



**The FIT Challenge:
2020 FIT at 75: Bringing the Future Into Focus**

GOAL #1 Strengthen the Academic Core

INITIATIVE	TASK
<p align="center"><u>Cross-Cutting Initiative 1.1</u></p> <p>Strengthen the Liberal Arts component of an FIT education.</p>	<p align="center"><u>1.1.1</u></p> <p>Hold a College-wide academic retreat to incorporate ideas emerging from the Liberal Arts retreat (Spring '06) and to reinforce the significance of the Liberal Arts at FIT.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.1.2</u></p> <p>Convene College-wide conversations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in an action plan to ensure that students in every field of study achieve a breadth of learning; • Assess the appropriateness of including the SAT/ACT exams in the admissions process; • Result in a plan as to how to best meet the wellness needs of students (part of cross-cutting initiative 1.5).
	<p align="center"><u>1.1.3</u></p> <p>Identify issues of pedagogy and faculty development that would strengthen the Liberal Arts core of an FIT education.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.1.4</u></p> <p>Develop a plan for a professionally directed video to communicate the importance of the Liberal Arts in an FIT education.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Cross-Cutting Initiative 1.2</u></p> <p>Undertake a sustained effort to increase the size of the full-time faculty.</p>	<p align="center"><u>1.2.1</u></p> <p>Include the addition of full-time faculty lines as a priority in each year's budget discussions.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.2.2</u></p> <p>Appoint and deploy visiting professors.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.2.3</u></p> <p>Seek funds for endowed chairs as part of the College's fundraising efforts.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Cross-Cutting Initiative 1.3</u></p> <p>Enhance and strengthen the College's international relationships.</p>	<p align="center"><u>1.3.1</u></p> <p>Create and implement a plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for international collaborations • An assessment of our current partnerships and collaborations based on the criteria developed; • Research of other international opportunities based on the criteria developed • Recommendations for the direction and scope of future international programs and goals and initiatives to support them.



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<p align="center"><u>Cross-Cutting Initiative 1.4</u></p> <p>Establish standards of excellence for all students.</p>	<p align="center"><u>1.4.1</u></p> <p>Review grade inflation, academic probation criteria and dismissal policies.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.4.2</u></p> <p>Re-examine and enforce the number of credits that a student is permitted to take as a non-degree student before declaring the intention to apply for degree status.</p>
<p align="center"><u>Cross-Cutting Initiative 1.5</u></p> <p>Through evaluation, assessment and revision of curriculum, offer a rich array of 2- and 4-year programs that provide graduates with skills that can lead to immediate employment and build foundations for long-term educational and professional growth</p>	<p align="center"><u>1.5.1</u></p> <p>Facilitate coordinated planning and implementation of academic initiatives involving the three undergraduate schools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing 2-year, 4-year and seamless programs; • Redesigning where appropriate 2-year, 4-year and seamless programs; • Developing a plan that takes into account logistical and other consequences resulting from programmatic decisions; • Reviewing course loads by major; • Incorporating Liberal Arts or other electives into the curriculum; • Providing interdisciplinary partnerships through concentrations • Eliminating course duplication.
	<p align="center"><u>1.5.1 a</u></p> <p>Develop a blended learning pilot program to be rolled out during the next 3 semesters.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.5.2 – Art and Design</u></p> <p>Develop school-wide standards and criteria for admission to all school programs.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.5.3 – Art and Design</u></p> <p>Identify and address the needs of returning and transfer students.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.5.4 – Art and Design</u></p> <p>Host a curriculum workshop for all Art and Design department chairs and department curriculum chairs.</p>
	<p align="center"><u>1.5.5 – Art and Design</u></p> <p>Create the potential for team-teaching in studio courses to better integrate hand and technical skills in hybrid classrooms.</p>



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<u>Art and Design Initiative 1.1</u> Introduce faculty lines with less traditional format of employment.	<u>1.1.1</u> Develop a proposal for the adjustment of teaching loads to allow for participation in design workshops and research.
<u>Liberal Arts Initiative 1.1</u> Assist FIT students to acquire the range and depth of liberal arts knowledge expected of them at graduation which they will need in order to grow in their careers and in life.	<u>1.1.1</u> Hold a retreat for the School of Liberal Arts to develop a strategy for making Liberal Arts an integral part of the FIT education.
	<u>1.1.2</u> Develop concentrations that will offer Art and Design and Business and Technology students an interrelated group of Liberal Arts courses, making Liberal Arts a more coherent and meaningful part of their FIT education.
	<u>1.1.3</u> Pilot a volunteer mentoring program which pairs students taking concentrations with Liberal Arts faculty.
	<u>1.1.4</u> Identify curricula strengths and weaknesses across the School of Liberal Arts and develop a framework for faculty to revise and develop new courses, particularly to support concentrations.
	<u>1.1.5</u> Consider how to support interdisciplinary team-taught courses within and across the schools in order to increase student engagement.
	<u>1.1.6</u> Revise the school mission statement.
	<u>1.1.7</u> Strengthen the connections of Liberal Arts courses to students' majors.
<u>Liberal Arts Initiative 1.2</u> Help students achieve the fundamental skills at FIT that they will need in order to succeed in their chosen careers.	<u>1.2.1</u> Define and articulate expectations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math skills in the 2- and 4-year programs; • Writing skills in the 2- and 4-year programs; • Presentation and communication skills.
	<u>1.2.2</u> Establish criteria to evaluate students' demonstrated achievement in math and written communication at the end of developmental courses before advancing into credit-bearing



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	required courses.
	<u>1.2.3</u> Enforce placement testing in English, arithmetic and algebra.
	<u>1.2.4</u> Develop sample placement tests; encourage students to visit the Liberal Arts website to take sample placement tests prior to actual testing.
	<u>1.2.5</u> Increase support for academic skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand tutoring in the Academic Skills Center; • Create a visible and fully-staffed Writing Center.
	<u>1.2.6</u> Discuss (and add as appropriate) additional levels of developmental courses in English and math to help students master the skills they need for success in more advanced courses.
<u>Liberal Arts Initiative 1.3</u> Successfully incorporate new faculty into the FIT community.	<u>1.3.1</u> Establish a school-wide peer mentoring program for new full-time and part-time Liberal Arts faculty.
<u>School of Graduate Studies 1.1</u> Foster school growth.	<u>1.1.1</u> Create new programs that address the evolving needs of graduate education for the industries FIT serves.
	<u>1.1.2</u> Develop interdisciplinary collaborations with other FIT programs, including Executive Studies and undergraduate disciplines through the presentation of projects, papers, etc. Note: This is linked to the creative hub.
	<u>1.1.3</u> Develop an international component that may be incorporated within the various graduate departments such as summer abroad studies and overseas seminars.
<u>School of Graduate Studies Initiative 1.2</u> Clarify and strengthen the school's identity as a research and teaching facility.	<u>1.2.1</u> Develop a mission statement that articulates the school's goal to become a research and teaching facility.



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	<u>1.2.2</u> Attract and recruit faculty with key specialized interests and advanced degrees who can conduct and supervise research projects in addition to their teaching responsibilities.
	<u>1.2.3</u> Hire a coordinator to facilitate Creative Hub-related academic and public activities, seminars, symposia, lectures and other events.
	<u>1.2.4</u> Generate grant and business support for research activities.
<u>Continuing and Professional Studies Initiative 1.3</u> Develop and expand non-credit, credit, degree, certificate and training programs to extend educational opportunity to underserved populations, working professionals and adults, and corporate audiences.	<u>1.3.1</u> Establish a new Center for Contract Training programs focusing on Innovation Management. This includes continuous improvement, leadership and other corporate education programs contracted off-site at companies. Programs will be developed synergistically between the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and other academic departments at the College.
	<u>1.3.2</u> <i>Expand Saturday Live program to Sunday and extend Pre-College summer semester.</i>
	<u>1.3.3</u> Gather thoughts and input from various internal FIT departments as a basis for developing expanded new market-worthy School of Continuing and Professional Studies programs.
	<u>1.3.4</u> Seek and identify increasingly external community and corporate partners for educational programs and articulations.