Mission The Faculty of Community Services activates the intersection of mind and action by a commitment across our disciplines to social change. With a collaborative and passionate approach to transformative teaching and learning, we prepare changemakers of the 21st century. We promote innovation in research, teaching, and learning as a faculty-wide strategy to address societal challenges.

Vision To be Canada’s leading university and hub for inventive and purposeful thinkers and creators.

Undergraduate programs
- Child & Youth Care
- Disability Studies
- Early Childhood Studies
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Nutrition & Food
- Occupational & Public Health
- Social Work
- Urban & Regional Planning

Graduate programs
- Child & Youth Care (MA)
- Early Childhood Studies (MA)
- Nursing (MN)
- Nutrition Communication (MHSc)
- Social Work (MSW)
- Urban Development (MPI)

Interdisciplinary graduate programs
- Environmental Applied Science & Management (MASc)
- Immigration & Settlement (MA)
- Policy Studies (PhD)
During the last academic planning period, the Faculty of Community Services has made tremendous progress towards enhancing its excellence in learning and teaching. We have increased SRC activities and outputs, strengthened interprofessional education in teaching, and expanded community networks and collaborations. The Faculty is more visible within Ryerson and in the broader community, and the reputation of all our schools has grown significantly.

The Faculty’s academic plan for 2014 to 2019 was developed collaboratively, working with our nine schools to identify our key priorities. Building on our core strengths and adding new initiatives, we will provide an enriching and high-quality experience for our students, who will enhance the quality of life of individuals, families and communities locally and internationally. We offer challenging curricula and transformative learning opportunities that will prepare our students to be the changemakers of tomorrow.

Our instructors are exemplary teachers who integrate their research and field experiences into their teaching, leading to better learning outcomes. Their teaching prepares our students to be highly knowledgeable and skilled professionals with transferable and interdisciplinary skills at the leading edge of practice.

Our research activities and outcomes are designed to be relevant to policy and practice. We create and share our knowledge to address urgent social and health issues in ways that transform lives and communities. Our service activities contribute to the nurturing of collaborative networks with our community partners, and we recognize their vital contribution to our mission.

Strategic Goals of the Faculty of Community Services

1. Teaching, Learning & Student Experience
2. Strengthening Scholarly, Research & Creative Activities
3. Advancing Social Innovation
4. Civic Engagement & City Building
Teaching, Learning & Student Experience

Enable excellence in undergraduate and graduate engagement and success through exceptional learning experiences. Advance teaching excellence and enrich student learning by promoting innovative education for the 21st century through these six strategies:

• Enhance student experience in the physical and virtual classrooms by offering challenging and state-of-the-art curriculum and strengthening supports available for students.

• Create opportunities for enriched curricular experiences by advancing teaching excellence and reviewing the quality of student field placements and experiential learning.

• Offer more blended learning opportunities with online, off-site elements to enhance student choice and learning experience.

• Promote education for the 21st century. Equip students to drive future change by incorporating social innovation, inter-professional education (IPE), digital literacy, internationalization of curriculum and experiential learning.

• Develop new graduate programs in the Faculty and design a recruitment strategy to attract an excellent pool of applicants.

• Promote faculty and administrative staff development through mentorship, incorporating IPE and technology in teaching, and faculty-wide discussions on teaching for the 21st century.
Interprofessional education is an educational strategy which prepares students to work collaboratively across professional or disciplinary boundaries by exposing them to opportunities to learn with, from and about each other across programs. When students learn about the scopes of practice of other health care and community services professionals, as well as focus on team-functioning, person-centered care, leadership and communication, they are better prepared to form collaborative teams once they graduate, leading to improved client care.

Ryerson’s partnership with South India’s Amrita University has created opportunities for enriched international learning experiences for our students through intensive field placements in rural villages as part of Amrita’s Live-in Lab program. This innovative five-year collaboration may include exchanges of students and faculty, joint research and publications, joint virtual labs, and special short term programs.

The Master of Arts in Child and Youth Care will educate and promote leadership in child and youth care, with an emphasis on children’s rights and the daily experiences of youth within institutional and community-based services. This one-year program focuses on theoretical and practical approaches related to young people facing adversity. It will cover issues and themes including trauma-informed care, resilience, life-space intervention, critical and anti-oppressive perspectives, and management and policy development in child and youth settings.
Strengthening Scholarly, Research & Creative Activities

Increase the intensity, excellence and impact of our scholarly, research and creative (SRC) activities through these five strategies:

• Create a vibrant and engaging intellectual environment where faculty are supported and encouraged to produce the highest quality research, and recognize faculty SRC achievements individually and collectively.

• Create and co-create knowledge that influences policy to address urgent social and health issues.

• Boost efforts to share new knowledge more widely through multiple outlets, such as our “FCS Research Insights” knowledge translation portal, and apply that knowledge to change lives and communities for greater social impact.

• Expand the activities of FCS research centres and emerging research clusters to promote more interdisciplinary collaboration and create new knowledge that can be applied to improve real-world situations.

• Boost faculty involvement in SRC activities locally, nationally and internationally with more internal support for individual and team grants, and encourage collaborative projects with a national and international presence.
The Usha George Faculty Recognition Award and Sue Williams Excellence in Teaching Award support and encourage outstanding performance by recognizing faculty members for their dedication, passion and exceptional achievements in research, teaching, administration and service.

FCS Research Insights presents plain language summaries of our faculty’s research, as well as policy and practice insights. This gives key decision makers accessible and timely evidence, so they can make informed decisions that will improve the health and well-being of society.

→ Visit: fcsktp.ryerson.ca

The Faculty of Community of Community Services’ commitment to address real-world issues is evident in the research activities of our faculty members. Our engagement with interdisciplinary and community-based research and scholarship is reflected in two global research projects, led by social work professor, Henry Parada, and his research team:

Rights for Children and Youth Partnership: Strengthening Collaborations in the Americas (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant) aims to generate knowledge about factors which support or hinder children and youth rights in the Caribbean, Central America and Canada. Through an interdisciplinary collaboration with universities, governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, the partnership responds to recommendations within the 2006 United Nations World Report on Violence against Children.

Children and Human Rights Empowerment Project (Global Affairs Canada Partnership Grant) aims to improve the safety and quality of life for children living in impoverished communities within the Dominican Republic. The project increases the capacity of government and civil society institutions to develop and implement national policies, support services and education programs.
Advancing Social Innovation

Foster an innovation ecosystem by providing social innovation opportunities for students across disciplines, locally and internationally. Enable graduates to be social change-makers in the global arena through these six strategies:

• Promote a culture of social innovation through curricular activities, such as the minor and a new post-masters diploma in social innovation, and extra-curricular activities, such as a workshop series on leadership in the non-profit sector.

• Develop a vibrant FCS Social Innovation initiative by building collaborative partnerships locally and globally, and by promoting networking among professionals, educators, community groups, educational institutions, companies and non-profits.

• Implement various components and activities in the Faculty’s Social Innovation Initiative including transformative international experiences in South Africa and India and leadership development for our graduates.

• Expand student and faculty interactions and exchanges with relevant innovation zones within Ryerson University by creating a series of events through the Community Transformation Café, in collaboration with the Zone Learning Centre.

• Build on FCS strengths in social innovation. Continue to attract leaders in the field to advance the work of the John C. Eaton Chair in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the distinguished visiting professor in social innovation.

• Increase the Faculty’s responsiveness to current social and academic trends through leadership development initiatives.
At the Faculty of Community Services, social innovation is an effort to create sustainable systemic change to achieve social justice, inclusion and equity for marginalized populations. Social innovators at the FCS seek novel and transformative solutions to social problems. They strive to change conditions in partnership with those living in marginalized or disadvantaged circumstances. Social innovation is integral to the research, teaching and learning at the FCS. Our change orientation is rooted in the curriculum. We study the systems we work within and the nature of change itself. We prepare our students to be the changemakers of tomorrow.

The Faculty’s minor in social innovation will prepare our students for a complex, interdependent global society and empower them to change the world for the better. The minor will require six courses, have an international component and be available to students from all faculties.

FCS in Action is an annual conference that highlights the strength of our scholarship and expertise at Ryerson University and the long history of engagement with our communities in addressing complex societal challenges. Its purpose is to foster innovative thinking and action to enhance community involvement and spur meaningful social change through inclusive participation and ongoing discussion.

New ideas are born in conversations. The Faculty of Community Services offers a platform for students, activists and anyone who has interesting ideas to share to have these conversations at our Community Transformation Cafés. We offer the space for inspirational and aspirational dialogue about transformation and social justice. Past cafés have included topics on leadership in social innovation, global citizenship and international student engagement.

“Social innovation in our faculty starts with a strong commitment to social justice. We are uniquely positioned to encourage students to see themselves as agents of change in relation to deeply embedded social challenges and to improve life for those living in marginalized, disadvantaged or peripheral circumstances.”

— Melanie Panitch, John C. Eaton Chair in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Civic Engagement & City Building

Expand our community engagement and contributions to city building through these four strategies:

- Strengthen our engagement with existing community networks and partnerships to enrich student learning, heighten the impact of SRC activities and enhance community education.

- Launch new and innovative relationships with community organizations to promote broader civic engagement, creating new opportunities for students and graduates to be change-makers in community- and city-building.

- Develop the Centre for Urban Research and Land Development and the City Building Institute, housed in the Faculty of Community Services, to have a greater impact on city-building policies and initiatives, and higher visibility.

- Expand the visibility, profile and reach of community engagement events, such as FCS in Action annual conference, Social Justice Week and global health initiatives that will showcase our commitment to social change across all disciplines.
The Centre for Urban Research and Land Development (CUR) formulates evidence-based policies and solutions to address key concerns arising from rapid urban growth and change within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Centre educates students to be leaders in these pursuits, and applies economic analysis to inform urban policy decisions in the context of social and environmental issues.

The Ryerson City Building Institute brings together political leaders, policy ideas and people from diverse backgrounds to address critical challenges relevant to city regions nationally and globally. The Institute works with partners across faculties and outside the university to deliver high-quality teaching, research and public engagement on urban issues.
At the Faculty of Community Services, we provide an enriching and high-quality learning experience for our students through teaching, research, community collaboration and partnerships. We offer transformative education to prepare our graduates to be changemakers in a global arena. The complete Faculty of Community Services Academic Plan is available online at ryerson.ca/fcs.

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