LCC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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RESEARCH AIMS, AGENDA AND STRATEGY
2024-2029

LCC International University (hereinafter-LCC) research strategy is based on the directions set in Lithuanian national progress strategy "Lithuania 2050,"[1] European Research Area Recommendations[2], and LCC Strategic Plan[3].

RESEARCH AIMS
LCC identifies the following research aims:
- Generation of new knowledge across disciplines.
- Enrichment of teaching.
- Continued emphasis on strong research culture at LCC.
- Engagement of students in scholarship.
- Addressing the challenges faced by society.
- Serving as a laboratory for innovation.
- Faculty development.
- Enhancement of university reputation.
- Adhering to accreditation standards

RESEARCH AGENDA
LCC research agenda is informed by LCC's identity as an international Christian liberal arts university. It integrates perspectives from all branches of Christianity represented at LCC (and beyond) and promotes dialogue between people of different faiths with respect to all aspects of human flourishing. The agenda is closely related to LCC's mission and vision statements. A research agenda that moves people and systems and initiatives to levels of betterment can be seen in three major research areas: Languishing to Surviving to Flourishing.

LCC research agenda provides direction to all LCC researchers and their activities and serves as a direct focus for the LCC Center for Research in Faith and Human Flourishing. While research projects on other topics, undertaken by academic departments, research clusters, research centers or individual faculty members are appreciated and supported by LCC, research related to LCC research agenda may be prioritized in terms of funding and other material support.

Rationale for Research Agenda:
The conception of "flourishing" is based most fundamentally in the Christian understanding, derived from the Scriptures, of each human person as a valuable individual made in the image of God. This is also consistent with the Western liberal tradition's focus on the dignity of the individual.

Because of the diversity of preferences and individual circumstances, the path to "flourishing" is different for each person and each community. Individuals may conceive of movement toward flourishing on a spectrum between two poles (languishing and flourishing), with an intermediate

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[1] "Progress Strategy "Lithuania 2050" _LRS,_ Retrieved on 2025-01-20, https://www.lrs.lt/sip/getFile3?p_fid=83423
[2] "European Research Area," _European Commission,_ retrieved on 2023-12-01, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-area_en
[3] "LCC Strategic Plan 2024-2030", _LCC International University_, retrieved on 2025-01-09, https://lcc.lt/assets/executive-summary-of-strategic-plan-2024-2029.pdf

stage (surviving). In situations of trauma, poverty, and insecurity, individuals and communities lack physical safety and subsistence, experiencing uncertainty and instability. The path toward flourishing involves a move to a status of "surviving": security, subsistence, and reasonable expectation of personal safety, including stable protection of rights and some public goods. Once those needs are met, individuals and communities are free to pursue capability, satisfaction, and flourishing.

LCC supports research that seeks fuller understanding of the movement of individuals and communities from "languishing" to "surviving" to "flourishing," with a particular interest in the role of religious faith as motivation for the pursuit of flourishing, and as a means for individuals and communities to flourish.

LCC research agenda areas are associated with a broad range of research topics, described, but not limited to the exhibit below:

Exhibit 1:

Flourishing	Marriage, Family, Aging, International Relations, Trade, Peacebuilding	Entrepreneurship, Literature, History, Theology, etc.
Surviving	Economic Development, Conflict Dialogues	Poverty Alleviation, etc.
Languishing	Poverty, Violence, Trauma	Immigration, Refugees, etc.

RESEARCH STRATEGY
LCC aims to support its research goals and agenda by taking four strategic directions:
1) Improvement of LCC research quality
2) Enhancement of LCC research quantity
3) Expansion of LCC resources infrastructure
4) Continued emphasis of strong research culture at LCC

Improvement of LCC Research Quality
The improvement of LCC research quality is anticipated to be achieved through meeting the following goals and objectives:

- *Goal 1: Integration into a global research network:*
    - *Objective 1.1.:* To get involved in research grant projects.
    - *Objective 1.2.:* Support LCC faculty research collaboration in Lithuania, the EU and worldwide through the organization of academic events at LCC, faculty participation in academic events outside of LCC, faculty membership in research clusters, working groups, editorial boards, etc.
        - *Key Performance Indicator (KPIs):*
            - *1.1.1 Acceptance of at least one competition-based research grant project within 3 academic years*
            - *1.2.1.Organization of at least one external academic event annually*

- *Goal 2: Revision of LCC research metrics system:*
    - **Objective 2.1:** Identify effective and more modern indicators to measure LCC research quality.
    - *Key Performance Indicator (KPI):*
        - *2.1.1. Approval of an updated version of LCC Research Metrics by Academic Council*

- *Goal 3: Strengthening of the relations with social partners and other universities in Lithuania and Europe:*
    - **Objective 3.1.:** Identify market's need for research joint activities.
    - **Objective 3.2.:** Plan research activities based on the market's need.
    - **Objective 3.3.:** To expand research collaborations with other universities in Lithuania and Europe.

    - *Key Performance Indicators (KPI):*
        - *3.2.1. Initiation of a joint or ordered research grant project with/by social partners*
        - *3.3.3. At least one joint research grant project with other Lithuanian and/or European universities within 3 academic years.*

- *Goal 4: Enhancing support for student research:*
    - **Objective 4.1.:** Enhance opportunities for student research (through the encouragement of joint research with faculty and facilitation of student participation in academic conferences).
    - *Key Performance Indicator (KPI):*
        - *4.1.1. Publication of at least 3 student or faculty-student publication or 5 student academic conference presentations.*

Enhancement of LCC Research Quantity
The enhancement of LCC Research Quantity is assumed through the completion of the following goal and objectives:

- *Goal 1: Introduction and enforcement of LCC faculty certification process:*
    - **Objective 1.1:** Adopt internal faculty certification process to assure faculty quality and professional development.
    - **Objective 1.2:** Clearly articulate quantitative and qualitative research expectations to faculty.
    - **Objective 1.3.:** Re-evaluate faculty workload calculations, in attempt to free more time for research activities.
    - *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):*
        - *1.1.1. Approval of faculty certification process policy by President's Cabinet, with clearly articulated quantitative and qualitative research expectations for faculty.*
        - *1.2.1. Articulation of LCC Research Metrics*
        - *1.3.1. Adoption of new faculty workload calculation system, approved by Academic Council.*

Expansion of LCC Research Infrastructure
The improvement of LCC research infrastructure is expected through the completion of the following goal and objectives:

- *Goal 1: Increasing financial support for LCC Research activities:*
    - *Objective 1.1.:* Attract external funding for research through participation in research grant projects.
    - *Objective 1.2.:* Enforce a system to incentivize faculty research activities financially and through other internal systems, such as sabbatical leaves.
    - *Objective 1.3.:* Explore student research funding possibilities.
    - *Objective 1.4.:* Develop an internal structure to support LCC research grant applications.

- *Goal 2: Revisit LCC's research agenda:*
    - **Objective 2.1.:** To narrow LCC research agenda, concentrating on LCC's competitive advantage.

    - *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):*
        - *1.1.1. Acquisition of additional EUR for research activities through participation in research grant projects.*
        - *1.2.1. All permanent faculty receive access to 1,000 EUR for research and/or professional development.*
        - *1.2.2. All full-time faculty with a terminal degree faculty receive 18 ECTS hours per academic year for research.*
        - *1.2.3. At least one faculty member per academic year is approved for sabbatical leave.*
        - *1.3.1. Student research funding opportunities are identified, recorded and approved by President's Cabinet.*
        - *1.4.1. Internal structure to support LCC research grant application is developed.*

Continued Emphasis of Strong Research Culture at LCC

- *Goal 1: Celebrate faculty research and incorporate it into curriculum:*
    - *Objective 1.1.:* Provide social and academic support to faculty to conduct research.
    - *Objective 1.2.:* Encourage faculty members with MA degrees to pursue doctoral degrees.
    - *Objective 1.3.:* Acknowledge and celebrate faculty research.
    - *Objective 1.4.:* Incorporate faculty research into course curriculum.

    - *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):*
        - 1.1.1. At least 5 research-related faculty professional development seminars on campus per academic year are organized.
        - 1.1.2. External academic events are advertised to faculty on a weekly basis through internal LCC channels.
        - 1.1.3. Public announcements about faculty research achievements are made monthly.

- 1.1.4. Research Excellence Award is given to faculty members at the end of each academic year.
- 1.1.5. LCC Research Portal for faculty is created, which guides faculty in their research journey from topic formulation to publication.
- 1.2.1. At least 3 current faculty members gain PhDs within the next three academic years.
- 1.4.1. Faculty within each academic department have their research on relevant topics incorporated into courses they teach. The process of incorporation of research is reviewed by department chairs on semester basis.

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