



Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

Mission and Values of the Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

The mission of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is to nurture the discovery, creation, transmission and application of knowledge and understanding across the humanities and the social, natural, and computational sciences. This mission applies to all of the College's members, from the most decorated senior scholars to our matriculating undergraduates, and unifies our three great core tasks of undergraduate education, graduate education, and pioneering research.

In order to fulfill this mission, the students, faculty, and staff of the College must strive to be a vibrant, supportive, and productive learning community across the great diversity of fields, approaches, and experiences encompassed by the institution. We also must choose to be active, engaged citizens of the larger communities to which we also belong—the University, the region, the country, and the world—in order for this mission to succeed.

CAS is Boston University's standard-bearer for the proud and successful tradition that is liberal education. The faculty and staff of the College are devoted to purposefully and vigorously pursuing the values and practices of liberal arts and sciences education, even as the concept of the liberal education faces challenges from critics who claim that this approach is outdated, impractical, or a luxury unlikely to prepare students for careers in the 21st century.

In fact, a liberal education is more important than ever. Only a *liberal education* ensures that students acquire the breadth and depth of knowledge and the fundamental intellectual and academic skills that prepare them with a strong foundation for life-long learning, development, discovery, and leadership. A liberal education aims to yield adults who, regardless of their field of expertise, might enjoy one or more of the arts, understand the nature and significance of the latest developments in science and technology, be able to engage in informed discussions of the crucial policy issues of the day, and travel the world with an appreciation and eye for cultural difference and similarity. For our current and future students, who will seek to flourish in a world that will change in ways we cannot predict and in which they will live and work with people from around the world and very different backgrounds, there is no better preparation for a life of personal fulfillment and economic success than a liberal education.



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**Fundamental Commitments of the
Boston University
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences**

We are proud to carry forward the ideals of the 1869 Boston University Charter that boldly dedicated us to encourage the pursuit of learning in the liberal arts and sciences regardless of race, gender, creed, class, or religion and to carry forward the goals of the 2007 BU Strategic Plan. Refreshed and adapted to CAS's mission, they are:

1. We will base our investment of human, financial, and physical capital on *carefully developed priorities* and a clear-eyed analysis of relevant data and information in the light of changing opportunities and challenges we encounter over time.
2. We will hire and *nurture the careers of faculty* members who are world-class leaders in research and scholarship, teaching, and other professional pursuits.
3. We will provide *outstanding undergraduate education* based on the principles of liberal education and the liberal arts, encompassing both the curricular or "classroom" experience and the co-curricular, broader life experiences that contribute to student learning, development, and success.
4. We will offer *leading doctoral, postdoctoral, and masters programs* within and across traditional disciplinary boundaries.
5. We will promote *pioneering research and scholarship* within and across traditional disciplinary boundaries.
6. We will strengthen our *leadership as an urban and global research and teaching university*, pursuing our research and educational missions in a manner that values and enhances BU's citizenship in our local, regional, national, and international communities.
7. We will manage and *enhance our financial resources and physical infrastructure* with intelligence and creativity in a manner that supports our primary missions.
8. We will build *wider and stronger connections with our alumni* to our mutual benefit, providing our alumni with life-long opportunities for continuing education, development, and community and ensuring that the Boston University community continues to grow and flourish.