

The Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education: An Overview

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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The **Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education** is a project organized by the Office of the Provost for the 2013-2014 academic year. The purpose is to involve a wide cross-section of faculty, students, and staff in a conversation about broad goals for undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience at Illinois.

Both the [Visioning Future Excellence](#) initiative and our recent [campus strategic plan](#) emphasize providing transformative learning experiences for our students. The strategic plan specifically calls for the campus to

a) Re-envision and reshape the Illinois student experience

i. Define a new set of institutional-level learning outcomes, appropriate for a university whose graduates will contribute to solving 21st century challenges of global and local significance

The Conversation responds directly to this charge, and will also provide a foundation to guide other initiatives related to education and the student experience.

During Fall 2013, participants will be invited to join a facilitated discussion in small groups. Twelve meetings are scheduled for these discussions, and the plan is to involve approximately 290 faculty members, 150 graduate students, 135 undergraduate students, 120 academic professionals and 50 civil servants. Thus, we hope to involve more than 700 face-to-face participants. These meetings begin October 23 and run through December 12, 2013.

Each meeting will be 90 minutes in length, and breakfast or lunch will be provided. The first 30 minutes will allow participants to eat and get to know the colleagues at their table. In the remaining hour each group will focus on two questions:

- What should every Illinois graduate know, be able to do, and hold as principles, goals, or attitudes?
- Ten years from now, what should be distinctive and valuable about the Illinois undergraduate experience?

A team of approximately 50 faculty, academic professionals, and graduate students is being recruited to facilitate these conversations and to help summarize and synthesize the results. This group, together with a small core planning team, comprises the Provost's Committee for Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education.

Results from the fall meetings will be summarized in a written report, which will be provided to all participants in January 2014. Those results will guide a second round of conversations in Spring 2014. Similar to the Visioning Future Excellence project, we expect that four to six groups will be assembled, each one charged to discuss a specific topic or sub-area. These spring meetings should lead to focused recommendations for initiatives and action items.

For questions contact Charles Tucker, Vice Provost (ctucker@illinois.edu) or Lauren Goodlad, Provost Fellow (lgoodlad@illinois.edu).