



Faculty of Arts

Vision and Directions Towards 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

In keeping with the liberal-arts tradition, we encourage our students to value intellectual curiosity, studious reflection, and open-minded debate. Our principal goal as teachers is to develop well-rounded individuals who can communicate effectively and reason in independent, well-informed and discerning manners on a wide range of issues – skills that will be valued in their communities and polities and in whatever callings they pursue.

As academics and researchers we value the critical pursuit of knowledge as we strive to develop the highest quality research and scholarly programs dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, creativity and the betterment of our society. We foster interdisciplinary collaboration, where appropriate, and we disseminate new knowledge and other scholarly output through formal scholarly channels, our teaching and community outreach.

EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

- The members of the Faculty of Arts believe in a university whose purpose is the preservation, transmission, interpretation and enhancement of the cultural heritage of humanity, and the acquisition and expansion of new knowledge and understanding.
- They seek to fulfill this purpose by interpreting the past, examining and clarifying contemporary thinking and anticipating the possibilities of the future. Their efforts should be sustained by sensitivity to change, and enthusiasm for investigation and creativity.
- The Faculty derives its strength from a unity of purpose combined with a diversity of outlook which requires it to examine every facet of life and uphold the higher human values implicit in the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences.
- The Faculty will serve the needs of society but, in so doing, it will also be society's critic, encouraging independent thinking, free discussion, and the pursuit of truth.
- The Faculty is jealous of its freedom, which it will exercise without fear or favour, promoting in its members and students the spirit of courageous enquiry.
- The Faculty recognizes that the constitution and function of the University itself should be open to re-examination by the academic community as a whole. The Faculty maintains that to serve society best, the University must be self-determining in academic matters.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The University of Regina is situated on Treaty 4 lands with a presence in Treaty 6. These are the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšînāpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. Today, these lands continue to be the shared Territory of many diverse peoples from near and far.

In the Faculty of Arts, we are very much aware of what it means to be treaty people. To put it simply, it means being responsible for the relations we have with each other, within and across communities and with the land, in the spirit of kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak, “all our relations.”

The Faculty of Arts stewards its relationships across thirteen departments, some twenty undergraduate programs, a range of graduate programs, and fourteen research centres, institutes, and labs. It is one of the University of Regina’s largest faculties in terms of student enrollment, and the largest in terms of credit hours and number of tenure-stream faculty, and it is far and away the most disciplinarily diverse.

Our students, instructors and researchers engage in scholarship across the humanities and social sciences, as well as in innovative applied and interdisciplinary areas. We pursue both broad curiosity-driven research and cutting edge work on matters of urgent global concern. Moreover, the Faculty of Arts is the home of the Community Engagement and Research Centre, which supports Community-Based Research and Community Service Learning for the entire University and the broader community. We also sponsor multiple speaker series and events throughout the year to foster community and engage the public in the important work that Arts scholars do.

In a recent survey, Canadian chief executives listed as the most desirable attributes of new employees collaboration, communication, problem-solving, analytic capacity and resilience – exactly the kind of skills our students acquire and hone during the pursuit of an Arts degree. Those skills serve Arts alumni well in whatever path they choose to pursue next, and make them flexible and adaptable in an ever-changing work environment. (If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that our working lives can turn on a dime!) More generally, an Arts education prepares students to be critical, well-rounded thinkers and global citizens.

Our conviction in the ongoing value of the Arts is matched by our deep commitment to accessible education. We work to provide multiple, flexible, supportive pathways for students from a range of backgrounds. I myself came to university as a first-generation mature student and can attest that an Arts education opens a world of possibilities. In short, whatever your background or starting point, whatever your own relationship with the Faculty – whether you are a student, a future student, an employee, a community member or an alum – the Faculty of Arts is proud and grateful to number you among our relations.

ARTS’ VISION FOR 2025

Throughout 2020-2021, Arts members engaged in a series of round tables, organized around the five theme areas of the University of Regina kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak strategic plan, namely: **1. Discovery:** Discovery includes the development and dissemination of new knowledge, as well as the personal insights that arise from active learning; **2. Truth and Reconciliation:** We are committed to reconciliation through our teaching, research, learning, and service efforts across our campuses, and throughout the province; **3. Well-being and Belonging:** We recognize the importance of well-being and belonging to the success of our students, faculty, staff, and community. The University of Regina is committed to creating space where everyone feels part of the community; **4. Environment and Climate Action:** All decisions regarding our activities should be cognizant of the impact on future generations; **5. Impact and Identity:** The University of Regina provides positive social, environmental, economic, and health impacts through our reciprocal relationships with our communities.

Based on those discussions and on supplementary written comments we received, faculty, staff and students who had been especially active in the roundtables worked together to identify ten goals for Arts, two for each strategic plan theme area. Those draft goals were discussed at a sixth and final Arts roundtable. The final version of the document was endorsed by Faculty of Arts Council in January, 2022.

Arts' vision of *Discovery*: EXPERIENTIAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

- **Goal 1.** We will provide every student (undergrad and grad) the opportunity to participate in at least 3 credit hours of experiential learning, broadly defined.
- **Goal 2.** We will develop theme-based interdisciplinary graduate program(s), e.g., Climate and Environmental Justice.

Arts' vision of *Truth and Reconciliation*: TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND TRANSFORMATION

- **Goal 3.** We will facilitate learning and transformational change about Truth and Reconciliation.
- **Goal 4.** We will recruit and retain Indigenous staff and students.

Arts' vision of *Well-being and Belonging*: INCLUSIVE, COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES

- **Goal 5.** We will create supports and spaces for collaboration between: faculty and staff; students, faculty and staff; sessional lecturers and departments.
- **Goal 6.** We will work to create and steward an inclusive, healthy, functional community by incorporating the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion throughout teaching, research, and administration.

Arts' vision of *Environment and Climate Action*: CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Goal 7.** We will develop an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate and M.A. program in Climate and Environmental Justice.
- **Goal 8.** We will establish a living lab and research hub in Climate and Environmental Justice.

Arts' vision of *Impact and Identity*: WHOLEHEARTEDLY COMPREHENSIVE

- **Goal 9.** We will increase financial access in Arts with a focus on Indigenous, low-income, and rural students.
- **Goal 10:** We will design opportunities that allow students to move from certificates to undergraduate degrees to Master's to PhDs.

ARTS' VISION AT A GLANCE. _____

Arts' goals for 2025 are interconnected and mutually supporting. This diagram maps some of the overlap and connections between our 2025 goals.

The connectedness and interdependence of Arts goals for 2025 are a fitting reminder of the animating principle behind the University of Regina's strategic plan: *all our relations*.

