

Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences

VISION, MISSION & VALUES



VISION

Transform health care access through service to our community, understanding psychological, social and systemic factors in health, and by training a health care workforce to provide compassionate, effective, quality care.

Raise the standard of primary care medicine through service to the community with accessible, integrated medical and behavioral health care where future health care professionals learn new models of collaborative care.



MISSION

1

The Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences aims to prepare students to be effective at the forefront of health care delivery, especially for patients with health disparities. Our students learn to communicate and relate warmly, genuinely and respectfully with patients to achieve positive outcomes, intervene with mental and behavioral disorders, work effectively in teams, and develop professional practices that lead to career satisfaction and personal wellness.

2

We seek to improve mental health, well-being and connection. We are particularly interested in the value of partnership and relationally-oriented doctoring, for the well-being of the patient and the doctor. We work across disciplinary boundaries to examine and address social and psychological determinants of health for our patients and communities. We apply learner-centered approaches to teach critical thinking skills and community-centered approaches to understanding strategies and innovations to improve health in our communities.

3

We establish innovative clinical methods and programs to promote equity and enable historically underserved patients to access health care, empowering them to become actively engaged in their care. We strive to provide integrated care that places the patient at the center of our work, offering a broad range of health, behavioral health, and social wellness services under one roof and available within a single visit.



VALUES

Teamwork

We are an interdisciplinary team of behavioral and medical scientists and clinicians. We recognize the infinite power of individuals working together in collaborative relationships. Shared expertise enables us to provide better team-based delivery of clinical care, classroom and bedside instruction, research and program development. Working across disciplinary boundaries maximizes the contributions of each member of our team to achieve more together.

Holistic Approach

We recognize the influence of human behaviors, mental processes, and social determinants upon health and wellbeing. Embracing views that are inclusive and person-centered, we value all aspects of the individual and their ecology to promote optimal health, learning, and discovery.

Discovery

We apply our creativity and talents to understand what works in medical education, for whom, how, and under what conditions. We employ clinical, pedagogical, and research methods based upon the best scientific evidence available and engage in critical thinking and innovation to advance our knowledge and practices for serving others.

Service

We engage our communities of patients and learners with humility, compassion, and service. We strive to make health care accessible for all, especially the most vulnerable communities in Houston. Access is more than just having an appointment at the right time, so we focus on understanding our patients as individuals and families and coordinate our teams of providers to serve their unique needs. We similarly strive to put our students' learning and professional needs first, dedicating ourselves to building confident, competent, and compassionate health care providers and leaders.