MISSION
As the College of Charleston’s liberal arts core, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences explores what makes us human. We prepare students who critically examine their own ideas as well as those of others, so that they may lead lives of awareness, compassion, and purpose.

VISION
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences will cultivate student success through innovative teaching, robust mentorship, and experiential learning. We will offer students, faculty, and staff an interdisciplinary community that celebrates the diversity of its members.

CORE VALUES
Integrity: We take accountability for our actions and adhere to the highest ethical standards in all our professional obligations and personal responsibilities. We demonstrate respect for self, others and place.
Academic Excellence: We are committed to a dynamic intellectual community, high academic standards, strong academic programs, exceptional teacher-scholars, engaged students and lifelong learners.
Liberal Arts Education: We encourage intellectual curiosity and foster each student’s ability to think creatively and analyze, synthesize, apply and communicate knowledge from many sources.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: We create and nurture a diverse and inclusive community demonstrated through our thoughts, words and actions. We value and respect the unique perspectives, backgrounds and experiences every individual has to offer.
Student Centeredness: We are devoted to nurturing thriving scholar-citizens through the intellectual, ethical and social development of each individual student.
Innovation: We act with an entrepreneurial spirit to imagine and implement creative, bold and sustainable solutions in our pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement.
Public Mission: We demonstrate social responsibility in meeting the educational and professional needs of our community, our state, our nation and the world.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE & SUCCESS
Ensure an effective support system that increases retention and graduation rates and enables students to learn and grow in every aspect of their College experience, preparing them to work and lead in a globally connected world.

Example Success Metrics:
- % of students engaging in experiential learning opportunities
- First year retention rate (87% by 2026)
- Overall graduation rates (61% four-year, 70% five-year, 72% six-year)
- % of URM and first-generation students

ACCOUNTABILITY & INCLUSION
We take accountability for our actions and adhere to the highest ethical standards in all our professional obligations and personal responsibilities. We demonstrate respect for self, others and place.

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION
Become ranked as a national university distinguished by our innovative liberal arts core and high-achieving students and alumni.

Example Success Metrics:
- % of courses with civics, sustainability, and/or inclusion focus
- # of HSS faculty and staff awards
- # of collaborative projects among students and faculty
- % of students and faculty engaged in interdisciplinary collaborations

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE & SUCCESS
Create an inclusive workplace that inspires excellence and innovation resulting in a thriving faculty and staff community.

Example Success Metrics:
- % of URM faculty, staff, and leadership
- % in mentorship and training programs
- Amount of funds raised for faculty research and professional development
- # of community building/social opportunities and % participation

CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS
- Foster a culture of innovation to create sustainable solutions: Assess, adjust and establish policies, programs and incentives to encourage and enable innovation and continuous improvement in how faculty, staff and students teach, learn and lead.
- Advance our commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion: Refresh and implement the University’s Diversity & Inclusion Plan (e.g., education, programs, accountabilities, and metrics) in order to drive noticeable improvement in creating a campus culture where everyone feels they belong.
- Cultivate impactful strategic partnerships: Establish a central office to help forge, facilitate and foster high-impact strategic partnerships across campus with industry, educational institutions, local and state government, and community organizations in order to advance our mission, vision and strategic priorities.