

Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Outline

Mission (Unchanged)

Dalton State College provides a diverse student population with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to attain affordable baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees and certificates and to reach their personal and professional goals. Through challenging academics and rich collegiate experiences, we promote lifelong learning, active leadership and positive contributions in Northwest Georgia and beyond.

Vision

Dalton State will deliver a transformational education by engaging the unique perspectives of a diverse student population to create sustainable solutions that improve our community and world.

Values

Our core values are the essential enduring tenets which guide the Dalton State College community. They set forth what we believe and define how we should conduct our affairs. At the heart of these values is the welfare of our students:

OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL: We believe all of our students can succeed and achieve their full potential.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING: We empower faculty, staff, and students to engage in the pursuit of excellence and innovation in instruction, the acquisition of knowledge, and lifelong learning.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: We embrace inclusion and cultural diversity among faculty, staff, and students; we strive to be a place where the diversity of ideas, values, and perspectives is welcomed and nurtured.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND COLLABORATION: We value a campus culture of service, engagement, and collaboration to advance the welfare of Northwest Georgia and beyond.

RESPECT AND COLLEGIALITY: We are committed to the intentional creation of a community of learners based on respect, civility, courtesy, and appreciation of different points of view.

CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY: We expect integrity, responsibility, and ethical behavior in all of our relationships and hold one another and our institution accountable.

Goal 1: Student Success

We will increase student success through excellent teaching and developmental opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

(Linked to the [University System of Georgia Strategic Plan 2024](#) Goal 1)

Metrics

- Increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded*
- Increase the number of adult-aged undergraduate students*
- Increase first- and second-year retention rates
- Increase student satisfaction scores

Strategic Initiatives

- Expand Momentum Approach practices*
- Improve course and program availability*
- Increase diversity and inclusivity in our campus community
- Increase support for first-generation students

Goal 2: Responsible Stewardship

We will continue to ensure access and affordability for students by containing costs and increasing efficiency across the college.

(Linked to the [University System of Georgia Strategic Plan 2024](#) Goal 2)

Metrics

- Reduce average time to degree for bachelor's and associate degrees*
- Increase annual savings to students from free textbooks*
- Decrease the percentage of students who maximize their total federal student loan borrowing*

Strategic Initiatives

- Continue USG Know More Borrow Less activities*
- Continue USG Affordable Learning Georgia activities*
- Improve course scheduling to ensure timely graduation
- Increase efficiency in processes and services
- Improve resource conservation and use of sustainable practices
- Increase funding from other sources

*From USG strategic plan

Goal 3: Academic Excellence

We will deliver a collegiate experience to students that develops the competencies and knowledge needed by our communities.

(Linked to the [University System of Georgia Strategic Plan 2024](#) Goal 3)

Metrics

- Measure student achievement of marketable skills in the new general education curriculum*
- Measure faculty scholarly productivity*#
- Increase the number of graduates in health professions*
- Increase the number of student enrollments in experiential learning courses*
- Increase post-graduation employment and graduate school enrollment rates

Strategic Initiatives

- Create and implement a process to measure student achievement of marketable skills in the new general education curriculum*
- Create and measure faculty scholarly productivity*#
- Explore nexus degrees*
- Increase experiential learning activities and courses*
- Improve alignment of degree programs with corporate and community needs

Goal 4: Community Engagement

We will positively impact our communities through a collaborative exchange of knowledge, diverse ideas, innovation, and service to improve the societal and economic landscape.

(Linked to the [University System of Georgia Strategic Plan 2024](#) Goal 4)

Metrics

- Increase the number of student enrollments in service-learning courses
- Increase student volunteer hours
- Measure employee volunteer participation
- Increase the number of corporate and community partner engagements

Strategic Initiatives

- Increase corporate and community partner engagement
- Enhance Dalton State's recognition and perception locally, regionally, and nationally
- Increase educational opportunities for adult and English-language learners

*From USG strategic plan; #Awaiting clarity from USG