

Academic plan project outline

PPBAC submission for October 6, 2021

Purpose

The primary purpose of Brock's new academic plan will be to outline the University's institutional priorities with respect to its academic operations. In doing so, the plan expands on the priorities in the first pillar of the Institutional Strategic Plan to "offer a transformational and accessible University experience." The plan will cover the period of 2022-2027, taking effect in September 2022 and spanning beyond the current Institutional Strategic Plan, thereby providing a foundation for the next institutional strategic planning exercise.

Some examples

Academic planning exercises are common at Canadian post-secondary institutions, with some examples listed below:

- [Lakehead University Academic Plan, 2019-2024](#)
- [OCAD University Academic Plan, 2017-2022](#)
- [Ryerson University Academic Plan, 2020-2025](#)
- [University of Calgary Academic Plan, 2018-2023](#)
- [York University Academic Plan, 2020-2025](#)

Documents can vary significantly in length, from 10-50 pages.

Based on these examples, academic plans might typically include the following elements or address the following topics:

- Academic vision or foundational academic commitments – 'What do we want to be?'
- Perspective on or commitment to student academic experience – 'What do we want to provide our students at Brock?'
- Commitment to student values or skills – 'What do we want students to learn at Brock or become as a result of their time here?'
- Strategies, tactics, and plans for fulfilling the commitments above – 'What will we do to get to where we want to be?'

This last section is usually the longest, touching on specific priority areas such as:

- Student experience and supports
- Indigenous learning and decolonization
- Interdisciplinarity
- Academic programming priorities
- Access and removing barriers to education
- Lifelong learning
- Innovation

Proposed role of PPBAC

Academic planning projects are typically led by the Provost or their delegate and are highly consultative by nature, including the perspectives of students, staff, faculty members and librarians.

In Brock's case, the project would be managed by Associate Professor Madelyn Law, Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning, and Nicholas Dion, Chief of Staff, working in close collaboration with the Provost.

The Committee for the Coordination of the University's Strategic Plan (CCUSP), which includes representation from a number of administrative departments, will provide regular input on project management direction, including informing content for the plan.

PPBAC would play an oversight role, receiving regular progress updates and providing input. It would also review drafts of the plan for comment.

The Provost would also provide project updates to Senate in her regular report.