

Strategic Planning Senate Request

Westmont's commitment to the liberal arts remains one of the five planks of its mission. This commitment has long co-existed with some applied courses (e.g., internships, clinical study, credential classes) and programs (e.g., kinesiology, business). Recently, the approval of an engineering major and the proposal to adopt a post-baccalaureate program in nursing have raised questions about the appropriate balance between traditional liberal arts degrees and professional degrees. As the college begins in spring 2021 to develop a new strategic map, the Academic Senate respectfully requests that as part of this planning process the institution engage in sustained reflection on Westmont's liberal arts commitments, develop principles and, where appropriate, policies that will guide and limit expansions in professional fields of study, and consider how key documents might be amended to clarify the place of professional programs in relation to our liberal arts mission.