

## Provost & Academic Support Units

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Office of the Provost promotes and supports the students, faculty, and staff within the Division of Academic Affairs and works collaboratively with all WKU divisions to ensure student success.

### VISION:

The Office of the Provost will provide the transparent leadership, guidance, and support to ensure the Division of Academic Affairs meets the needs of Our Students, Our Hill, and Our 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. The Division facilitates the research and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students, and the translation of this activity into enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in the region while advancing WKU's commitment to being a student-centered applied research University.

Through the establishment of budgetary priorities and an aggressive annual staffing plan driven by strategic needs and with several components, 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 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, Academic Affairs encourages the intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. It prepares a diverse student population

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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 participate together in the process of research and creative activity 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, and promoting the innovative work of faculty, staff and students.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University offers 100 undergraduate majors and 76 minors leading to baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options within these degree programs. Six (6) associate degree programs and 27 certificates are also offered. The Graduate School offers majors that lead to 13 different master's degrees, the Specialist in Education degree, Rank I and II Teacher Certification programs, 36 graduate certificate programs, and four professional doctorates in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Nursing (DNP), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Psychology (Psy.D.).

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, and Potter College of Arts and Letters), University Libraries, the Mahurin Honors College, and the Graduate School. Other reports to the Division include the Office of Research and Creative Activity; the Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro; the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach; Global Learning & International Affairs; 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, and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning report to the Academic Affairs Division.

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#### **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 advancing institutional strategic goals and objectives, as well as other initiatives and strategic priorities consistent with that plan, including those promulgated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES:**

Advancing academic quality, building student success, promoting research and creative activity, and supporting the work of faculty and staff are the cornerstones of the Academic Affairs strategic agenda. In addition, the Division is responsive to other institutional imperatives, such as CPE mandates and directives, which are reflective of WKU's purpose as a public institution. The following list summarizes Academic Affairs' divisional priorities relative to institutional strategic priorities:

- Establish regional, national, and international conduits for attracting undergraduate and graduate students;
- Work with the associate provost for global learning and with faculty and staff to continue to expand off-campus and on-campus educational opportunities;
- Through the Colonnade Program, a student's degree program, and the Personal and Professional Development Plan, provide common intellectual experiences and high-impact practices to develop hard and soft skills as well as to cultivate good, productive citizens;
- Support and enhance the Colonnade Program, working to tailor enrollments to students' Personal and Professional Development Plans;
- Review current teaching methodologies, integrate appropriate best practices, support the requisite physical structures and technologies, provide ongoing training for faculty in pedagogy, and include evaluation of instruction in tenure and promotion reviews;
- Facilitate high impact practices, immersive learning in different cultures, process-learning practices, and collaborative learning and instructional opportunities;
- Schedule course offerings to maximize student progression and completion;
- Create a portfolio of academic offerings that align with student and employer demand while meeting the strategic plan established by the University.
- Bolster the stature and fiscal support of WKU's Graduate School, and strengthen its external reputation;

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- Include scholarly activities coupled with student mentorship in hiring, annual review, the tenure and promotion process, merit pay allocations, and faculty workload decisions; and
- Increase fiscal resources, expand physical space, and enhance virtual support for student and faculty scholarly activities.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

		<b>2019-20 Unrestricted Budget</b>		<b>2020-21 Proposed Budget</b>
<i>Education &amp; General</i>	<i>Pos.</i>		<i>Pos.</i>	
Personnel/Fringe Benefits	1135.6	119,577,185	1069.1	110,322,032
Operating Expense		20,722,068		15,001,771
Student Aid		9,299,512		9,290,241
Capital Outlay		1,045,702		471,440
Total		150,644,467		135,085,484

		<b>2019-20 Restricted Budget</b>		<b>2020-21 Proposed Budget</b>
<i>Education &amp; General</i>	<i>Pos.</i>		<i>Pos.</i>	
Operating Expenses		17,670,000		15,000,000
Total		17,670,000		15,000,000