

English Department Five-Year Vision 2005-2010

The English Department is a diverse group of life-long learners with concentrated expertise in composition, technical writing, rhetoric, English language acquisition, creative writing, and literature. We value intellectual curiosity, open discussion, collaborative decision making, and involvement with peers. We challenge and encourage students, helping them take responsibility for their learning.

Shared Vision

A high level of fluency in English is central to learning effectively, communicating successfully, and thinking critically. Therefore, the English Department facilitates the understanding and acquisition of multiple literacies through learning, teaching, research, and community involvement.

Major Initiatives

To best support our students and ourselves, we undertake these initiatives:

Employ emerging research, technologies, delivery methods, and modes to design a variety of excellent learning opportunities for writing and literature students.

Bridge English Language Acquisition (ELA) and Elements of Writing or Composition I for effective support for second language students

- Articulate curriculum
- Train Writing Center staff to have effective writing conferences with Level 4 and 5 ELA students, as well as non-native speakers in general

Support fellow faculty members engaged in professional development activities:

- Promote endowed teaching chair and professional development proposals
- Encourage conference presentations
- Provide international activities from study abroad and Fulbright to faculty exchanges
- Participate in faculty forums
- Develop informal workshops for brainstorming and editing proposals and creative work

Set learning environments in state-of-the-art classrooms, well suited for small group and computer activities and well lit with windows and skylights.

Work with local area high schools to create a bridge from high school to college. The primary goal will be to encourage students to take advantage of the high school resources, including the completion of four years of language arts.

- Share information and strategies with area high schools
- Promote the use of high school language arts classes as preparation for excellence in college and in the workplace

Capacity

In order to fulfill the stated vision, the English Department will need to increase capacity in the following areas:

Personnel:

- Add full-time faculty with expertise in pedagogy, technology, ELA, and learning theories
- Add support staff with technological expertise who provide technical support and training
- Increase professional development for adjunct faculty, full-time faculty, and staff
- Remunerate and support early adopters of technology and those who train fellow faculty members

Infrastructure:

- Secure adequate space to house together the department and faculty offices, classrooms and writing center.
- Provide reliable technology
- Add wireless capacity
- Add classrooms with access to laptops for students
- Provide classrooms designed for collaborative work groups
- Provide classrooms with flexible seating, computer access, and state-of-the-art instructor's stations as well as the capability to easily connect to tablet computers and jump drives and other cutting edge options
- Add work space for student/faculty conferences
- Add dedicated computer classrooms
- Add space for literary readings

Resources:

- Increase instructional and operational funding, particularly for involving adjunct faculty in training in technology
- Increase travel budget
- Increase funding from grants and individuals.

Ownership and Support

English Department collaborated to develop this vision and are committed to excellence in our work with students and colleagues.

Dashboard Indicators

- Data from department retreat assessment activities
- Number of English faculty members engaged in professional development projects
- Evidence of grants and donations
- Numbers of Area X students ready for Composition I