



VCU College of Humanities and Sciences

Pathways for Transformation:

A Six-Year Strategic Plan for the College of Humanities and Sciences

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IX. Concluding Remarks: VCU's strategic plan *Quest for Distinction* is an aspirational plan for VCU to take the place as a premier, urban, public, research university. The *Pathways for Transformation* plan for the College of Humanities and Sciences presented here is targeted at building a liberal arts and sciences unit within VCU - a unit with the largest educational responsibility at VCU- capable of being the core of great university. But, *Pathways for Transformation* is ultimately about helping to build a great VCU, not simply about building H&S. Historically, the Humanities and Sciences disciplines have been under-resourced at VCU with a student:faculty ratio much higher than peers. So, some aspects of the plan involve VCU increasing resources to match the educational demands of H&S and the research expectations of the unit - simply some deficiencies must be corrected if *Quest's* aspirations are to be reached. But, the plan also involves taking action to improve teaching and research and to leverage existing resources. H&S will build on the strength in other VCU units such as the arts, health sciences, education, business and engineering to reach our goals. And, by building strength in the liberal arts and sciences, these other units will be better able to meet their full potential because of being able to leverage a strong foundational core. *Pathways for Transformation* articulates several tactics that when implemented over the next six years will enable H&S make significant progress towards an aspiration of being the liberal arts and sciences core of a premier, public, urban research university. The plan also commits H&S to being data driven in determining strengths, deficiencies and in measuring progress. We collectively feel that by implementing this plan, by using a data driven approach, and by adjusting its tactics over the next six years as appropriate, that H&S can begin to realize its vision as a distinctive liberal arts and sciences unit, with a deep commitment to student success, and with a portfolio of research, scholarship, discovery and creation among the best of urban, public, research universities.