Saint Mary’s University Science will be the Faculty of choice for students pursuing a science education in Atlantic Canada, due to its talented academics engaged in exceptional teaching and research, dedicated and effective student support, diverse research opportunities, and leading-edge outreach initiatives.

The Faculty of Science prepares students to be leaders in the global science community through hands-on learning in safe and state-of-the-art environments provided by award-winning instructors, leading researchers, and innovative science communicators.

The Faculty of Science values research excellence, innovative education and programming, hands-on and applied learning, accessibility of professors, innovation in practice, and is committed to fostering a safe, accessible, diverse, and internationalized environment.

In addition, the Faculty of Science supports the core values of Saint Mary’s University: academic integrity, the pursuit of knowledge, responsiveness to community needs, openness to change, commitment to environmental sustainability, and fiscal responsibility, among others.
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND FIVE-YEAR GOALS

**Innovation in Research**

In today’s changing world, innovation and research go hand-in-hand. Collaborative, interdisciplinary research redefines our understanding of scientific knowledge and encourages real-world application of our findings.

a. **Promote and showcase interdisciplinary research**
   i. School of the Environment
   ii. Atlantic Centre for Green Chemistry
   iii. CN Centre for Occupational Health & Safety
   iv. Centre for Innovation in Environment, Renewable Energy, and Natural Resources
   v. Grow media coverage in niche publications

b. **Continue to grow and enrich research facilities**
   i. Acquire new equipment
      - Nuclear Magnetic Spectrometer (NMR)
      - Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)
   ii. Improve laboratory and classroom facilities
   iii. Grow and improve student research space
   iv. Develop shared research space

c. **Develop and broaden support mechanisms for new research**
   i. Research internships
   ii. SEED funding for new research
Teaching Excellence

The Faculty of Science strives to provide a supportive learning environment marked by multiple opportunities for undergraduate student research, faculty members who are leaders in the classroom and in research, and personalized academic support driven by the Science Advising Centre. Our pursuit of continued teaching excellence is led by the support of life-long learning opportunities for faculty members, the growth of leading-edge academic programs and interactive learning technologies, and the continued development of research opportunities and academic support systems for students.

a. Support capacity for innovative teaching and enhanced learning
   i. Enhance opportunities for field courses and study abroad
   ii. Upgrade classroom and laboratory technologies
   iii. Support faculty professional development
   iv. Encourage continuous improvement through the existing Senate process

b. Develop new academic programs
   i. Undergraduate
      • Foundations in Science
      • Bachelor of Applied Science in Earth Systems
      • Bachelor of Engineering Management
      • Major/Honours in Forensic Sciences
      • Science communication courses
      • Partnerships with universities and colleges
   ii. Graduate
      • Master of Science in Computing and Data Analytics
      • Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Science
      • Master of Applied Health Services Research

c. Enrich Science Advising Centre services
   i. Science Numeracy and Academic Proficiency (SNAP) Centre
   ii. Early Intervention
   iii. Peer Mentoring (PeerOne)
   iv. Academic Coaching
   v. Access program
   vi. Academic Science English (ASE)

d. Encourage undergraduate research opportunities
   i. Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada – Undergraduate Student Research Awards (NSERC USRAs)
   ii. Dean’s Awards
   iii. Co-op programs
   iv. Undergraduate Research Office
Creative Outreach & Knowledge Transfer Initiatives

The Faculty of Science will solidify its reputation as a leader in science outreach by broadening its community partnerships and enriching individual faculty members’ capacity for knowledge transfer. By engaging alumni from around the globe, we strengthen our presence on the world stage, and encourage mentorship and development opportunities.

a. Broaden and strengthen community partnerships and outreach
   i. Nova Scotia Youth Experience in Science (NSYES)
   ii. Science Atlantic
   iii. Halifax Regional Sci-Tech Expo
   iv. Established and new science outreach events
   v. Annual science camps
   vi. Burke-Gaffney Observatory
   vii. Techsploration

b. Support Faculty Knowledge Transfer development
   i. Provide knowledge transfer workshops for faculty
   ii. Identify external knowledge transfer opportunities

c. Build relationships with Faculty of Science alumni
   i. Engage and track science undergraduate and graduate alumni
   ii. Build and strengthen internal and external communication channels
      • See Communications Strategy
**Targeted Student Recruitment**

The Faculty of Science will continue to attract high-quality students by collaborating with the Recruitment team to connect and engage with prospective students, strengthening relationships with science teachers and guidance counselors, and increasing the frequency and quality of science outreach to Maritime high schools. We will also continue to forge collaborative programs with local community colleges.

a. **Interactive campus tours**

b. **School presentations, workshops, and high school science labs**

c. **2 + 2 programs with community colleges**

d. **Host student conferences and workshops**

e. **Support regional and local science fairs**
   
   i. **Provide scholarships and judges**
**Internationalization**

Internationalization involves shaping policies and procedures that establish the Faculty of Science as one that supports and attracts international students and prepares its graduates to be global citizens. Through partnerships with institutions worldwide, we provide a university experience that extends beyond institutional, cultural, and national boundaries.

a. Sustain and develop partnership agreements with international universities from around the globe
   i. Joint Bachelor of Science programs
   ii. Joint Bachelor of Science/Master of Science programs
   iii. Faculty and student exchanges
   iv. Promote research collaborations

d. Internationalize academic curriculum
   i. Develop and promote field courses
   ii. Promote International curriculum

e. Support successful integration of International students and heighten domestic students’ awareness of intercultural issues
   i. Launch Lunch and Learn program
   ii. Enrich Science Advising Centre services (see 2c).
**Safe and Enriched Learning Environments**

Our institutional commitment to safe and sustainable practices in an inclusive environment is tied to our dedication to the growth and development of students, faculty members, and staff. All individuals who engage with our laboratories and classrooms receive enhanced safety training and follow rigorous policies that are continually monitored and evaluated by dedicated safety experts.

a. **Ensure laboratory facilities and classrooms continue to be inclusive and accessible learning environments**
   
   i. Collaborate with the Atlantic Centre of Research, Access, and Support for Students with Disabilities

b. **Sustain and enhance safety monitoring**

c. **Develop and incorporate rigorous policies and standard operating procedures**

d. **Enhance safety training for students, staff, faculty, and visitors**