VISION

Illinois’ first choice for Family and Consumer Sciences.

MISSION

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences cultivates integrative study and applied research of the human environment and systems to enrich human lives and provide global leadership.

GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS

1. The FCS department provides outstanding and widely recognized undergraduate programs in Apparel Merchandising and Design; Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics; Human Development and Family Resources; Interior and Environmental Design; and Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education.

   Strategy 1A: Attract and retain students to the Department.

   Action 1Aa: Develop a social media plan to more effectively recruit new students to the department.

   Action 1Ab: Identify factors influencing retention rates and develop a plan to strengthen supporting factors and ameliorate impeding factors.

   Strategy 1B: Provide students with applied experiences and opportunities beyond the traditional classroom.

   Action 1Ba: Develop and expand global experiences for students through study abroad, civic engagement, research, and professional practice.

   Action 1Bb: Develop and expand community-based experiences and opportunities for students beyond the traditional classroom.

   Action 1Bc: Encourage students to participate in regional, national, and international competitions and events.

   Strategy 1C: Promote diversity among faculty, students, and constituents.

   Action 1Ca: Increase enrollment of underrepresented groups within the Department.

   Action 1Cb: Continue to attract and retain underrepresented faculty.

   Action 1Cc: Increase number of faculty lines to implement quality programs and enhance student learning.
Action 1Cd: Develop advisory boards that are appropriately diverse.

Strategy 1D: Continue participation in General Education.

Action 1Da: Provide General Education opportunities that have a wide appeal and support the Shared Learning Outcomes.

Strategy 1E: Expand work with the Career Center to aid students in job placement.

Strategy 1F: Provide premier comprehensive undergraduate programs through national recognition and accreditation.

Action 1Fa: Encourage faculty to maintain and secure all necessary credentials for accreditation.

Action 1Fb: Engage in program revisions and additions to increase rigor and maintain accreditations.

Action 1Fc: Continue to meet the professional accreditation standards and increase financial support for maintaining accreditations.

2. The FCS department provides outstanding and widely recognized Master’s Degree programs.

Strategy 2A: Provide excellent graduate education programs that have a state, national, and international recognition through sequence specific programs.

Action 2Aa: Undertake strategic planning for expanding graduate education.

Action 2Ab: Attract dedicated new faculty members focused on graduate education.

Action 2Ac: Explore the possibility of developing additional sequence specific graduate courses.

3. The FCS Department will foster creative and scholarly activities by faculty that will elevate the reputation of individual faculty members and the department at the regional, national and international levels.

Strategy 3A: Strengthen available resources to allow faculty to engage in scholarly activities that make contributions to the FCS profession.

Action 3Aa: Provide support and encourage the creation, allocation, and use of re-assigned time for research by faculty.

Action 3Ab: Provide support and encourage sabbatical leaves for post-tenure faculty and mini-sabbaticals for tenure-track faculty.
Action 3Ac: Nurture partnerships with businesses and agencies that will provide resources and outlets for faculty and student work.

Action 3Ad: Work to gain and disseminate external funds to support scholarly activities of faculty and students.

Action 3Ae: Enhance funds for travel opportunities related to scholarly work.

Strategy 3B: Endorse and provide support for a wide range of creative and scholarly activities as appropriate for FCS faculty.

Action 3Ba: Advocate and support a variety of scholarship appropriately reflective of FCS: e.g. qualitative and quantitative, historical, theoretical, acquisition, design, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Action 3Bb: Identify opportunities, encourage and support interdisciplinary research within the department.

Action 3Bc: Encourage dissemination of information relating to teaching, research, and service that contribute to a stronger professional knowledge base through both peer-reviewed and professional literature.

Action 3Bd: Recognize faculty for participation in regional/international conferences/journals as officers, editors, etc.

Action 3Be: Recognize faculty for enhancing student participation in research.

Action 3Bf: Reward faculty who engage in the “scholarship of teaching and learning.”

Strategy 3C: Promote the attributes of dynamic scholarship - the belief that teaching, research, and service are not distinct activities, but are enhanced in quality when combined.

Action 3Ca: Encourage the sharing of dynamic scholarship experiences of faculty members so as to create a university culture that moves toward more integrative definitions of teaching, research, and service.

Action 3Cb: Involve students in research and service activities as part of the teaching/learning experience to promote the idea of dynamic scholarship.

Action 3Cc: Work with news services to convey information about the dynamic scholarship of faculty.
Strategy 3D: Create and provide professional development opportunities to keep faculty members on the cutting edge of their profession.

Action 3Da: Encourage faculty members to actively participate in professional development opportunities that are offered internally and/or externally such as mentoring programs, workshops, training sessions, and conferences.

Action 3Db: Encourage faculty to actively participate in regional, national, and international professional organizations.

Action 3Dc: Provide opportunities for faculty mentoring in the tenure and promotion process.

Strategy 3E: Through faculty mentorship, faculty members maintain state, national, and international reputation for quality research and scholarship.

Action 3Ea: Faculty participates in mentorship programs and grant writing programs.

Action 3Eb: Faculty develops relationships for external collaboration.

4. Involve and encourage students in experiences that will develop an understanding of, and skills necessary to work with, a diversity of individuals and families in contemporary society. Expand students’ knowledge and experience with global interdependence.

Strategy 4A: Foster student and faculty involvement in formal and informal interactions that cultivate the broad development of students.

Action 4Aa: Increase the number of study tour opportunities that allow for informal interaction between faculty and student while still broadening student learning.

Action 4Ab: Increase the number of students who participate in the Honor’s Program.

Action 4Ac: Increase the funds for Graduate Assistants.

Action 4Ad: Increase the number of students who are involved in faculty research.

Action 4Ae: Establish a departmental fund to support undergraduate student research.

Strategy 4B: Form partnerships with internationally-based organizations to increase diverse students’ global experiences.

Strategy 4C: Provide leadership and support for department-wide student mutual respect through cultural exploration and social interaction.

Strategy 4D: Increase the number of students that can work with faculty members who conduct internationally-related research studies and other activities.

Action 4Da: Partner students with faculty who conduct international-related activities.
5. Provide up-to-date technology, equipment, and facilities for each academic program within FCS.

   **Strategy 5A:** Promote student knowledge and proficiency with current technology utilized in their fields.

   **Action 5Aa:** Acquire and allocate funds to support software and equipment purchase and maintenance.

   **Strategy 5B:** Provide faculty development for the use of state-of-the-art technologies to support teaching and research activities.

   **Action 5Ba:** Increase available resources to provide faculty training related to software and equipment.

   **Action 5Bb:** Recognize faculty for competency and accomplishments related to use of software and equipment.

   **Strategy 5C:** Acquire and maintain appropriate technology, equipment and facilities for each academic program to support teaching and research activities.

   **Action 5Ca:** Seek funding to establish, maintain, and enhance the following:
   - Child Development Laboratory
   - Observation Space
   - Culinary Arts Laboratory and Equipment
   - Costume Collection Climate Control
   - Costume Collection Exhibit Space
   - Textile Laboratory and Equipment
   - Apparel Construction Laboratory and Equipment
   - IED Laboratory and Equipment
   - IED Studio Space
   - Computer Laboratory Capacities

   **Strategy 5D:** Provide online education offerings consistent with university mission and goals.

   **Action 5Da:** Provide faculty development for online education.

   **Action 5Db:** Expand summer session offerings.

6. The FCS Department will engage in outreach activities that benefit the academic community and beyond.

   **Strategy 6A:** Faculty provide outreach initiatives through service learning in private and public sectors.

   **Action 6Aa:** Faculty present and speak at civic and community events.
Action 6Ab: Faculty develop service learning/civic engagement curriculum for students.

Action 6Ac: Faculty develop continuing education for private sector professionals.

Strategy 6B: Provide the opportunity for students to be active in, and make contributions to, their local communities and to the world in ways that make significant positive impact on their neighborhoods and on the world at-large.

Strategy 6C: Increase collaborative efforts with other departments.

Action 6Ca: Support meetings (individual and group) with faculty from other CAST departments to identify and pursue interrelated opportunities.

Action 6Cb: Identify and participate in opportunities that encourage and support interdisciplinary research across the University.

Action 6Cc: Encourage faculty members to disseminate scholarly activities that highlight successful collaborative experiences.

7. FCS cultivates and maintains meaningful relationships with students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

Strategy 7A: Develop new and enhance existing relationship-building strategies with alumni and friends of the department.

Action 7Aa: Invite alumni to serve on advisory boards for each sequence.

Action 7Ab: Invite alumni to speak to classes and student organizations.

Action 7Ac: Bring to campus FCS Honored Alumni for Alumni Day each fall.

Action 7Ad: Encourage alumni participation in the CAST Homecoming tent, CAST events, and FCS Fall Kick Off.

Action 7Ae: Update the FCS Web-site to include an alumni newsletter.

Action 7Af: Conduct ISU reunion receptions at major sequence specific conferences and AAFCS.

Strategy 7B: Develop new and enhance existing relationship-building strategies for business, industry, and community partners.

Action 7Ba: Work with business, industry, and community partners to encourage donations of equipment and other resources as well as recapitalization plans.

Action 7Bb: Establish and enhance relationships with business, industry and community partners during professional practice experiences.
Action 7Bc: Invite leaders from business, industry, and community partners to serve on advisory boards for each sequence.

Strategy 7C: Increase the number and dollar amount of student scholarships and gifts to the FCS Faculty Development Fund.

Strategy 7D: Encourage faculty to develop and maintain meaningful relationships with students, alumni, and friends of the department.

   Action 7Da: Faculty mentor student organizations.
   
   Action 7Db: Faculty participate in student and family social events.
   
   Action 7Dc: Faculty participate in alumni development events.