

Framework for Purpose-Driven, Career-Ready Leaders: A Planning Checklist for Undergraduate Degree Programs

Updated August 16, 2026

The following checklist provides a suggested series of steps. Please note that these steps may be iterative. For example, while learning about best practices for a particular enhancement (#4), faculty may decide other enhancements need to be added to the program roadmap (#3).

1. Envision Aspirational Outcomes for Students (Aug-Sept 2026)

- a. Start with student outcomes: Align as a faculty on a vision for your program that articulates at a high-level the kind of impact you want the program to have on students, as well as reputation among employers, while also highlighting the kind of critical learning experiences that will be essential for achieving this vision.
- b. Explore the Framework. Review the vision of each of the four pillars and the associated essential components. The framework serves as a floor, not the ceiling, for your program's vision.

2. Assess Program Strengths and Opportunities (Aug-Sept 2026)

- a. Identify where your program already has strengths as well as opportunities to enhance in relation to the four components and your program's aspirational vision.

3. Create a Program Roadmap for Enhancements (Aug-Sept 2026)

- a. Make updates to program learning outcomes, as needed.
- b. Decide on the approach for each of the four pillars, including which courses will be enhanced and any new courses to be created. Ensure key practices are at least in required courses so that every student benefits.
- c. Identify faculty who will own respective updates, while also planning for collective review to ensure alignment across the program.

4. Explore Research & Best Practices (Sept-Oct 2026)

- a. Explore insights and examples from within and outside of UNT Dallas and attend professional learning on pillars.

5. Make the Course Enhancements (Oct-Dec 2026)

- a. Update and/or create course syllabi, assignments, student assessment rubrics, and any other relevant course artifacts.
- b. Use the course design guides to align with quality criteria identified from research.

6. Create Program & Course Proposals in Coursedog (Jan-Mar 2027)

- a. Submit relevant documents in Coursedog. To make it easy for reviewers, complete and submit the design guides for each course where relevant updates are made.