

Texas A&M Academic Master Plan 2008–2009

Accelerating Excellence

Vision 2020 lays out the long-range vision for excellence at Texas A&M University. We are commencing an Academic Master Plan, *Accelerating Excellence*, to identify goals, strategies, and priorities that will fully advance key components of *Vision 2020*.

Academic Master Plan Roadmaps:

A. Teaching Roadmap

- a. Realizing the Goals of the Murano Report
- b. Curricular review and assessment

B. Research Roadmap

- a. Identifying Landmark Areas

C. Engagement Roadmap

- a. K–12 outreach and developing pathways to Texas A&M
- b. Government and community partnerships
- c. Entrepreneurship
- d. Professional service
- e. Student advising

Common to the three roadmaps are overarching issues that we need to address in order to enable success:

Overarching Issues

- a. Human development
 - i. Recruiting and mentoring for excellence
 - ii. Diversity
 - iii. International studies
 - iv. Quality of life
- b. Facilities and infrastructure
- c. Resources

The remainder of the document focuses on one important component of the Academic Master Plan: the research roadmap that identifies university landmark areas for faculty development.

Research Roadmap and Landmark Areas

College Activities

September–November 2008

- Deans and their department heads will work with faculty to develop their College's 10-year research plans and processes, which will ultimately help identify priority landmark areas at the University level.

Process characteristics:

- Open and transparent
- Engages faculty, staff, and students and demonstrates buy-in.

Plan characteristics:

- Written and available on-line
- Globally focused with collaborative potential identified
- Strong connections with *Vision 2020*
- Highlights components that may define or relate to University landmark areas.
- Serves as planning mechanism for hiring
- Documents the process followed in development of plan, especially reporting how faculty, staff, and students were involved.

Key questions for deans/department heads/faculty to ask when developing research plans for their colleges:

- What are your College's three to five greatest research strengths?
- What "rare" research strengths are in your College that set it apart nationally and internationally?
- How do your College's research strengths contribute to the foundational excellence of the University?
- Does your College have the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary strength to meet society's grand challenges? Elaborate on the potential and priorities for the College. This information will be especially important for development of landmark areas.

December 1, 2008

- Completion of 10-year research plans for each College.
- Reports will be made available online and in hard copy and distributed campus-wide.

Provost Activities

September–December 2008

- Meet with departments of all Colleges to seek input on research priorities and issues, share information on the process for developing the Academic Master Plan, and encourage broad participation.
- Form steering committee for Academic Master Plan
 - Design and oversee master planning process for identifying priorities where university can distinguish itself and achieve international stature.
 - Chaired by Provost.
 - Committee members drawn from all Colleges, and appropriate administrative offices, staff, students, and partners.
 - Create subcommittees representing Academic Master Plan priority areas—research, student success and curriculum, and others to be determined.
 - Engage and seek input from university stakeholders: faculty, staff, councils of Faculty Senate, Texas A&M administration, System administration, Board of Regents, industry, community leaders, and alumni.

Research Roadmap Committee Activities

Fall 2008

- Establishes and publishes input report, criteria, and metrics for university priorities.
White paper criteria:
 1. Merit and potential for societal impact.
 2. Multidisciplinary nature of topic—participation and leveraging potential.
 3. Alignment with *Vision 2020* and College plans
 4. Existence of critical mass and excellence at Texas A&M and availability of an external candidate pool.
 5. Space and infrastructure feasibility (including proposed plans).
 6. Corporate, federal, and foundation interest and award potential.
 7. Needed resources and cost effectiveness.
- Issues call for white papers due January 12, 2009 that draw upon priorities identified in College research plans. Specifies template to use and issues to address.

January 12, 2009

- White papers due on university landmark area priorities.

February 27, 2009

- Steering committee oversees key committees' input on white papers and selects "finalists." Submitters of white papers on the superset are asked to expand white papers in more detail.

March 31, 2009

- Expanded white papers are put online for public review and comment.

April 17, 2009

- Steering committee hosts all day University retreat on the finalist white papers with presentations and discussion groups.

April–May 2009

- Research roadmap committee makes final recommendation of research landmark areas to the steering committee.
- Steering committee incorporates research roadmap recommendation and retreat inputs into report on landmark areas.

Appendix**Inputs to consider:**

President Murano's six priorities:

1. Elevate the faculty
2. Enhance undergraduate and graduate experiences
3. Increase diversity and globalization
4. Improve space
5. Attain resource parity
6. Enlightened governance.

Recommendations of the Committee on Implementation of the Task Force on Enhancing the Undergraduate Education Experience (*Murano Report*).

Texas A&M "Dean's Goals:"

- Enhancing Study Abroad and Globalization
- Enhancing Graduate Education
- Facilities Reinvestment Program
- Research Acceleration—Hiring Top Faculty
- Increasing Minority Student Enrollments and Graduation from Texas A&M University: Establishing a "Pathways to A&M" Program
- Advanced Study Institute