



GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

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UW-Superior: Liberal Arts Emphasis

UW-Superior is requesting funding to implement an initiative to further its mission as Wisconsin's public liberal arts college.

What is the Liberal Arts Emphasis?

In 2003, as part of its regular accreditation process, UW-Superior asked the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities (NCA) to examine the extent to which UW-Superior had fully "operationalized" its stated mission as a public liberal arts college. The NCA site team specifically recommended that UW-Superior implement "generally accepted features" of a liberal arts-based educational experience and that core features consistent with that experience be integrated across the curriculum. In response, the campus has developed a detailed initiative that would provide undergraduates with a distinctive set of experiences that will better integrate them into the campus and its public liberal arts mission.

What are the benefits of the Liberal Arts Emphasis?

The components of this initiative fall into six broad categories:

- 1) Academic Service Learning, which entails community-based service opportunities that are embedded within credit-bearing courses and relate to course objectives.
- 2) First Year Experience/Freshmen First, a package of initiatives designed to integrate students into the campus community and its public liberal arts mission.
- 3) Global Awareness, which will make global studies, a significant strength at UW-Superior, a centerpiece of its student experience while also enhancing the language instruction, international programs, and global economic development areas of study.
- 4) Senior Experience. All undergraduate majors will have in place a required "Senior Experience" activity, which will ask each student to engage in a significant piece of scholarly or creative work. The public presentation of Senior Experience work will become a focal point for campus activity in the Spring semester with an emphasis on involving lower-division students.
- 5) Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), which will stress direct service to students through an expanded writing center.
- 6) Increased institutional support in the areas of admissions, advising, and institutional research.

What would the Liberal Arts Emphasis mean for Wisconsin?

With additional liberal arts funding, UW-Superior would maintain its overall enrollment within the campus' traditional service area at a time of declining high school graduation rates, while also increasing the number of new freshmen and transfer students from outside UW-Superior's traditional service area by 16 students in 2008-09, and an additional 78 enrollments by 2013-14. In addition, UW-Superior would increase its second-year retention rate from 67.3% to 79.5% by retaining an additional 40 students per year.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$1.13 million (\$734,900 GPR / \$395,700 Fees)

For more information: Contact Chancellor Julius Erlenbach, 715-394-8221