



- Technology also allows UMUC to personalize ongoing learning to the individual student. In particular, adaptive learning (smart software that learns how learners are progressing and adapts specifically to those learners' needs) will help students learn more effectively. In courses that most students take when they first attend UMUC, adaptive learning approaches will be critical to help students build foundational skills and develop the confidence to move forward.
- The future learning model will also be supported by data analytics, allowing the university to learn more about its students and what helps them succeed and to continuously improve programs based on dynamic information about learners.

All of these elements will be combined in the learning model and will drive UMUC's efforts: a workplace-relevant, personalized, student-centered learning experience that is fully supported both academically and technologically. This will allow UMUC to continue and expand its tradition of leadership in the radically new world of higher education.

One of UMUC's greatest strengths lies in the dedication and commitment of its staff to serve its students. UMUC staff possess broad and far-reaching experience that truly makes UMUC a world-class higher education institution. The highly dedicated UMUC staff will be instrumental in providing more personalized support to students as they progress through their programs at UMUC.

### c. Workplace-Relevant Curricula and Programs

Undergraduate and graduate programs will all share a definition of learning mastery that emphasizes not just knowledge of a field but also the ability to apply that knowledge in the real world. Students will not only memorize and recall but work through real-world projects and produce authentic deliverables. Several initiatives support this objective:

- UMUC is developing close relationships with employers to inform program curricula, including development of workplace-relevant projects and assessments aligned with the competencies employers need, in order to ensure that the skills gap is being closed for our graduates;
- The university will create clear, accelerated pathways from undergraduate to graduate degrees;
- The university will also collect, summarize and provide rich academic data that will enable program chairs to maintain and continually improve the relevancy and quality of curricula;
- UMUC will align open-source learning resources with specific competencies, so that the most relevant and up-to-date resources help students move toward mastery; and
- UMUC students will graduate with proven abilities to immediately contribute to their employers and communities—and many will be able to contribute in new ways even before graduation.

#### d. Roles of Faculty

Developing programs and learning spaces that allow students to demonstrate learning at a personalized pace will shift the roles of faculty:

- One of UMUC's greatest strength lies in the scholar-practitioner faculty members who brings years of real-world experience to the classroom, coupled with solid academic credentials. UMUC students, who demand a curriculum that is practical and relevant to today's competitive and evolving global marketplace, consistently praise the real-world perspective that the university's faculty bring to the class. The highly qualified UMUC faculty will work directly with individual students to help each learner progress, demonstrate competencies and access course materials to develop new knowledge and skills. These faculty roles—as mentors, guides and coaches—will enrich interaction with faculty and among students while increasing individual learning. The university's scholar-practitioner faculty will contextualize the information for students by drawing on their rich applied knowledge.
- To support faculty in these new roles, the university will provide enhanced training and professional development.
- As always, faculty will be integrally involved in the design of curriculum, the delivery of faculty development models and other roles arising from this new model.