

The Mission, Vision, and Values of the Faculty

The Mission Statement

To offer high-quality education in the Arts and Sciences to the students of the faculty and the students of other faculties, to conduct cutting-edge research, and to serve the needs of the society.

The Vision Statement

To remain as a respected and competitive faculty in all core disciplines of the arts and sciences, to contribute to the ongoing developments in all these disciplines, and applying these changes in our curricula in order to graduate first-rate students in the international arena.

The Values

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences abides by the following values:

1. Justice and Equality
2. Honesty
3. Transparency and Accountability
4. Creativity
5. Productivity
6. Cooperation
7. Responsibility
8. Continuous Development
9. Loyalty

Policies, Objectives, and Principles

The Policies of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Based on the mission and vision statements, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences has developed the following policies:

Internationalization:

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences aims, in line with the EMU's policy of internationalization, to increase the diversity in its undergraduate and postgraduate programs. We also aim to increase diversity among the members of the Faculty, which has traditionally been high in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Furthermore, the Faculty is making efforts to expand the existing collaborations with other international universities, institutes, and research centers.

Research:

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences encourages and supports its academic staff to engage in research and in publishing articles in internationally reputable academic journals, and both participating in, and organizing, academic conferences, and seminars. The Faculty also supports faculty members who apply for research leaves in order to conduct research at other academic institutions and aims to facilitate the development of research projects.

Quality Assurance and Accreditations:

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences aims to adopt new Quality Assurance (QA) principles and guidelines, parallel to the EMU's policy regarding QA.

To this end, the Faculty has applied for and obtained accreditations for the BSc in Psychology (English) program from TPD (Türk Psikologlar Derneği), and for the BSc in

Molecular Biology and Genetics program from AHPGS (Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences). The Department of Mathematics, moreover, is a member of the American Mathematical Society. The Faculty is also in the process of applying for the renewal of the above accreditations and to obtain further accreditations for the other programs of the Faculty.

Student-Centered Education:

Our Faculty pays great attention to the needs of its students and follows a student-centered education system. The curricula of various programs, course contents and the interactivity of courses have been revised and updated, and new projects are still underway. The Faculty is also proud to provide its students with up-to-date laboratory facilities for many disciplines, such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Psychology and Translation. We also aim to improve our well-equipped classrooms.

Following the Bologna Principles:

All undergraduate and graduate curricula have been revised in line with the principles and values of the Bologna Process, as established by the Leuven Communiqué of 2009.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences are as follows:

1. To educate the students in becoming well-equipped, creative and productive individuals who are ethically responsible professionals. With this goal in mind, the Faculty aims to provide its students with the key skills of education in the 21st century: creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.
2. To conduct scientific research in all the disciplines within the Faculty, to contribute to the international academic literature, and to create works of art.
3. To represent the Faculty and the University in the most effective way, nationally and internationally, by conducting significant research and organizing academic, social and cultural events.

4. To become transparent and to promote transparency both within the university and in the country in general.
5. To develop collaboration with other academic institutions.
6. To facilitate communication and collaboration between the university and the community.
7. To contribute to the welfare of society.
8. To play a significant role in the social and cultural development of the country.

Strengths and Areas that Need Development

Strengths

1. Highly Qualified Staff Members

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences benefits from highly qualified and experienced academic staff members, many of whom received their education at internationally acclaimed institutions and come from diverse backgrounds.

2. Offering Education in English

All programs offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (with the exceptions of the programs in Turkish Language and Literature and BSc in Psychology (Turkish)) are offered in English. This enables the Faculty to attract students from all over the world. Offering our programs in English not only enables the students to have access to up-to-date information, but also provides an excellent opportunity to the graduates in their future careers throughout the world. The presence of many international students contributes to the diversity within the faculty and creates a richer learning environment for all students.

3. Strong Record of Successful Graduates

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has been graduating students from all over the world for over 20 years. We are proud that many of our graduates have successful careers in different areas, and many others have continued their education in highly respected universities.

4. Successful Graduate Programs

Our Faculty has been offering graduate programs – M.A., M.Sc., and Ph.D. – in several disciplines for many years. We have graduated over 103 Ph.D.s and over 717 M.A./M.Sc. students, with all the Ph.D. students graduating with publications in internationally respected academic journals.

5. High Research Output

Members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences have been publishing book chapters and books by internationally respected publishers, as well as articles in internationally respected journals, in various disciplines. Faculty members have also received significant grants from important scientific foundations such as TÜBİTAK.

6. Well-Equipped Research Facilities

The Faculty possesses up-to-date laboratory facilities for many disciplines, such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Psychology and Translation.

Areas That Need Development

1. Staff Assessment

The Faculty would benefit from an effective system for the fair, continuous and transparent assessment of its academic and administrative staff. The quality of the members of the Faculty would be improved by a performance evaluation system.

2. Contact and collaboration with academic and research institutions abroad.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences needs to increase and activate its

currently inadequate level of contact and collaboration with highly regarded academic and research institutions.

3. Collaboration within the Faculty and the University

Despite the obvious advantages of interdisciplinary work, the level of such work within the Faculty and the University is inadequate.

4. Unity within the Faculty

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences consists of two different wings, as in many Faculties of Arts and Sciences: pure/natural sciences on the one hand, and arts, humanities and social sciences on the other. Due to structural differences between the departments, there is a lack of collaboration and coordination on many important issues that concern the whole Faculty.

5. Accreditations

The Faculty is in the process of applying, or preparing, for a number of international and national accreditations. These processes have to be completed successfully, but further applications should be made, so as to cover all the disciplines in the Faculty.

6. Promotion of the Faculty

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences would benefit from more intensive and effective promotional activities in North Cyprus, Turkey, and other countries.

7. Student, Staff, Graduate and Employer Satisfaction

The Faculty administration should have long-term goals and policies to monitor, evaluate, and improve the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

8. Diversity among the Faculty's students. The number and proportion of international students in the Faculty are inadequate for achieving a satisfactory level of diversity.

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

Support of Turkey

As in many other universities in North Cyprus, EMU benefits from being recognized by the Turkish Board of Higher Education (YÖK) and Turkish students entering the university through the centralized Turkish university entrance examination. Furthermore, Turkish students are able to receive loans from the Turkish 'Kredi ve Yurtlar Kurumu'.

Challenges

9. Increasing Competition

There is increasing competition from Faculties of Arts and Sciences in new and existing universities in North Cyprus, Turkey, and Eastern Europe.

10. Impact of the Global Economic Crisis

The global economic crisis in recent years has had an especially strong effect on the Arts and Sciences in Higher Education. Students who would normally be interested in Faculties of Arts and Sciences have shifted, due to worries about employment, to vocational and professional programs.

Actions to be Taken

11. Establishing an effective system for the fair, continuous and transparent assessment of the Faculty's academic and administrative staff.

12. Establishing and expanding our contacts and collaboration with international academic and research institutions.

13. Improving the level of collaborative work within the Faculty and University.
14. Taking steps to improve the sense of unity between the various departments of the Faculty.
15. Obtaining international accreditation for all the Faculty's programs.
16. Working on improving the promotion of the Faculty in North Cyprus, Turkey, and other countries.
17. Setting up policies to monitor, evaluate, and improve the satisfaction of all stakeholders of the Faculty.
18. Developing new academic programs and improving existing ones, in accordance with the latest career trends and demands of the job market.