unprecedented participation

GOAL 1: Define the New Research University

UC|21 is UC’s strategic plan for charting its academic course for the 21st century. UC|21 is the result of months of discussion and consultation at a scope never before seen on campus. A wide range of university stakeholders—students, faculty, deans, administrators, corporate partners, donors, civic and social service leaders, and neighbors—were invited to participate. More than 200 people, including individuals from all areas of the university at large, worked together on a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss and draft the university’s vision for its future. Additional insights came from over 2,400 people from the community at large, worked together in a series of civic and social service leaders, and neighbors—were invited to participate. More than 83 people participated in more than 83 input sessions hosted by UC colleges and units. Over 325 people also volunteered to serve as consultants on the university’s academic planning Web site, with literally thousands of timidly RN to the site.

our vision and core values

The demands and challenges of the 21st century are only beginning to unfold. UC|21 speaks directly to this new century. In a visionary statement of our ambitions for the future, it celebrates the dreams and aspirations of the broadened UC community and commits us to a set of core values that will keep our reason focused and true to these aspirations. In short, UC|21 identifies a set of core values to guide the new research university.

The following values reflect UC’s rich heritage while looking beyond the campus and the point at which the university culture changes. In addition to rapid transformation, there will be increased competition for students and traditional campuses. For profit sector and online learning alternatives. Higher education, including UC, can also expect to experience major change in the decade ahead, an increasingly diverse cohort of learners, and an accelerating need for intellectual capital to bear on societal issues and a rising call to serve as the economic engine in a knowledge-based world. These five values, or “strains,” as we call them, and are consistent with UC’s previous commitment to serve a rapidly changing world and our local Cincinnati community.

Scholarship: The creation and application of knowledge, with an emphasis on scholarly inquiry, research, experimentation, investigation and creative production.

Citizenship: The ability to apply knowledge and skills for responsible civic life and action. UC’s emphasis on public engagement and ethical purpose.

Stewardship: The responsibility of the university to carry out its unique role in society, which is its core intellectual inquiry. The university is committed to opportunities for stewardship and in all students an appreciation for the responsibilities that accompany education. In a financial sense, the university is also called upon to generate revenue to ensure appropriate operating funds to carry on its mission.

Leadership: Motivating others to take actions that would not otherwise have been taken. Leadership is measured by the extent to which an individual or group of individuals can influence and energize the ideas, actions and capabilities of others toward the achievement of its goals.

Partnership: Working collaboratively to address complex issues and problems, both within and beyond the boundaries of UC. A university cannot solve problems by working in isolation. It must do so by interacting with others. By working in partnerships, we gain an understanding and appreciation of what can be accomplished when individual interests are combined and not alone. We also affirm the importance of diversity, since constructive change often occurs when individuals and groups with different identities and various priorities come together.

GOAL 2: Grow Our Research Excellence

Build on UC’s past success in a major research university to benefit society, have meaningful economic impact and enhance the quality of life for all.

Research Excellence – develop research and discovery as core activities that illuminate all we do.

Experiential Learning – engage students in meaningful partnerships.

Exchange Programs – develop a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-week learning, living and social environment.

GOAL 3: Achieve Academic Excellence

Encourage an environment of high-quality learning and teaching excellence and research.

Guiding Principles of Academic Programs – integrate UC|21’s core values, our “strains,” into academic programs.

Liberal Education at the Core – reaffirm liberal education as the core to preparing students as life-long learners.

Teaching Matters – identify, examine and support "best practices" for the university community to enhance teaching effectiveness and learning.

GOAL 4: Forge Key Relationships and Partnerships

Establish and nurture relationships and partnerships, with our colleagues within the university and with local and global institutions. The university is committed to community engagement.

GOAL 5: Establish a Sense of “Place”

Develop an environment where members of the university community and the community at large want to spend time – learning, living, playing and staying. Join long-term support to build a better University to values to which an individual or group of individuals can influence and energize the ideas, actions and capabilities of others toward the achievement of its goals.

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GOAL 6: Create Opportunity

Develop potential, not just in our students, but in our local and global communities.

Economic Delta – strength UC as an educator of a skilled, principal workforce, as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and as a partner in economic development.

Cultural Competence – foster students’ ability to appreciate, investigate, and understand a cultural background different from their own.

Incomes and Budget – provide incentives for performance with effective accountability and identify alternate ways to generate revenue.

next steps

This bold new course for UC’s future will be published in a comprehensive plan on UC’s Web site in August. In September, the first steps toward implementation will begin. For more information or to keep up to date, check the academic planning Web site at www.uc.edu/UC21.
defining the new urban research university

the university of Cincinnati is a public comprehensive system of learning and research. the excellent faculty have distinguished themselves worldwide for their creative pedagogy and research, especially in problem solving and the application of their discoveries. the university system is designed to serve a diverse student body with a broad range of interests and goals. it is a place of opportunity. in support of this mission, the university of Cincinnati strives to provide the highest quality learning environment, world-renowned scholarship, innovation and community service, and to serve as a place where freedom of intellectual interchange flourishes.

our heritage

Continual transformation has been a hallmark of the history of the University of Cincinnati. over the past 185 years, the university has been first a private institution, then a municipal university and now a comprehensive research university in ohio’s state system. UC has always been transformative in the evolution of its academic and research programs to meet the ongoing needs of its students and society.
nearly a century ago in 1906, UC “reinvented” higher education by pioneering cooperative education, the first such program in the world. today, UC’s co-op program offers students real-world learning by giving them the opportunity to work for employers around the globe. as the 21st century unfolds, UC stands among the nation’s top 25 public research universities with a proud tradition of discovery and transformation. UC’s 34,000 students pursue success through more than 600 academic programs in the sciences, arts, humanities and professions. throughout its history, UC has enjoyed a deep, reciprocal and widespread connection to its home city of Cincinnati, as an intellectual resource, cultural center and economic driver.
today, the University of Cincinnati stands ready to “reinvent” itself with a new plan of action: UC21: defining the New Urban Research University.

our mission

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our profile

UC has achieved distinction through its nationally ranked programs, including the nation’s top-10 architecture, medicine, interior design, music and science programs. UC is perhaps unique in boasting distinguished scholarship and research, while maintaining a deep commitment to accessible education.
UC earned more than $309 million in external funding last year, supporting cutting-edge research, innovative teaching and public service. UC has led all universities in ohio, Kentucky and Indiana for four straight years in income earned from faculty inventions. its endowment, supported by thousands of generous donors, ranks 13th among public institutions in the United States. UC’s living alumni number over 215,000, with about half living in the Greater Cincinnati area.

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