



Walk bridge looking north from campus, circa 1892



Baselines

2015-16

Important Dates

Fall Semester 2015

- Monday–Friday, Aug. 17–21 Welcome Week
- Monday, Aug. 24. Registration/Classes start at 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25 First full day of classes
- Monday, Sept. 7 Holiday—Labor Day
- Thursday, Sept. 24 Day of Service
- Monday–Saturday, Sept. 28–Oct. 3 Homecoming Week
- Thursday, Oct. 1 Inauguration of President Tisa Mason
- Saturday, Oct. 3 Homecoming
- Tuesday, Oct. 13. Founders Day
- Wednesday, Nov. 11 Holiday—Veterans Day
- Thursday, Nov. 26 Holiday—Thanksgiving
- Monday–Friday, Dec. 14–18. Final exams
- Friday, Dec. 25 Holiday—Christmas
- Friday, Jan. 1. Holiday—New Year’s Day

Spring Semester 2016

- Monday, Jan. 11. Registration/Classes start at 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 12. First full day of classes
- Monday, Jan. 18. Holiday—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, Feb. 15. Holiday—Presidents Day
- Monday–Friday, March 14–18 Spring Break
- Friday, March 25 Holiday—Good Friday
- Monday–Friday, May 9–13 Final exams
- Saturday, May 14. Commencement

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The aim of *Baselines* is to provide a concise source of essential information for VCSU faculty and staff at the beginning of each academic year, serving as an introduction to the university for new members of the campus community and as a refresher for returning members.

VCSU Defining Commitments

MISSION

Valley City State University is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology. As an important knowledge resource, the University offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond. Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

VISION

Valley City State University will be nationally recognized for advancing important collaboration, fostering innovative engagement, and promoting noteworthy transformation. Through effective use of best practices in technology, teaching, and learning, VCSU will be a destination university for students in North Dakota and throughout the region, extending its reach and influence beyond the campus boundaries.

UNIVERSITY PURPOSES

1. Award degrees in education, business, and the liberal arts and sciences, with all students documenting their competency in Aesthetic Engagement, Communication, Global Awareness, Technology, Collaboration, Effective Citizenship, Problem Solving, and Wellness.
2. Deliver a quality educational experience in an innovative culture and a technologically enhanced environment.
3. Serve the best interests of our students, region, and society.
4. Lead in effectively applying information media technologies for learning.
5. Promote the appreciation of diversity, a multicultural perspective, and global awareness.

CORE VALUES

- *Mission Driven:* We are committed to a learner-centered philosophy. We make education meaningful with positive relationships and effective practices.
- *Quality and Integrity:* We have high expectations for results, integrity, and positive interpersonal relations in all we do.
- *Innovation:* We are flexible, creative, and free to try new things. We have a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and open mind. We embrace change.
- *Community:* We trust each other, we work well together, and we are involved with our local and extended communities.
- *Diversity:* We believe that diversity of all kinds enriches the quality of thought, discussion, and learning.

Web Locations for Key VCSU Policies and Documents

VCSU Documents web page: www.vcsu.edu/documents/

VCSU University Catalog: www.vcsu.edu/documents/

VCSU Student Handbook: www.vcsu.edu/documents/

VCSU Policy Manual: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/

V201 Constitution of the Valley City State University Faculty Association: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=266

V202 Constitution and Bylaws of the Staff Senate of Valley City State University: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=267

V301.01 Defining Commitments: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=269

302.04.01 VCSU Committee Structure: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=1958

V308.01 VCSU Employee Code of Conduct: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=1677

V605.09 Faculty Responsibilities: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=364

V605.13 Office Hours and Faculty Presence: www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=368

VCSU Strategic Plan 2015–17

“Defining Great: The VCSU Difference”

Valley City State University’s previous strategic plan, “Success 2015,” came to a close in June 2015. VCSU has developed a two-year strategic plan that responds to the new North Dakota University System strategic plan—“Daring to be Great: The NDUS Edge”—and maps a course for growth and improvement.

1. Growth: Grow the university to meet the needs of North Dakota and beyond.

This goal uses wording from our new mission/vision statement and speaks to the intent of almost every program’s plan to retain and recruit students. The goal includes strategies for marketing, student recruitment and retention, and program development.

- 1.1 Enhance marketing efforts
- 1.2 Recruit a diverse, well-prepared student body
- 1.3 Increase retention rates
- 1.4 Expand program options to meet the needs of North Dakota and the region
- 1.5 Recruit and retain a quality workforce

2. Optimization: Provide resources for growth and high priority programs.

This goal focuses on the resources and the efficiencies necessary to support growth and program optimization. The goal includes strategies related to facilities, process efficiencies, and program optimization.

- 2.1 Complete the program optimization process (P.O.P.) and update budget and planning processes based on the task force reports.
- 2.2 Develop office and program efficiencies
- 2.3 Improve physical facilities
- 2.4 Improve technology infrastructure

3. Collaboration: Work with stakeholders to develop relationships and opportunities.

Collaboration with stakeholders, including campus entities, workforce partners, the community, and NDUS campuses, is vital to VCSU’s continued success and student engagement. This goal includes strategies relating to advisory boards, internal program synergies, community involvement, and the development of articulations, partnerships, and internship/practicum activities.

- 3.1 Improve interdepartmental communication
- 3.2 Establish practicum and internship locations for non-education programs
- 3.3 Collaborate and cultivate relationships with external stakeholders through the development and productive use of advisory boards
- 3.4 Increase employee engagement in shared governance and campus community/culture (“the VCSU Difference”)

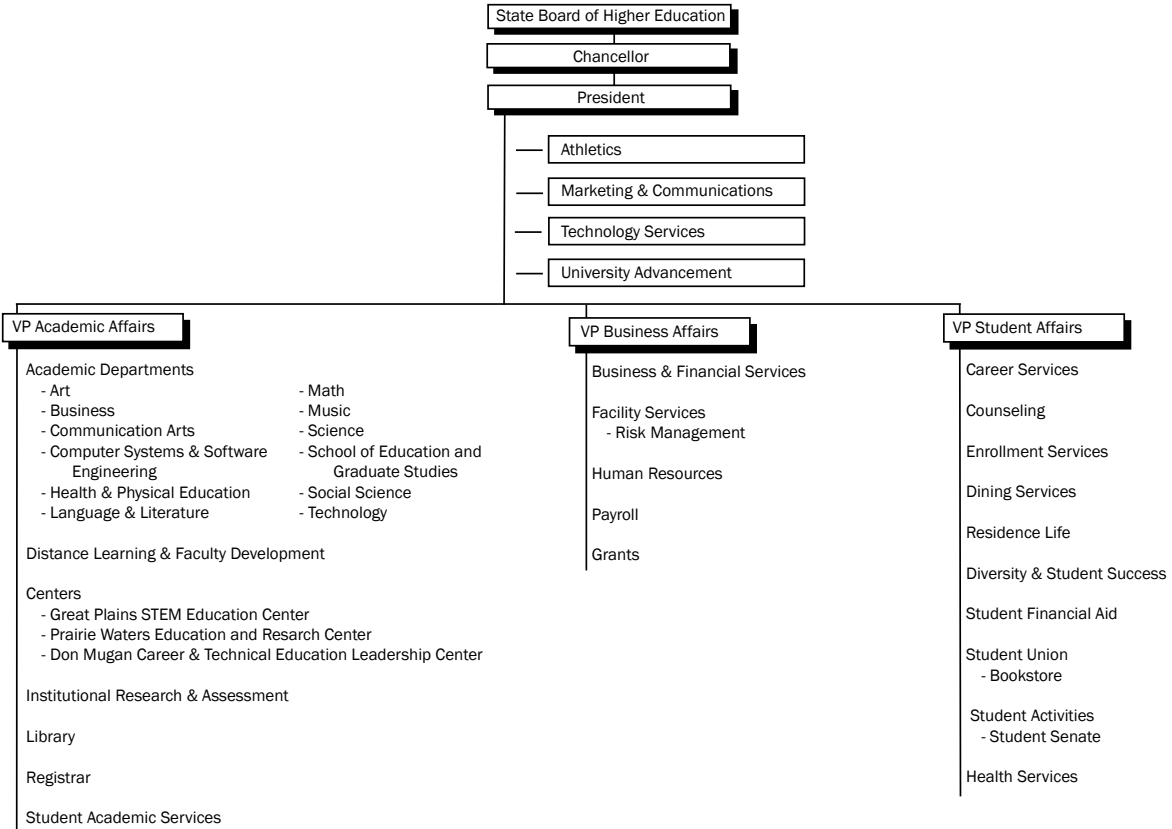
4. Success: Deliver quality, engagement, and breadth of experience.

All of our programs have a significant impact in developing successful graduates. This goal speaks to the breadth of experiences students, faculty, and staff have on campus, and to the importance of delivering quality in all programs, including student life, academic programs, work experiences, professional development, and campus interactions.

- 4.1 Promote engaged learning opportunities that result in a high-quality teaching and learning environment.
- 4.2 Increase attention on research (e.g., undergraduate research, faculty research, graduate action research)
- 4.3 Support specific student populations (e.g., early entry, international, at-risk, online)
- 4.4 Promote health and safety (physical and electronic environments)
- 4.5 Increase effective use of assessment and data
- 4.6 Improve program quality; pursue program accreditation and compliance
- 4.7 Increase professional development, job training, and cross-training.
- 4.8 Cultivate a supportive work environment

VCSU Administrative Organization

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION



VCSU Committee Structure

VCSU committees are divided into two groups: Faculty Association committees, and Administrative Committees/Advisory Groups. More information regarding the committees can be found in VCSU policy 3.02.04.01 (available online at www.vcsu.edu/documents/policymanual/vp.htm?p=1958).

Faculty Association Committees are described in the Faculty Association Constitution, available in VCSU policy V201. These committees include the following:

- Academic & Scholastic Standing Committee
- Constitutional Review Committee
- Council of College Faculties
- Curriculum Committee
- Diversity Waiver Selection Committee
- Faculty Advisory Committee
- Faculty Senate
- Financial Aid Committee
- Graduate Council
- Online Standards Committee
- Standing Committee on Faculty Rights
- Teacher Education Committee

Administrative Committee and Advisory Groups are usually chaired by an administrator. The following are University Committees:

- Academic Assessment Committee
- Academic Policy and Affairs Council
- Admissions Appeals Committee
- Campus Inter-Functional Team (CIFT)
- Campus Inter-Functional Forum (CIFF)
- Cultural Diversity Committee
- Executive Team
- Institutional Review Board
- Judicial Council
- Marketing Committee
- President's Cabinet
- Staff Personnel Board
- Staff Senate
- Student Grievance Committee
- Teacher Education Appeals Committee
- Technology Advisory Committee
- University Hearings & Appeals Board
- University Policy Committee
- VC Loss Control

Senate Rosters

FACULTY SENATE

Anthony Dutton, president
Bob Anderson, vice president
Kathleen Bennet Zahn
Preston Bush
Curt Hill
Rachelle Hunt
Jason Laczkoski
Rick Ross
Jodi Shorma
Brenda Tyre

STAFF SENATE

Kaleen Peterson, president
Kelli Heath, vice president
Nicole Hanson, secretary
Adam Longmore
Ray Nelson
John O'Day
Kevin Tulp
Greg Vanney
Jeremy Wiebe

STUDENT SENATE

Madelyn Zane, president
Courtney Dixon, vice president
Tarah Cleveland, treasurer
Katelyn Willer, secretary
Jordan Bushaw, North Dakota Student Association representative
Rae Beaver
Alexandra Cardenas
Paige Fettig
Shanley Fogarty
Kathleen Gallas
Hannah Gress
Cejay Hilhorst
Shelby Johnson
Richard Langdeaux
Tyler Manske
Grayson Marty
Ashley Metcalf
Paige Meyer
Morgan Nalley
Strella Navalta
Baylee Swenson
Shayna Taffinder
Dillon Thomas

New Employees (since Aug. 20, 2014, includes redefined positions)

| NAME | POSITION | START DATE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Heather Anderson | Instructor in Education | Sept. 16, 2015 |
| John Andrick | Director of Student Academic Services | May 26, 2015 |
| Joan Aus | Assistant Professor of Education | Aug. 16, 2015 |
| Alfred Bernardo | User Services Librarian | Sept. 1, 2015 |
| Christopher Johnson | Head Men's and Women's Cross Country/Track and Field Coach | Aug. 16, 2015 |
| Ronald Holten | Associate Professor of Technology | Aug. 16, 2015 |
| Matthew Karlgaard | Assistant Women's Basketball Coach | Sept. 1, 2014 |
| John LeTellier | Assistant Professor of Music | Aug. 16, 2015 |
| Russell Marker | Heating Plant Operator | Aug. 25, 2014 |
| Tisa Mason | President | Dec. 15, 2014 |
| Amber Olson | Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs, Art, HPE | Sept. 16, 2014 |
| Sarah (Rhyan) Larsen | Admissions Counselor | Sept. 2, 2014 |
| Dallas Schmidt | Heating Plant Operator | May 29, 2015 |
| Apryl Schreiner | Assistant Registrar | July 30, 2015 |
| Rebecca Sundstrom | Accounts Receivable Specialist | Dec. 8, 2014 |
| Caroline Walters | Building Services | Jan. 30, 2015 |
| Nicholas Wilson | Assistant Men's and Women's Track and Field Coach | Aug. 17, 2015 |
| Wesley Wintch | Vice President for Business Affairs | Aug. 31, 2015 |

Overview of North Dakota University System (NDUS)

The North Dakota University System is a unified system of higher education governed by the State Board of Higher Education. Organized in 1990, the system includes two research universities, four regional universities (including Valley City State University) and five community colleges.

Led by the chancellor, the NDUS staff supports the State Board of Higher Education's mission to enhance the quality of life for all those served by the NDUS as well as the economic and social vitality of North Dakota.

NDUS MISSION AND VISION

Mission

To enhance the quality of life for all those we serve and the economic and social vitality of North Dakota through the discovery, sharing and application of knowledge

Vision

Leading the nation in educational attainment through access, innovation and excellence

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.ndus.edu

WEB LINKS TO NDUS MANUALS

SBHE Policy Manual

www.ndus.edu/makers/procedures/sbhe/

NDUS Procedures Manual

www.ndus.edu/makers/procedures/ndus/

NDUS Human Resource Manual

www.ndus.edu/makers/procedures/hr/

