

The research mission of Dawson College supports the College’s broader mission to contribute positively to our communities through knowledge generation and mobilization, to generate opportunities for our students to excel, create and be entrepreneurs and to foster innovation in education, science, society, and technology across disciplines.

Research at Dawson will strengthen the intellectual, economic and social development of Québec and Canada by generating new knowledge across disciplines, fostering, promoting and producing new ideas and products, training students and improving the lives of our stakeholders, community members and people around the globe. The College is committed to creating opportunities for faculty, students and staff to collaborate on research that builds communities, creates jobs and contributes to social and economic development in Montréal and beyond. The College will promote and reinforce the highest standards of integrity in all of its members’ scholarship and research initiatives.

We have identified two major themes to promote, direct and grow research at Dawson College: *Social Innovation and Global Citizenship* and *Science, Technology and the Environment*. Within these major themes are five clusters that encompass the diversity of research activity at the College and reflect both emerging and core research strengths.

Global Citizenship & Social Innovation	Science, Technology, & the Environment
Teaching, learning and technology	Social and environmental sustainability
Accessibility and inclusion of diverse populations	Fundamental and applied science
Society, culture, communication and history	

This cluster studies the variables that affect student success, learning and retention, and evaluates technology and practices related to teaching. The emphasis is on measuring the effectiveness of innovative learning tools, practices and technologies in the teaching environment. Strong Communities of Practice exist that involve teachers and researchers from across many departments and other institutions. These groups implement innovative teaching practices, including active learning, problem-based learning, science education, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Approximately 45% of our potential body of researchers identify their discipline as the social sciences and humanities (Dawson Research Survey, 2014). This suggests that there is potential to grow research in this area. Taking advantage of governmental funding opportunities that emphasize social innovation (e.g. SSHRC CCSIF), we will grow the amount of research done in this field over the next three years by providing more training on grant writing and facilitating partnerships and networks with other institutions and organizations.

Climate change and ecological collapse are among the most pressing issues of our time. Researchers in this

Research at Dawson College is based on a commitment to enhancing and supporting a dynamic relationship between teaching and inquiry. Dawson has a strong tradition of research excellence across disciplines, and is home to an experienced and widely recognized group of researchers. The College commits to p

According to the survey on research, the most important factor limiting participation in research at Dawson is the lack of release time available. Dawson allocates the equivalent of three full-time salaries to support research release for its teachers. Proposals submitted to external agencies have more than doubled in the past five years at the College, and we predict that trend to continue based on this trend and interest expressed by faculty to the research office. In addition, internal release allocated to researchers has exceeded the release envelope for the past three years in a row, resulting in no release available to be carried forward for 2015-16. Given these trends, we predict that the available funds to support research release will be insufficient to support funded researchers over the next five years. Support during the initial stages of proposal development is a critical determinant of whether a researcher pursues his or her project, or whether he or she becomes discouraged and gives up. Since time is the limiting factor for college

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these trends and the strong cohort of young researchers currently at the College, we anticipate this growth to continue, or at least remain at the current higher level.

To sustain the growing researcher population, and to support new and existing research projects college researchers must be eligible for funding opportunities that are currently limited to university researchers (e.g. FRQSC Établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs and Soutien aux équipes de recherche, NSERC Discovery Grants).

Providing incentives to teachers who do research by investing in release time targeted at strong ongoing projects and competitive project ideas should result in growth in external funding.

The research office:

**Will increase external funding by initiating more applications to external
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Will explore an application for an Industrial Research Chair for Colleges grant through the NSERC CCI program.

Will work with CRISPESH to partner with community organizations in the area of disability studies.

The College:

Will support teachers with interests in applied research to develop external partnerships and support their professional development to update their existing skills.

Will organize and host networking events to bring in external partners and develop a reputation for applied research.

Meeting these three key objectives will require investment in research administration infrastructure. Currently, the Research Coordinator position is staffed at 50%. Making that position full time would allow the Research Office to:

Lead in developing policies related to research support

Identify and develop key performance indicators and metrics to better inform decisions

Assess data to identify opportunities and establish planning priorities

Measure and evaluate the success of initiatives outlined in this Strategic Plan

In addition, a full-time Research Coordinator will more effectively promote and drive new research projects, identify new funding sources (e.g. alumni and private foundations), more effectively promote research excellence and impact