



Transforming education, transforming lives.

2022 - 2028 Strategic Plan



Western
Education

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Land Acknowledgement

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Chonnonton Nations, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. This land is also connected to London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.



Our mission

The Faculty of Education will transform education and transform lives by leading and contributing to teaching excellence in research-intensive academic and professional programs, and through world-class research that produces measurable and high-quality social impact that benefits society. We are committed to enhancing equity and accessibility for all learners, and culturally and socially responsive knowledge brokering and mobilization.

Our vision

Transforming education, transforming lives.

Our values

We are guided by the values of excellence, integrity, equity, belonging, kindness, and social justice.



100%
growth
over the last decade



43K
alumni
globally

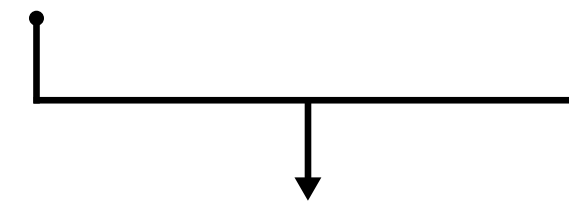


20%
top 20% of
education
faculties
worldwide

Education and Towards Western at 150.

The Faculty of Education has grown our student population over 100% in the last decade. With more than 43,000 alumni globally, our teaching and research impact places the Faculty of Education in the top 20% of faculties of education worldwide. This growth can be characterized by excellence in academic programming, simultaneously attending to the local and global societal needs, research excellence and impact, and a more inclusive society.

The Faculty of Education's 2022-28 *Transforming education, transforming lives* strategic plan extends our trajectory of excellence. It is bold, ambitious, and community focused. It is a plan that is focused on strategic growth, excellence, impact, and people. It has five pillars that are aligned to the three pillars of *Towards Western at 150*.



Education and UN sustainability goals

The Faculty of Education is committed to advancing the **UN sustainability goals**: Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

- 4.3** By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.B** By 2030, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering, and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.C** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states
- 4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels



Education's place in the world

We recognize that to be educated is to have a global perspective. As such, we will focus on how education examines the world and educational ideas and practices in the world. We will look at internationalization through interdisciplinary inquiry and explore how education expands and becomes enriched through inter-cultural and inter-societal mobilities, translations and connections of worldviews, educational policies, programs, practices, educators, and learners.



OUR COMMITMENT

- Grow global/international opportunities for students
- Expand global/international student recruitment
- Foster global/international cross-institutional partnerships
- Increase leadership and reputation in international research
- Create pathways for globally/internationally educated teachers



Indigenous Education is *sui generis*

(a thing of its own kind)

We affirm and honour the university's strategic commitments and responsibilities to Indigenous communities and learners. Guided by institutional, national, and international Indigenous policy agendas that recognize Indigenous rights, we prioritize, foster, and promote Indigenous educational sovereignty, Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, and transformative decolonial pedagogies in our teaching and learning activities. Our principles and initiatives develop and strengthen partnerships in Indigenous Research, and community engagement as well as teaching and service across learners with a particular focus on Indigenous learners.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Recognize and affirm that Indigenous Education is *sui generis* (a thing of its own kind) and requires pathways that may not be consistent with existing organizational structures and administrative approaches
- Increase Indigenous faculty, students, and staff members across all areas
- Partner with local Indigenous communities to support language revitalization and build on the Master of Professional Education program in the Field of Indigenous Education
- Support Indigenous scholars, research models and learning, including creating an Indigenous research space and hands-on learning experiences for students
- Create placements in Indigenous educational settings for teacher candidates and graduate students



Indigenous learning space

People, community, culture, and belonging

Society benefits when all individuals experience safety and belonging. Inclusion and respectful engagement by all peoples in our teaching, research, and service is our commitment. By engaging with communities through our teaching, research, and service, we address systemic barriers that prevent individuals from realizing and experiencing belonging and inclusion. We are committed to the principles of accessibility, equity, diversity, inclusivity, anti-racism, and decolonization. We support the whole community, including the needs of diverse groups, through recruitment of diverse students, faculty, and staff.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Increase the scholarships for equity-deserving peoples
- Expand student and alumni engagement
- Continue to foster a community based on trust and respect, which is guided by integrity and sustainability
- Expand diverse representation and support of designated people, including LGBTQ2+ and people with disabilities in faculty, staff, and students



Professional pathways and academic excellence

The grand challenges and opportunities in society, locally and globally, call on us to renew our attention and recognition to the importance of education and contemporary pedagogies. Interdisciplinary and diverse teaching efforts are necessary to showcase different ways of knowing and experiencing the world. Explicit linkages that bring professional pathways and academic excellence into clear alignment are leveraged to address real-world problems. Engaging students in scholarly activities and experiential learning that connect teaching to the research of students, faculty, and communities is prioritized.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Grow experiential learning opportunities for students
- Grow professional and interdisciplinary academic programs
- Recruit, support, and retain teaching-intensive faculty
- Increase the number of faculty who receive teaching awards
- Provide opportunities for career development and lifelong learning
- Expand community partnerships



Research impact

The Faculty of Education at Western is a leader in advancing knowledge through research and knowledge mobilization. Our researchers strive to enhance the learning and well-being of children, youth, and adults. We seek to engage with academic and community partners, advancing policy and professional practice. Our faculty members, students, and community partners collaborate to advance social equity. We involve students throughout our research, enriching experiential learning.

Research strengths of the Faculty of Education include Indigenous Research; Applied Linguistics; Behaviour, Learning and Neuroscience; Curriculum Studies; Global and International Studies; Mental Health; Violence Prevention; Policy and Leadership; Social Justice, Equity and Inclusion.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Engage with community partners throughout the research process, for mutual benefit
- Share our work broadly by increasing our publications and academic research impact
- Expand knowledge mobilization to reach more diverse audiences
- Contribute to policy and professional practice
- Support Indigenous and anti-oppressive research
- Increase student participation in research, publishing, and knowledge mobilization
- Ensure sufficient funding for faculty and student research





Help us **transform education,**
transform lives.



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