



VCU STRATEGIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES PLAN

Mission and Vision

To enrich the human experience and advance human health through our exceptionally creative, collaborative, and community-engaged research.

We are recognized as a nationally prominent research institution that improves the human condition by developing fundamental knowledge and transformative solutions to address the challenges facing individuals, communities, and the natural world.

Strategic Research Priorities Plan

Enriching the human experience. We apply creative expression, critical analysis and advancements in knowledge and technology to enhance individual quality of life and social infrastructure.

- Develop creative technological and analytical improvements and evidence-based educational approaches to society's problems to serve the needs of individuals and communities.
- Enrich lives and elevate human understanding and aspirations through cultural contributions and critical analysis.

Advancing societal wellbeing. VCU is committed to advancing societal well-being by examining the factors that influence the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole. As a strategic priority, advancing societal well-being involves a wide range of disciplines and stakeholders working together to address challenging social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors.

- Identify solutions for societal challenges contributing to social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.
- Transform communities with real-world impact by prioritizing community-engaged research that reflects the perspectives and needs of the communities VCU serves, and prioritizing approaches that lead to feasible, measurable, and sustainable solutions.

Optimizing health. We use trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches at scales from molecules to populations in search of new ways to preserve and restore human health.

- Reduce the burden of disease and improve wellness through transformative basic, translational, clinical and population research.



- Improve health outcomes by leveraging emerging technologies, data science, and machine learning.
- Generate new medications, biologic treatments, interventions, devices, and vaccines by actualizing discoveries made at VCU.

Supporting sustainable energy and environments. We create evidence-based solutions that ensure a positive future in a rapidly changing natural world.

- Advance renewable energy sources, clean air and water resources, and resilient natural systems through the development and application of novel, evidence-based solutions.
- Educate our communities and inform positive changes in environmental policy and practice at local, state and national scales by effectively translating and communicating our data and published scholarship.
- Create environmentally and economically sustainable materials, products, processes, and infrastructure.

Culture of collaboration. We are committed to improving the human condition through a culture of creativity, team science, collaborative research and recognition at VCU. These efforts transcend all four themes of our strategic priorities plan.

- Create a culture that prioritizes and rewards research effort.
- Facilitate research collaborations to enhance innovation and impact
- Accelerate discoveries by promoting a robust pipeline of diverse trainees through excellence in training programs.
- Translate and communicate research to the community and engage in dialogue to promote and develop relevant and effective programs, policies and practices that advance society and lead to systems change

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