

HERMAN OSTROW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

STRATEGIC VISION – DENTISTRY

2024-2030

Overview

This Strategic Vision considers the mission, vision and values of the University of Southern California and the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry and includes six aspirational goals for the next five years.

The Mission of Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC is to provide education, scholarship, and outreach that improves oral, dental, craniofacial, and general systemic health and well-being locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Vision focuses on the integration of teaching, research, and service, centered upon our students and patients. We aspire for academic excellence, demonstrate empathy and respect for others, and adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards of our profession.

Implementation of the Strategic Vision is rooted in our ongoing outcome assessment process and considers the ever-evolving field of dentistry and health education, based on new discoveries and innovative approaches.

Aspirational Goals

The Strategic Vision 2025-2030 includes six aspirational goals:

Instructional Excellence

We have an integrated program that extends the principles of learner-centered education and embraces a holistic approach to train the future generation of dentists to care for patients across their lifespan. We focus on the contribution of teaching scholarship addressing the unique needs of the learners, and a continuously evolving and sustained infrastructure and resources that align with the Ostrow's teaching philosophy and embraces contemporary technological innovation.

Learner-Centered Education.

A learner-centered education, where faculty and students are active partners in the learning process. This is achieved through an interdisciplinary curriculum that seamlessly integrates biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences.

Faculty Excellence

Our faculty contribute with a broad range of skills, perspectives, and experiences, engaging actively in educational, scholarship, service, and outreach activities, while supporting the

promotion of a welcoming environment for all members of the school community and social justice.

Excellence in Research

The University of Southern California is committed to nurturing and promoting ethical and rigorous research, scholarship, creativity, and innovation to benefit society. We promote the generation and sharing of knowledge, facilitate the translation of new discoveries into pedagogical innovation and clinical care that shapes what is thought and what is taught. Our focus spans craniofacial research, clinical research and evolving technology, microbial infections and oral cancer, health promotion and disease prevention, and scholarship of teaching.

Excellence in Patient Care

Throughout the curriculum, students have clinical learning opportunities designed for the integration and application of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical knowledge with the skills and technology to offer a comprehensive patient-centered care for individuals at all stages of life, including patients with special needs and vulnerable populations.

Community outreach and interdisciplinary education

USC offers a unique environment to foster and sustain interprofessional/interdisciplinary training through a wide variety of partnerships tying the dental school with the University-wide system and with various community-based health-related organizations to improve coordination and efficiency of patient care.

Outcomes from each aspirational goal

Instructional Excellence

Instructional excellence anchored in scholarship to identify new knowledge, programs, biomaterials, and techniques that optimize health and prevent disease.

Multiple teaching methodologies cater to diverse learning styles and opportunities for cultivating cultural appreciation, promoting well-being practices, with emphasis on soft skills crucial for delivering compassionate care.

A service orientation grounded in scholarly pursuits to identify novel knowledge, programs, biomaterials, and techniques proven to optimize health and prevent disease.

Learner-Centered Education.

A holistic recruitment process integrating both cognitive and non-cognitive metrics to select a well-rounded student cohort.

A wide range of pedagogic tools to support a learner centered process that includes personalized guidance, small group interactions, self-directed learning, and service learning.

We cultivate learning experiences that nurture independent and critical thinking, self-direction, problem-solving, empathy, and compassionate care.

A learning process characterized by ongoing individual assessment and feedback on student learning, facilitated by self-, peer- and faculty-assessments.

Faculty Excellence

Opportunities for faculty development, spanning mentorship programs, ongoing evaluation, educational benefits, loan repayment options, engagement in faculty practice, and participation in leadership and governance.

A safe space for faculty to express their thoughts and feelings without hesitation or fear of retaliation.

Opportunities for implementing innovative therapies and technologies to advance teaching methods and optimize patient care.

Active participation of faculty in cross-disciplinary biomedical, translational, and community-based scholarship, seizing opportunities to enhance the contributions and visibility of the Ostrow School locally, nationally, and internationally.

Excellence in Research

Ongoing collaborative research by evolutionary and development biologists, geneticists, computer modelers and tissue engineers.

Continuous exploration of new methods to repair, replace and regenerate damaged tissue, including using a patient's own stem cells to regenerate teeth and enamel.

Ongoing development of applications of digital dentistry, and development of biocompatible materials.

Leading investigations to reduce persistent infections, through early diagnosis, new antibiotic delivery mechanisms and disrupting biofilm formation.

Contributions to public health by identifying optimal methods for delivering healthcare services and fostering partnerships to extend reach to a broader spectrum of patients, families and the under-served.

Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching methodologies and innovation through the continuous assessment of educational outcomes to identify best practices for dental education.

Excellence in Patient Care

A diverse patient pool to ensure that students encounter a variety of clinical and social conditions, enabling them to deliver care in a manner that fosters patient comfort and satisfaction.

Comprehensive patient-centered care through individualized student learning with calibrated faculty experts and the collaboration with and referral to dental

and medical specialists whenever necessary.

A distinctive partnership with our patients, maintaining transparent communication at every stage of their care with accurate and efficient record keeping.

Technological advancements and specialized care in all clinical sites to elevate the standard of patient care, promoting efficiency, accessibility, and overall oral health.

Community reach and interdisciplinary education

Evolving collaborations to benefit patients and students across diverse disciplines. Interdisciplinary, comprehensive, and empathetic care addressing the complex and varied needs of special populations, such as children, older adults, and individuals experiencing homelessness or other life maladies.

Integration of experiential learning and community engagement to enhance cultural humility and promote a sense of social responsibility and leadership interests in community service.

Ongoing academic and service experiences to promote the understanding of the patient's needs and values, regardless of their socioeconomic status, health literacy, cultural background, or age, resulting in trust building and successful conveyance of health promotion behaviors as a complement to treatment.

Crosscutting Goals

- Financial stability attained through the prudent utilization of resources, by the unwavering support of dedicated individuals and Trojan members who share our vision and ideals for the exemplary education of the next generation of dentists.
 - Continuous communication, assessment, and enhancement of the curriculum by integrating emerging information, refining assessment methods, adjusting module and rotation content and sequence, continually reviewing, and enhancing the overall curriculum content.
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