

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020

Our Core, our mission, our core,

Our Mission

The University of Scranton is a Catholic and Jesuit university animated by the spiritual vision and the tradition of excellence characteristic of the Society of Jesus and those who share its way of proceeding. The University is a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share its life.

Our Vision

The University of Scranton will be boldly driven by a shared commitment to excellence. We will provide a superior, transformational learning experience, preparing students who, in the words of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius Loyola, will “set the world on fire.”

Deeply committed to our mission as a Catholic and Jesuit institution, The University of Scranton, in the spirit of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, answers the

“What sets apart a Scranton doctor, nurse, accountant, teacher, scientist or executive is a deep appreciation for and understanding of the human condition. Humanities and the liberal arts offer opportunities to gain

Ensure that the Scranton student experience is transformational, integrated and grounded in the humanities as a pathway to understanding the human experience in its many dimensions.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Reaffirm and reinvest in our liberal arts core through a reinvigorated general education curriculum, new signature academic programming, and expanded interdisciplinary offerings.
- Define and integrate principles of the humanities, including those that emphasize ethical, cultural, and global awareness, across all academic disciplines — arts, sciences, and professional — and within programs that welcome and support students throughout University life.

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Engage students as individuals through personal attention that helps them explore their **faith**, discern their **purpose** and pursue their **passion**, as they work to create a more just and sustainable world.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Support student success by strengthening onboarding and first-year experiences, advising and early alert processes; expanded and integrated academic and career development services; and programs that promote student well-being, self-efficacy, and resilience.
- Ensure that all students have opportunities to apply curricular and co-curricular learning in practical, collaborative settings through a broadened, well-supported, and marketed portfolio of residential learning, experiential learning, and other High Impact Practices.
- Enable student resilience.





Advancing the University t

Advance the University into the future by challenging ourselves to educate and support an ever-changing, diverse landscape of students in ways that are **a ffordable, relevant and innovative.**

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Build a University-wide academic master plan to guide innovations, cohesion, and flexibility in the delivery and development of existing and new educational programming; learning spaces, modalities, and technologies; student formation and success initiatives; and faculty development.
- Implement a holistic process for strategic enrollment management that is mission, student, and market sensitive, and serves as a catalyst for improved student recruitment, retention, and success.
- Improve our understanding and support of the unique needs and educational pathways of graduate, transfer, and non-traditional students, and students enrolling in remote learning activities, improving access and completion through tailored services and expanded opportunities to experience the mission and life of the University.
- Pursue initiatives to make a Scranton education more accessible and a ffordable for students and their families, sharing the value and impact of the University's transformational education.
- Expand and solidify the financial capacity and sustainability of the University, supporting our mission through disciplined approaches to resource management and stewardship that rely on collaborative, data-informed decision making in the review and allocation of resources and the management of our infrastructure.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion — A Welcoming & Supportive Community

Reflect and understand the diversity of the world by demanding that diversity be a priority as we build an inclusive community and campus culture, develop and deliver our education and shape our student experience.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Implement an institutional plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion, drawing from a comprehensive review of University departments, organizations, spaces, and processes that provide and support inclusion and diversity-related education and programming, ensuring that these collaborative efforts are appropriately aligned, effectively resourced, and regularly assessed.
- Grow our capacity to model and support diversity through strategic recruitment, hiring, and retention practices that increase representation and improve retention of diverse populations across the spectrum of the University community, with special emphasis on hiring for diversity amongst our faculty and staff.
- Develop culturally relevant and responsive curricula and learning experiences throughout academic and student life that build intercultural competencies and promote social and educational equity, expanding resources to support faculty in inclusive scholarship and teaching practices.
- Expand both required and in-time orientation, training and leadership programming and resources for students, faculty, and staff that promote equity, inclusion, and cultural understanding, furthering our collective ability to be a more welcoming and respectful campus community.
- Broaden employee and student experiences with the diversity of our city, region, and world through experiential and service engagements that cultivate and celebrate impactful dialogue and intercultural exchange.

“Send in our midst the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of all to the great truth that all men are equal in Your sight. Let us understand that simple justice demands that the rights of all be honored by every man.”

— Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle. A native of Scranton and member of the Class of 1916.



“We are committed to the University remaining an engine of opportunity, a voice for social justice and a hub of cultural, intellectual and spiritual life.”

— Fr. Pilarz, Inauguration 2018
27th President of The University of Scranton

Growing Partnerships in Our Mission

Invite and inspire our alumni, parents, friends and community to be **partners** in the mission of the University.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Advance the mission and capacity of the University through the successful completion of a new capital campaign that emphasizes financial support for students and their families, investments in faculty and student research, and other academic initiatives.
- Cultivate avenues for our students to grow in knowledge while engaging as citizens through community-based learning and research, internships, and other direct experiences.
- Connect students with University alumni, broadening alumni participation in academic life, drawing on their breadth and depth of talent and experience, and their special role as ambassadors of Jesuit education.
- Build partnerships with K-12 and higher education institutions, employers, and corporate entities to expand opportunities for members of the local and regional community to take part in the life of the University of Scranton, and pursue their own professional and personal educational goals.
- Collaborate with local and regional leadership to identify, prioritize, and address the challenging educational, social, and spiritual issues facing our community, in pursuit of our shared goal of improving the lives of the citizens of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

“It is for you to put your shoulder to the wheel and to see this institution of learning rising up, and it is the great desire of our heart to see your children gather therein to learn first the faith and then to learn those other branches necessary for their welfare in the world.”

— Bishop William G. O'Hara, D.D. August 12, 1888

