

Strategic Plan Overview

Mission

Advancements in patient care, education, research, and community engagement, for the benefit of Kentuckians and beyond, are made possible by our college's scientifically oriented, technically capable, and culturally sensitive oral health team.

Vision

Be a model for oral health education, discovery, and service as our innovations advance the practice of dentistry.

CURE Values

Compassion: We strive to be understanding and empathize with those with whom we interact as we work toward fulfilling the needs of our community.

Unity: We work to create and maintain an environment of mutual respect, transparency, inclusiveness, and equity as a means of offering a welcoming community to all to collaborate and grow within.

Respect: In support of a people-centric environment inclusive of all, we treat ourselves, each other, and those we serve with dignity. We appreciate the diversity of thought, opinion, experience, and backgrounds present in our community.

Excellence: To transform and innovate the field of dentistry for the better, we will persistently challenge ourselves to excel in all that we do to advance education, patient care, community service, and research.

Pillars

Education: Transform our predoctoral and doctoral dentistry program learners into accomplished general practitioners and specialists, and support meaningful lifelong learning opportunities for healthcare professionals.

Clinical Care: Offer a superior patient experience by providing leading-edge, patient-centered care supported by advancements in clinical education and digital dentistry.

Community Engagement: Establish UK College of Dentistry as a leader for quality oral health in Kentucky through building relationships, community education, and treatment opportunities outside main campus.

Research: Prevent and alleviate oral diseases in Kentucky based on research and discovery.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Establish, expand, and encourage blueprints, policies, and best practices enabling an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

Leadership: Provide a positive, supportive environment to ensure the sustainable delivery of efforts allowing for the accomplishment of the college's mission.

Education Pillar

Goal One: Respond to learner needs to grow interest in the college's offerings and provide a distinctive and supportive learning experience.

Objectives:

- Grow awareness of the college's offerings and increase understanding of the distinct features of our programming.
- Address barriers to the academic success of students.
- Enrich the college's learning environment by supporting the adoption of emerging technology.

Goal Two: Provide challenging and engaging experiences to support learner success post- program completion and develop skilled, life-long learners.

Objectives:

- Engage program participants to aid in program innovation efforts.
- Increase professional growth opportunities and instances allowing for interprofessional healthcare team involvement.

Goal Three: Maintain and strengthen the quality and distinctiveness of our programming to attract and transform participants into accomplished professionals.

Objectives:

- Strengthen and expand the college's program offerings.
- Review current programming to ensure it remains dynamic and relevant to ensure students are best prepared to practice and adjust to changes in the dental field after graduation.
- Refine continuing education offerings to support the needs of oral healthcare professionals and provide information on advances in dental science and technology.
- Update evaluation and feedback processes to increase transparency and more effectively share and utilize data.

Clinical Care Pillar

Goal One: As part of providing a comprehensive clinical education to support the delivery of evidence-based and patient-centered care, further embrace digital dentistry advancements, graduating the top digitally trained dentists in the nation.

Objectives:

- Increase the presence of digital dentistry in all pre-clinical and clinical aspects of the college.
- Grow available faculty and staff to support the provision and teaching of digital care.

Goal Two: Expand and enhance areas the college has available to better support existing and new clinical programs and care opportunities for Kentuckians.

Objectives:

- Increase the presence of UKCD-supported care throughout the Commonwealth.
- Secure additional necessary physical spaces and modify current spaces to improve the delivery of educational and patient care services.

Goal Three: Achieve positive patient outcomes through improved efficiencies and providing excellent, evidence-based oral health care, as part of overall health, for both routine and complex cases.

Objectives

- Improve the college's dental health care delivery system, enterprise-wide, to be recognized as offering a premier dental patient experience.

Community Engagement Pillar

Goal One: Grow relationships that enable the college to fulfill its mission to advance oral health in Kentucky and beyond.

Objectives:

- Evaluate and enhance current relationships.
- Increase collaborations with organized groups to provide opportunities for offering greater access to oral health education and care.
- Develop opportunities for the college to work closely with health practitioners throughout Kentucky
- Increase connections with UKCD alumni.

Goal Two: Enhance UKCD as a recognized source of oral health information for the legislature, media, health care professionals, and individuals, along with avenues to distribute information.

Objectives:

- Increase the amount of research findings compiled into useful information for health practitioners and general public.
- Increase the number of opportunities for faculty to speak as content experts.
- Grow distribution avenues of oral health information to the dental community, health care professionals, and general public.

Goal Three: Enhance the ability of Kentuckians to access oral healthcare through established clinics and outreach opportunities beyond Lexington.

Objectives:

- Improve the ability of established rural clinics to provide high-quality dental care in underserved areas of Kentucky.
- Increase outreach opportunities to allow under-served populations access to oral healthcare.
- Identify and develop opportunities to encourage dental graduates to practice in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Research Pillar

Goal One: Establish a supportive environment for research and develop necessary resources to address oral diseases in the Commonwealth.

Objectives:

- Increase research activity aligned with university and federal institution priority areas through internal and external competitive award of funding to investigators.

Goal Two: Achieve greater student understanding and appreciation of and engagement with research efforts.

Objectives:

- Increase meaningful research activity opportunities to bolster student participation in research.

Goal Three: Establish more opportunities to highlight and utilize relevant research findings for patient care.

Objectives:

- Increase the dissemination of both UKCD and non-UKCD research findings that have potential impacts on evidence-based teaching and patient care.
- Improve the utilization of research to fuel evidence-based curriculum and patient treatment decisions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Goal One: Create an institution of belonging that ensures an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming environment.

Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to learn more about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) through targeted ongoing training, presentations, and educational offerings.
- Increase college resources to support DEI.

Goal Two: Engage and retain outstanding students from all backgrounds.

Objectives:

- Continue to build on the college's open, accepting, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment for students.
- Establish competitive compensation and financial aid packages for recruiting predoctoral students.

Leadership Pillar

Goal One: Improve college processes and structures involved with the responsible management of resources.

Objectives:

- Continually enhance business and organizational processes to grow transparency and foster trust in the college.
- Secure necessary financial resources to support institutional longevity and growth of services.

Goal Two: Improve college processes and structures to support increased engagement and performance within our community.

Objectives:

- Improve faculty and staff recruitment, development, and retention to support the highest quality of education, research, and service.
- Support a culture that encourages positive morale and personal wellness of faculty, staff, and learners.

Goal Three: Increase and improve our physical space to best meet the needs of our educational, clinical, and research endeavors and required support services.

Objectives:

- Develop a plan to best utilize current space while exploring options for physical growth on campus as well as offsite locations.

