

2019 - 2022

ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
HARRINGTON SCHOOL
OF COMMUNICATION
AND MEDIA

harrington.uri.edu

VISION

To become one of America's leading schools of communication and media with a global impact.

MISSION

The Harrington School is a dynamic community of outstanding teachers, world-renowned scholars, and passionate learners committed to scholarly, practical, and professional approaches to the study and practice of communication and media in all its historical, contemporary, and future manifestations. Our faculty and students are principled professionals skilled in critically evaluating and strategically producing information, messages, and media by employing and enhancing communication theories, multimedia platforms, and traditional and cutting-edge technology. In our rapidly evolving and increasingly globalized communication ecosystem, our graduates are equipped with the fundamental skills and abilities needed to adapt to an ever-changing communication and media landscape and possess an intellectual commitment to lifelong learning and service to the world through their communication skills and creative abilities.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

1. Cultivating an intellectual community of individuals who are curious, creative and inspired toward lifelong learning of communication and media.
2. Providing robust and engaging learning opportunities for students with an emphasis on experiential learning and real-world, professional experience.
3. Producing innovative and interdisciplinary research and creative scholarship and disseminating it through published papers and books, videos and films, and other forms of high-impact scholarly output.
4. Developing productive and reciprocal relationships with internal and external constituents and partners in local, national, and global contexts.
5. Promoting inclusivity, diversity, collegiality, and respect for all members of our community, and ensuring accountability and fairness at all levels.
6. Discussing and assessing the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff.

GOAL 1

Recruit, support, retain, and graduate a diverse pool of ambitious students who complete flexible and interdisciplinary programs of study that position them toward personal and professional success and lifelong learning.

Strategies

- Create outreach opportunities and “feeder programs” for high schools that encourage enrollment (and dual enrollment) in the Harrington School.
 - Aid the recruitment, retention, and success of students from underrepresented groups.
 - Expand the Harrington School’s Shadow Program and other recruitment initiatives in partnership with Admissions and in collaboration with high schools around the country and world.
 - Establish a full-time, walk-in advising center to further assist students with academic and career planning.
 - Generate opportunities for students to participate in blended, online, and non-traditional courses and programs of study that serve diverse learning needs, varying lifestyles, and the evolving nature of higher education in the 21st century.
 - Create and promote interdisciplinary degrees, pre- and post-baccalaureate certificates, badges and other credentials that will distinguish a Harrington School graduate from those from other schools.
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GOAL 2

Accelerate and extend faculty and student engagement and collaboration in innovative, high-impact, and multidisciplinary teaching and research.

Strategies

- Create a forum for faculty to share research and teaching materials (e.g., syllabi, experiential-learning activities, papers, scholarly works, and creative activity).
 - Create interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs that draw on the research, curriculum, knowledge, perspectives, and skills of all Harrington School disciplines.
 - Support, develop, and value interdisciplinary team-taught classes and collaborative research and creative projects involving two or more faculty members and/or students from traditionally distinct disciplines.
 - Develop an annual faculty-led symposium on contemporary and pressing topics, questions, and issues in communication and media.
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GOAL 3

Ensure all students participate in a range of experiential learning opportunities that prepare them to engage professionally and productively in a variety of communication and media contexts.

Strategies

- Increase access to competitive and high-profile internships that offer students opportunities to apply and develop their communication and media skills in a range of professional settings.
 - Offer workshops, studios, practica, and field work that develop and enhance digital media production skills and other competencies that are in need by and applicable to a wide variety of industries and careers.
 - Increase experiential courses that connect faculty and students with partners in the community, Rhode Island, New England, the country, and around the world.
 - Provide students opportunities and support to present and showcase their research and creative work through poster presentations, e-portfolios, multimedia contests, film festivals, professional conferences, academic journals, and books.
 - Grow the Harrington School Mentoring Program and encourage more students, alumni, and friends of the Harrington School to participate.
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GOAL 4

Enhance relationships with our national and international communities.

Strategies

- Identify and communicate with local, national, and global stakeholders to increase the visibility and impact of our research, scholarship, creative work, teaching, and accomplishments.
 - Cultivate relationships with alumni and other professionals who have the potential to provide mentoring opportunities, guest lectures, internships, jobs, financial support, and wisdom from their professional and personal experiences.
 - Draw on the expertise of the Advisory Board, alumni, and members of our extended professional communities to gather feedback and insights on workforce developments and what students need to know, do, and stand for in order to excel in their lives and careers.
 - Plan events on campus and throughout the state that generate relationships and collaborative problem-solving activities among HSCM faculty, students, and community and business partners.
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