



Building on Strength – Improving Tomorrow





Our Mission

To train oral health professionals to provide high quality oral health care to the people of Saskatchewan, and to advance clinical and scientific knowledge through research.

Our Vision

To serve as a leader in dental education, research, community outreach, engagement and professional support.



The College acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.



Message from the Dean



College of Dentistry Plan 2025 Building on Strengths — Improving Tomorrow

Inequalities in oral health status and inequities in dental healthcare access are among Canada’s most challenging dental problems. While the majority of people in the country take oral health for granted, far too many Canadians are unable to eat, speak, smile, or socialize without difficulty, pain, or embarrassment.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Dentistry is proud to unveil a seven-year plan designed to help guide our efforts and sharpen our focus as we address oral health concerns that go far beyond the aesthetic of solid teeth and a bright smile.

The college’s reputation for training some of the top clinician dentists in Canada is not taken lightly. Since the very first Doctor of Dental Medicine classes at USask started in 1968, the college has been committed to offering the small class sizes and appropriate patient pools required to produce some of the most experienced dental graduates in North America.

However, this strength has also been our greatest weakness; this exclusive focus on a traditional model of dental education has led to limited development in essential areas

of research and service. As such, it is time for the College of Dentistry to expand its leadership role with a forward-facing vision.

Strategic Plan 2025, Building on Strengths — Improving Tomorrow, intentionally maintains our historic areas of strength and allows us to build upon them. Throughout the next seven years, the college will work toward establishing a national and international reputation for excellence in a targeted, single area of focus—inclusive community care.

Through inclusive community care, the USask College of Dentistry will champion respectful, patient-focused oral health among diverse individuals and groups where age, culture, geography, or socio-economic factors may influence access to care.

On behalf of our dedicated faculty and staff, I am proud to provide this summary of our strategic priorities and plans for the next seven years—our roadmap to a better tomorrow for both the dental school and the priority populations who must be included in the process of addressing Canada’s most challenging dental problems.

Dr. Doug Brothwell
Dean, College of Dentistry
University of Saskatchewan

Strategic Priorities

Priority 1

**Become Canada's leader in
Inclusive Community Care**

Priority 2

Expand educational programming

Priority 3

Expand research capacity and output

Priority 4

College revitalization and enhancement

Priority 5

**Uplift the needs, preferences and
aspirations of Indigenous people**



Strategic Priority #1

Become Canada's leader in Inclusive Community Care

Woven into the fabric of the College of Dentistry is our commitment to community engagement. We will improve the quality of life of those populations most affected by the social determinants of health.

As a professional college that serves a range of communities locally and provincially, it is essential that we engage priority populations in defining their oral health care goals and expectations in order to better provide personalised care. Approaching oral health care through community engagement will confront historic injustices and inequities regarding their oral health care status and access to services. Together, we will work to discover solutions.

Components:

1.1 Establish a network of clinics serving priority populations

Key Milestones:

- Open a dental clinic at the newly-established Prince Albert campus that will be fully operational by 2020-2021
- Launch five Indigenous dental clinics in defined priority communities locally and provincially by 2020-2021
- Establish an additional five Indigenous dental clinics in surrounding areas by 2023-2024

1.2 Expand General Practice Residency / Fellowship Program (GPR) numbers

Key Milestones:

- Accept three GPR residents in the accredited program by 2021-2022
- Double our admission numbers in the next two years, adding another three residents by 2023-2024
- Increase the program to ten residents by 2025-2026

1.3 Redefine dental care from an Indigenous perspective

Key Milestones:

- Establish ongoing community partnerships with First Nation and Métis leadership to discover oral health care solutions based on Indigenous ways of knowing
- Use a community-engaged research approach to learn about how we can best provide services that are respectful

1.4 Establish Standards of Care and Best Practices for priority populations

Key Milestones:

- Establish a combination of community-engaged research methods and precision health-care research methods
- Produce five peer-reviewed Standards of Care and Best Practices publications annually starting in 2021-2022



While access to needed medical care is a 'right' in Canada, access to needed dental care remains a 'privilege.' Many Canadians have little or no access to needed dental care.

Strategic Priority #2

Expand educational programming for undergraduate and graduate students

We remain proud of our long history of training skilled clinicians who serve communities in Saskatchewan and beyond. To move boldly forward we will diversify our educational offerings and increase our total student numbers.

Components:

2.1 Increase the number of undergraduate Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students

Key Milestone:

- Expand program capacity by increasing the number of undergraduate students from 28 to 34 by 2018-2019

2.2 Establish a Bachelor of Science in Dentistry (BSc DENT) program

Key Milestone:

- Launch the program by intaking the first five BSc DENT students by 2019-2020

2.3 Implement a Certificate in Dental Assisting Program

Key Milestones:

- Initiate the program by intaking the first 30 students by 2018-2019
- Establish an Accredited USask Certificate program by 2019-2020

2.4 Implement an International Dentist Degree program (IDDP)

Key Milestone:

- Introduce the program by admitting three IDDP students by 2019-2020

2.5 Establish two Masters of Science Dental Speciality graduate programs

Key Milestones:

- Launch an MSc Dental Public Health program, admitting three students annually by 2021-2022
- Launch an MSc Pediatric Dentistry program, admitting three students annually by 2022-2023

2.6 Establish a PhD graduate program in Human Health and Technology

Key Milestone:

- Admit the first cohort of PhD students into the newly established program in 2019-2020



The burden of suffering from dental disease is not evenly distributed in Canada. It is now being born by a small proportion of the population – perhaps 25%.

Strategic Priority #3

Expand research capacity and output

Historically operated as a professional training college, the College of Dentistry continues to bolster and expand research capacity in order to better serve the dental profession and communities in Saskatchewan and around the world. Providing our students, researchers, and faculty members with the tools to conduct research in the college involves increased funding opportunities, expanded educational programming, as well as clear guidelines for research expectations.

Through our expansion, we will build a national and international reputation as a clinical training and research-intensive college, increasing our number of research-active faculty and graduate students, and growing our research capacity, productivity, and output.

Components:

3.1 Expand faculty research capacity and productivity by recruiting top researchers, increasing the number of PhD-trained faculty

Key Milestones:

- Hire a research facilitator to support college research endeavours and co-ordinate college research output by 2018-2019
- Increase research capacity by increasing our existing faculty complement by four PhD faculty members by 2018-2019
- Define research goals in faculty assignment of duties

3.2 Establish new undergraduate and graduate programs

Key Milestones:

- Develop a PhD program and combined PhD/DMD starting in 2019-2020
- Introduce two MSc Dental Speciality programs, admitting six students annually by 2023-2024
- Launch a BSc DENT program, intaking its first five students by 2019-2020

3.3 Increase college support for research

Key Milestones:

- Increase start-up research funds for existing and future research proposals
- Establish annual funding of \$50,000 for BSc DENT students to use towards undergraduate research initiatives
- Introduce an Interprofessional Research Cluster in Oral Health and Precision Medicine, receiving approval for the new research center by 2020-2021
- Increase research grant funding to provide our faculty with the capacity to expand or initiate current and future research projects
- Increase the quality and quantity of peer-reviewed publications produced by our faculty members

One of the hallmarks of the dental profession is our solid research base. We will expand that base in a meaningful way

Strategic Priority #4

College revitalization and enhancement

Established in 1965, the College of Dentistry was the first institution in the province to offer a fully accredited dental program, providing direct patient care through the Student Dental Clinic and accommodating over 10,000 visits annually.

In order to continue training Canada’s top clinical dentists with the necessary skills to service communities now and in the future, it is fundamental that we modernize the infrastructure, equipment, and programming in our college to meet the educational standards of the profession and our students. This investment demonstrates our commitment to maintaining best practices in the post-secondary sector and dental school education.

Components:

4.1 Renovate and reequip the college, relocating the preclinical simulation labs to within the Dental Clinic Building

Key Milestone:

- Complete the renovation and reequipping of the Dental Clinic Building for 2023-2024

4.2 Change the delivery of clinical dental education to a Comprehensive Care model

Key Milestones:

- Launch and utilize the Comprehensive Care model for year-four students by 2019-2020
- Expand use of the Comprehensive Care model to year-three students by 2021-2022

4.3 Increase the use of evidence-based teaching and educational technology

Key Milestone:

- On an annual basis, facilitate three faculty-development sessions regarding the use of teaching technology

4.4 Provide faculty-development in best educational practices

Key Milestone:

- On an annual basis, facilitate five faculty-development sessions about best educational practices

4.5 Provide faculty-development in research methods and opportunities

Key Milestone:

- On an annual basis, facilitate five faculty-development sessions regarding research methods



November 2018
Accreditation
Requirement:

That the aging dental
clinic, preclinical lab
and simulation lab be
renovated

Strategic Priority #5

Uplift the needs, preferences, and aspirations of Indigenous people

The University of Saskatchewan and the University Plan 2025 mark a path forward in committing ourselves to lead in a good way, dedicating support and resources to uplifting Indigenous populations locally and provincially. The College of Dentistry will lead reconciliation in the dental profession and be an institution of first choice for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty.

By virtue of our clinical training program, the college provides direct clinical care to Indigenous patients in our communities. By incorporating traditional ways of knowing into our educational programming, and partnering respectfully with Indigenous communities and organizations, we will better meet the oral health care needs and preferences of Indigenous people.

Components:

5.1 Increase the proportion of Indigenous representation in the college

Key Milestones:

- Increase Indigenous Equity Access DMD student admission to 6/34 by 2018-2019
- Establish Indigenous Equity Access CDA student admission of 5/30 by 2019-2020
- Diversify college faculty by recruiting one Indigenous faculty member by 2017-2018, and two by 2019-2020
- Diversify and expand the college's support team by adding five Indigenous staff members by 2021-2022

5.2 Incorporate Indigenous content into undergraduate and graduate curriculum

Key Milestones:

- Introduce one core course in Indigenous Canadian history and Indigenous health beliefs
- Incorporate Indigenous content, perspectives, and traditional ways of knowing within all dentistry courses

5.3 Provide distance educational options for partner Indigenous communities

Key Milestone:

- Provide in-community Dental Assistant training in northern First Nations by 2020-2021

5.4 Establish community-engaged research with Indigenous communities and organizations

Key Milestone:

- Set the expectation that all Indigenous research occurs within the community-engaged research framework in order to effectively to learn about how we can best offer services that are respectful



“Reconciliation,” said Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, “is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts.”

Framework

UNIVERSITY PLAN

THE UNIVERSITY THE WORLD NEEDS

Nikānītān manācihitowinihk
Ni manachihiitoonaan

2025 ASPIRATIONS

Transformative Decolonization Leading to Reconciliation. Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and communities are holistically strengthening the spirit and methodologies we inhabit.

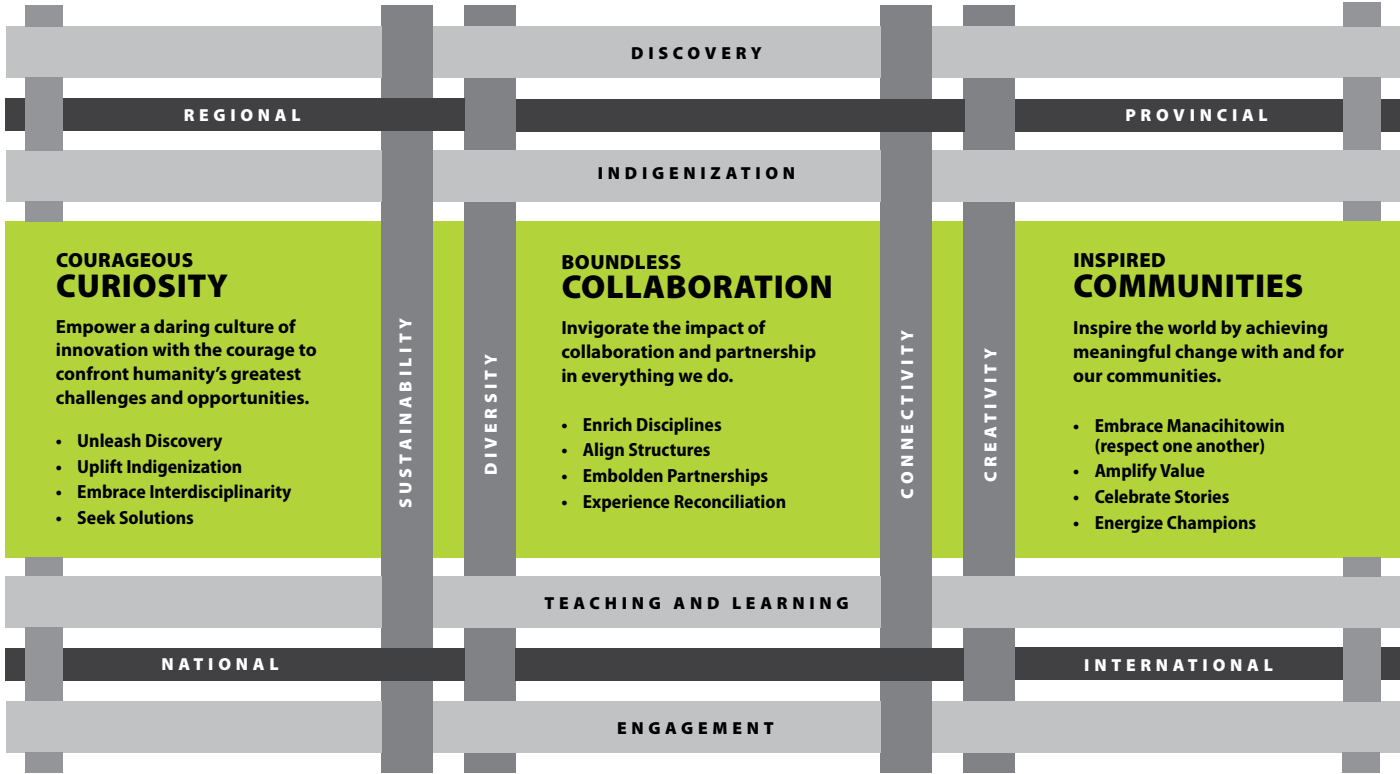
Productive Collaboration. Community, private-sector, and international partnerships animate every facet of our research enterprise.

Meaningful Impact. Our knowledge, discoveries, and innovations are helping communities achieve their social, cultural, and economic goals.

Distinguished Learners. Our graduates are among the most inventive, collaborative, and sought-after in Canada and around the world.

Global Recognition. Our research, graduates, academic programming, and reputation are recognized as world-class.

The College of Dentistry Plan 2025 is built upon the visionary framework of the University Plan 2025. We are proud of our role within the University that the world needs.



To read the full university plan visit plan.usask.ca





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College of Dentistry

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