

Spartan Experience Academic Strategic planning proposal

Strategic Plan Theme: Student Success

Funding Level: Between \$1-5 million

Facility Needs: No new facilities will be needed

Submitting Unit: Admissions

Collaborating colleges/departments/units involved with this proposal.

SSS Program/NSSC, Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, Women's Student Services, My Spartan Story

What is the proposal's big theme or idea?

MSU is not able to articulate or measure the experiences, knowledge, and skills that all Spartan undergraduates should have upon completing their degree programs. There is limited to no alignment or coordination across curricular, residential, and co-curricular spaces at MSU leading to disconnect, silos, and narrowly focused initiatives instead of synergy towards an aligned student experience and collaborative goals and outcomes. The Spartan Experience Project (SEP) will identify what all MSU undergraduate students should learn, experience, feel, and know across their four* years at MSU. The project will create student experience goals and outcomes and articulate, similarly to a curricular map, what students should experience and achieve in each outcome area for each year they are enrolled at MSU. These could include things like a required first year experience course, participating in a community engaged learning experience, or connecting to a high impact practice related to career exploration.

The project will then identify existing programs, experiences, and opportunities and what gaps need to be filled in each outcome area to round out the suite of offerings. The project will help us better articulate why students should come to MSU, what they will get out of their experience at MSU and ensure the campus is moving in the same direction related to student success and the university's strategic goals and objectives. It will also help connect current and future Spartans across the world to a shared experience and identify what it means to be a Spartan. The Spartan Experience could then lay the groundwork for future projects related to the student experience and student success. For instance, once we know what we expected students to learn while at MSU we could use that as the basis for general education reform or expanding and revamping the undergraduate learning goals.

What is the proposal's goal?

Initial tools will be provided to first-year students shortly after they are notified that they have been offered admission. The project would set the direction for the student success strategy for the next 10 years. For instance, aligning with the undergraduate learning goals, My Spartan Story learning outcomes, and general education. This idea would involve creating an interactive process wherein all new MSU students receive a personally curated set of recommendations for support and involvement beyond the classroom. This could be done utilizing a student online form that is required upon admission deposit and cross references student demographic information with student-self reported interests/goals/needs. The form could use logic and a backend database of support programs, experiences, and units that students can join or pursue at MSU to provide a report to students.

As a decentralized and diffuse institution, many students miss out on impactful programs, services, and experiences that can support holistic student success. By providing all new MSU students with a personalized set of recommendations for involvement, we can change the institution in a way that shifts the burden of

getting connected to support and high-impact co-curricular programs from a student help-seeking issue to an intentional institutional effort. This will bring together multiple units and programs from across the university. Support from Student Involvement and Leadership (which includes the Spartan Experience Office, Leadership Programs, the Center for Community Engaged Learning, Impact Radio Station, and the MSU Union) will play a key role in coordinating and resourcing the curated list. Thus, we can better ensure that students are connected to the support programs and experiences that will maximize their success regardless of their navigational and social capital within higher education. For example, a first-generation student who is interested in veterinary science and volunteering might receive recommendations for the TRIO SSS Program, BRUSH undergraduate research program in Vet Med, and the Center for Community Engaged Learning. This could also reduce opportunity gaps by ensuring that all students have equitable access to resources.

First Point of Contact: Sociograms of Success Provided to Admitted Students
Second Point of Contact: CEL Certificate

Define the significance, or impact of your big idea.

The idea will provide much-needed early direction to current students while also increasing MSU student retention by drawing stop-outs back to the university, thus enhancing engagement as well as student retention.

Who will be impacted?

New, first-year undergraduate students
Students who stop-out

What does sustainability for your proposal look like?

An on-going workgroup would implement the points of contact. The group will annually assess the impact of their initiatives, making necessary revisions in response to the results of the assessment.