



College of  
**Social and Behavioral Science**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

CAROLYN & KEM GARDNER COMMONS

## 500-Day Strategic Plan Summary

February 2021

# INSPIRING HUMAN SOLUTIONS TO LIFE'S CHALLENGES



1970 - 2020

## An Interdisciplinary Lens:

Today's challenges (e.g., mental health and suicide risk, racism, climate change, and income inequality) are best addressed via multiple disciplines to capture the complexity of these issues. We embrace the incredible diversity of the college in the experiences of members of our community, the range of disciplines represented in the college with their own intellectual traditions, and the variety of places where our alumni go after finishing their degrees.

We use the diversity of disciplines to tackle grand challenges including 7 departments (Anthropology, Economics, Family and Consumer Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology) and numerous interdisciplinary programs (Environmental and Sustainability Studies, Health, Society, and Policy), Programs of Public Affairs (Masters of Public Administration, Masters of Public Policy, Masters of International Affairs and Global Enterprise), and ROTC.

Active collaboration among researchers in the college and throughout health sciences and main campus align with the one U approach of the university. Our diversity in disciplines allows us to tackle grand challenges from an interdisciplinary lens through:

1. Cutting-edge research involving faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and postdoctoral fellows.
2. Innovative, active teaching.
3. The development of policy and dissemination of research in our local communities, nationally, and internationally, that translates knowledge into real solutions that address today's challenges.

### Our Mission:

To inspire human solutions to today's grand challenges.

### Our Vision:

- To facilitate student understanding of the grand challenges and to facilitate their success to be part of the solution.
- To contribute to the knowledge base regarding grand challenges and disseminate that knowledge.
- To enable solutions to social and environmental challenges through policy, community programs, and community outreach.

### Our Values:

- **Students first and always.**  
We acknowledge that we all exist as a community of learners.
- **Diversity enriches the educational experience and knowledge base.**  
We learn from those whose experiences and perspectives are different from our own.
- **Solutions to grand challenges benefit from interdisciplinary perspectives.**  
The grand challenges of our time cannot be solved via any particular discipline but benefit from interdisciplinary perspectives.
- **Social Science is a hub science enriching the intellectual traditions of other scientific fields.**





## Facilitate student success:

1. Recruit outstanding, inquisitive, and diverse students to the college.
2. Provide dynamic, social and behavioral science experiences that prepare students for meaningful and rewarding careers.
3. Provide students with an understanding of the diversity of social science scholarship and how this knowledge informs grand challenges.
4. Improve the retention rates for CSBS majors.
5. Promote high-quality instruction and provide opportunities for advancement in teaching and pedagogy.

## Generate and disseminate new knowledge:

1. Support high quality research.
2. Engage our faculty in One U opportunities and facilitate university-wide interactions.
3. Foster research on grand challenges.
4. Raise the grant profile of the college to address critical challenges to the social and natural world.

## Enabling solutions to social and environmental problems in our communities:

1. To connect scholars with local and state government leaders, so that policy and dissemination of knowledge can mutually inform each other.
2. Engage alumni so that closer connections can be made between local and national research and internship opportunities.
3. Train students to Be the Solution in Their Communities.

## Ensure vitality of the college:

1. Promote a college climate of inclusivity.
2. Enhance staff professional development.
3. Improve the college's physical infrastructure.
4. Provide necessary financial support to meet our goals.

## Metric:

We measure success through a series of Metrics that are reviewed every quarter.





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