensation, growth of tenure-eligible faculty lines, and a competitive portfolio of professional development opportunities available to faculty (Objective 1.2);
- Support programs and partnerships that allow domestic students to study abroad and otherwise expand their global perspective (Objective 1.3);
- Expand research and scholarly contributions of faculty, staff and students through increased opportunities for and recognition of scholarly engagement and productivity (Objective 1.4);
- Establish WKU as a university of choice for outstanding students through continued growth and maturation of the Honors College and Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky (Objective 1.4);
- Ensure continued relevancy of available degrees and credentials through development or expansion of academic programs in key growth areas (Objective 1.5);
- Grow and expand graduate education through increased support for existing programs and development of new programs in key areas (Objective 1.5);
- Promote the continued internationalization of the University community through partnerships and programs that bring new students to WKU (Objective 2.1);
- In cooperation with the Chief Diversity Officer, increase the recruitment, hiring and retention of minority faculty and staff (Objective 2.1);
- Advance institutional and statewide priorities related to educational access through partnerships that address college readiness, degree completion, and transferability (Objective 2.3);
- Address integration of regional campus and community college students within the University community (Objective 2.1);
- Expand access to enhanced modes of learning, including asynchronous and blended methods (Objective 2.2); and
- Further WKU’s role as a national leader in civic and community engagement through continued development of community-based teaching, research and service opportunities (Objective 3.2).

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

	<b>2013-14 Revised Budget*</b>		<b>2014-15 Proposed Budget</b>	
	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Unrestricted Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Unrestricted Budget</u></b>
<u>Educational and General</u>				
Personnel/Fringe Benefits	1,231.4	113,167,839	1,219.2	114,078,916
Operating Expenses		39,875,341		37,030,553
Less: Interdepartmental Charges		130,571		125,571
Student Aid		4,767,983		4,771,983
Capital Outlay		834,230		837,730
Total Expenditures		158,514,822		156,593,611

\*For comparison purposes, the 2013-14 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization.