

Creative Futures: The Skidmore College Strategic Plan 2025-2030
Working Draft, February 4, 2025

Who are we at Skidmore College? What is distinctive about us? What are the things that make us such a special place? For the last several years we have asked these questions so that we can prioritize what is most essential and most defining to our continued thriving and future growth. This Strategic Plan emerges out of that shared effort, and expresses with confidence the achievements of our college and charts our path forward into the 2030s and beyond.

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aspect of the college. Continuing to emphasize and grow these qualities is our highest priority, as we draw the best and brightest to our campus for an educational experience that is second to none in its total impact and life-long value.

This Strategic Plan is focused and compact, charting a five-year course to enable our nimble responsiveness to the changing times and challenges, while articulating the essential principles to which Skidmore is committed. Over the next five years, we will follow a pathway supported by the six foundations elaborated here. These foundations bespeak the highest values of the college: our creative academic excellence; the transformative student experience; the value of sustainability and environmental stewardsh

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In the descriptions of the Six Foundations that follow, we lay out not just a range of initiatives and goals, but also the principles that guide the Skidmore education, the characteristics that define us and inspire us, and the vision that animates our wonderful college. Each year our annual Strategic Action Agenda will draw from the Plan to help guide our key efforts and projects for that year, as we chart the progress toward achieving the aspirational goals articulated here in the Plan. The future is indeed very bright at Skidmore, and we embark upon our future with confidence.

Foundation 1: Creativity and Academic Excellence: The Skidmore Difference

The Skidmore curriculum is our greatest strength and differentiator: a remarkable combination of the traditional humanities, arts, and sciences, with an abiding strength in the arts, alongside an array of pre-professional programs, all woven together with an emphasis on creativity and interdisciplinarity that stands as the paradigm for the 21st-century liberal arts education. We are committed to preserving and strengthening this educational model, by focusing on faculty development and support, especially as creative teacher-scholars; on creative teaching and teaching support programs; on the high-impact, transformative experiential opportunities for our students; on new and growing curricular initiatives; and on the spaces, structures, programs, and principles that will continue to make the Skidmore education possible for generations of students to come.

1. Renewed Focus on Faculty Development as Creative and Innovative Teacher-Scholars.

Convene and support a collaborative exploration of the most meaningful areas of support for faculty as creative teacher-scholars across the entire arc of the faculty career. This might include such elements as research travel, collaborative projects, mid-career growth, and more. We will seek to enhance resources for faculty development in the most meaningful areas of scholarly and creative endeavors.

Enhance support for innovative, creative, and interdisciplinary teaching and the exploration/creation of new pedagogies. This could include existing innovative programs such as MDOCS, the Tang, and Entrepreneurship, as well as other potential new directions. Support for creative high-impact opportunities for our students, including collaborative research, internships, experiential learning, and civic and community engagement.

Explore new alignments, synergies, and spaces to foster greater collaboration in our existing areas of teaching and learning support, such as Learning Experience Design and Digital Scholarship Support, Center for Leadership in Teaching and Learning, the IdeaLab, the Writing Center, and the Tang Teaching Museum.

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Explore a faculty sustainability-focused community of practice and encourage increasing sustainability in the curriculum, including consideration of a sustainability learning outcome.

Explore student-centered sustainability learning opportunities, such as a community-based sustainability intern program as a high-impact experience.

Develop communication strategies to share the impact of and enthusiasm for our sustainability efforts.

2. Commitment to Meaningful Climate Action.

Continue our sustainable building and renovation policy, including LEED-certified status for all major new constructions.

Commit to Skidmore participation in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Campus Decarbonization Academy, a cohort-based program offered through collaboration among multiple higher education sustainability organizations.

Commit to a process to advance holistic decarbonization planning for campus (involving in a collaborativ

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