

Feb. 28, 2025 update:

This plan is being reviewed after the issuance of the ["Dear Colleague" letter](#) from the U.S. Department of Education. More details to come.

One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan: Year One Update

Prepared for Academic Health Affairs Committee of the VCU Board of Visitors | September 2022



Our vision

VCU will be widely recognized for highly creative transformative innovation through collaboration across traditional boundaries, advancing the student experience, and improving lives while tackling societal grand challenges.

Our goals

VCU will clearly establish our unique strengths:

- Contributions to global change
- Diverse and inclusive research culture
- Sustainable, scalable and nimble research infrastructure

Our future

As part of Quest 2028, we will achieve:

- Top 50**
US research university ranking
- >\$400M**
per year in external awards
- ~\$500M**
per year in research expenditures
- Up 3-5%**
in federal research awards
- Up 5-10%**
in clinical research
- Up**
in patents, licensing,
partnerships, and start-ups

One VCU Research Strategic Priorities Plan: Year One Update

Largest single-year VCU direct investment in research and innovation at ~\$10M through-engagement-of faculty, staff and students in projects under the following strategic funding initiatives:

~\$1M Quest Fund; ~\$1.5M Accelerate Fund; ~\$3M Breakthroughs Fund; ~\$0.5M Commercialization Fund; \$5.5M Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund; ~\$0.1M Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Fund



Enriching the human experience

VCU leverages creativity and excellence in innovation to solve problems across the globe by leveraging transdisciplinary knowledge creation, applications in technology, and, transformations in creative practice. We apply creative expression, critical analysis, and, advancements in knowledge and technology to enhance individual quality of life and social infrastructure.



Optimizing health

We will harness our strengths in basic research, personalized medicine, public health and innovations in medicine to address health disparities that lead to optimized health for all. We use trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches at scales from molecules to populations in search of new ways to preserve and restore human health.



Achieving a just and equitable society

We will develop a national model for transforming diversity, equality and inclusion in research and scholarship into measurable, societally relevant outcomes. We commit to identifying injustices and finding solutions to the most difficult social problems to build a better world, recognizing that change begins with us.



Supporting sustainable energy and environments

We will bring about the convergence of technological innovation and sustainability to solve society's critical energy and environmental problems. We create evidence-based solutions that contribute to a better future in a rapidly changing natural world.

FY2020-21

Faculty-led planning & implementation groups (<200 faculty, students, staff, stakeholders)

FY2022

- Launch
- Year one awards ~\$10M
- Infrastructure readiness:
 - Research institutes
 - Research cores
 - Critical expansion
 - Research Equipment

FY2024-25

- Year three and four research funding and awards: pending
- Early ROI calculations

FY2026-27

- Year five and six research funding and awards: pending
- Early ROI calculations

FY2023

Year two research funding and awards: pending

FY2028