

PROVOST / ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MISSION STATEMENT:

The WKU Division of Academic Affairs is committed to student and faculty success by providing leadership and support in the design, delivery, and assessment of quality academic programs; promoting excellence in all aspects of the university's academic, research, and creative endeavors; and fostering an environment of scholarship and lifelong learning throughout the University and the community.

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 academic programs in emerging fields while sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University. It facilitates the research and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students, and the translation of this activity into improved economic vitality and quality of life in the region, leading the university toward its vision of becoming "A Leading American University with International Reach."

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 of the campus. 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, the region, the nation and the world. The Division of Academic Affairs strives to be student- and learning-centered in all our activities; it is dedicated to providing educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens in a global society.

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. Encouraging students and faculty to jointly participate in the process of research and creative enquiry enhances and underpins all aspects of the educational mission of WKU. This includes providing grant opportunities to support a comprehensive research agenda, fostering the garnering of extramural funding from pertinent federal, state and local sources, supporting the Division of Development and Alumni Relations in obtaining private research funds, and promoting the innovation of our faculty, staff and students.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

The University offers 100 undergraduate majors and 111 minors leading to one of seven types of baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options within these degree programs. Thirteen associate degree programs and thirty-one undergraduate certificates are also offered. The Graduate School offers 55 majors that lead to thirteen different master's degrees, in addition to offering the Specialist in Education degree in five areas, Rank I and II teacher certification programs, 29 graduate certificate programs, and four professional doctorates in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Nursing (DNP), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Psychology (Psy.D.).

Academic units reporting to the Provost/Academic Affairs division include the academic colleges (College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, Gordon Ford College of Business, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, Potter College of Arts and Letters, and University College); the Honors College, University Libraries, and the Graduate School. Other reports to the division include Research and Creative Activity; 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; the Office of International Programs; the Registrar's Office, and Institutional Research. In addition, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education

Complex, Student Publications, the Kentucky Museum, and the Forensics program report to the Academic Affairs division.

GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

The Academic Affairs division, working in concert with other units of the University, is responsible for advancing the primary educational and research missions 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, promoting research and creative activity, 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);
- Increase the number of research faculty, scientists, and other scholars working at WKU (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);
- 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);
- Increase the number, quality, and success rate of external funding proposals submitted by WKU faculty and staff (Objective 4.2);
- Grow the number and amount of externally-funded research grants awarded to WKU (Objective 4.2);

- Expand and support involvement of faculty and students in translational research, including business startups by faculty, staff, and students (Objective 4.2); and
- Advance the local, national, and international impact of WKU's research and scholarly endeavors (Objective 4.2).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

	2014-15 Revised Budget*		2015-16 Proposed Budget	
	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Unrestricted Budget</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Unrestricted Budget</u>
<u>Educational and General</u>				
Personnel/Fringe Benefits	1,248.3	117,306,834	1,267.5	118,317,048
Operating Expenses		39,365,647		34,262,726
Less: Interdepartmental Charges		125,571		136,271
Student Aid		4,876,810		5,241,833
Capital Outlay		1,031,156		2,145,174
Total Expenditures		162,454,876		159,830,510
<u>Educational and General</u>				
	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Restricted Budget</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Restricted Budget</u>
Operating Expenses		17,700,000		18,325,000
Student Aid		400,000		400,000
Total Expenditures		18,100,000		18,725,000

*For comparison purposes, the 2014-15 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization.