

ADVANCING HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Drexel University
Dornsife School of Public Health

STRATEGIC PLAN



**2025
2029**



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ABOUT US

Located in Philadelphia, PA, Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health is one of the top schools of public health in the United States.

Our history honors 30 years of training public health students using a curriculum focused on problem solving and real-life practical experiences.

The school is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Our school "is not a place where apathy wins. This is a community where we challenge each other to live our values."
- Dean Gina Lovasi, PhD, MPH, Dana and David Dornsife Dean and Professor of Epidemiology



OUR VISION

To be a trusted leader in public health – advancing a world of collective health and justice.



OUR MISSION

Advance health as a human right, improve population health, and eliminate health disparities through impactful research, integrative education, and meaningful partnerships with communities.



OUR SHARED VALUES



Collective Well-Being

Cultivating a culture of care, healing, and justice by prioritizing mental health, addressing root causes of disparity, and sustaining people, connections, capacities, and the planet through shared strength.



These five shared values of the Dornsife School of Public Health are the core principles that we collectively consider important and meaningful, guiding how we work together and make decisions: Collective Well-Being, Partnership, Integrity, Social Responsibility, and Systematic Excellence.



Partnership

Building authentic and trust-based relationships with individuals, communities, and organizations by sharing power, meeting partners where they are, and co-creating solutions—recognizing that lasting change is community-led and grounded in mutual respect.



Integrity

Upholding honesty, accountability, and transparency by aligning words with actions, welcoming feedback, acknowledging mistakes, and building trust.

STRATEGIC PLAN



Social Responsibility

Acting with a moral and institutional obligation to advance health, human rights, and the common good, while actively preventing harm and addressing systemic inequities.



Systematic Excellence

Pursuing high-quality, evidence-based education, research, and practice rooted in public health science and a growth mindset.





OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

This 2025-2029 Strategic Plan affirms our school's strong foundation in six strategic areas:



Student Success
and Workforce
Development



Culture,
Community, and
Opportunity



Faculty and Staff
Development



Global Health
and Human
Rights



Public Health
Practice and
External Relation



Research and
Thought
Leadership





STUDENT SUCCESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

■ GOAL 1

Strengthen academic excellence and workforce readiness

■ GOAL 2

Advance inclusive and engaging learning environments

■ GOAL 3

Ensure school sustainability and lifelong learning impact



The Office of Education at the Dornsife School of Public Health supports the school in attracting, training, and empowering the next generation of public health leaders.

By supporting our students, our team strengthens its commitment to creating a positive and lasting impact on public health.



CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

■ GOAL 1

Amplify the voices of all Dornsife members via data collection to identify strengths, address challenges, and provide recommendations that enhance culture and community.

■ GOAL 2

Strengthen Dornsife culture and wellbeing by expanding access to resources through strategic partnerships and training for students, staff, and faculty.

■ GOAL 3

Foster a culture of shared decision making and strengthen community through shared leadership of students, staff, and faculty.



The Office of Culture, Community and Opportunity at the Dornsife School of Public Health aims to create a more connected, transparent, and equity-driven campus culture where all members feel seen, supported, and empowered.



FACULTY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

■ GOAL 1

Establish equitable and transparent pathways for faculty/staff growth and advancement



■ GOAL 2

Strengthen shared governance by amplifying community voice

■ GOAL 3

Build a thriving and connected workspace

Dornsife faculty and staff have a strong track record of creativity, successfully navigating and adapting to challenges. A shared commitment to the school's vision drives our collective efforts.



GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

■ GOAL 1

Center and prioritize the health and well-being of communities in solidarity, care, and the right to health – especially where systemic inequities persist.



■ GOAL 2

Boldly advance justice-driven solutions to current and emerging global health challenges.

■ GOAL 3

Strengthen equitable knowledge exchange and capacity sharing that drives advocacy, education, research, and service – ensuring learning flows across borders, institutions, and lived experiences.

A signature program of the Office of Global Health is the Dornsife Global Development Scholars program.

Drexel students gain international experience working alongside World Vision International on projects that prioritize water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).





PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

GOAL 1

Strengthen systems and processes for public health practice

GOAL 2

Build resources and capacity for sustainable community engagement

GOAL 3

Harness strategic communications to showcase practice-based public health impact

Dornsife students, faculty, and staff share a commitment to maintaining strong connections within our community and with organizations across the region and the globe.





RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

■ GOAL 1

Conduct impactful public health research



■ GOAL 2

Strengthen thought leadership and broaden dissemination

■ GOAL 3

Cultivate robust and adaptable research support systems



The Dornsife School of Public Health, led by our Research Office, strives to be leader in the conduct of research and scholarship that is:

- Aimed at understanding and finding innovative solutions to population health problems,
- Scientifically rigorous,
- Interdisciplinary,
- Considers multiple levels of influence as appropriate, and
- Relevant to public health practice and policy.



STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS & TIMELINE

April 2024	2024 State of the School: Discovery materials and presentations from chairs, directors, and associate deans.
August 2024	Strategic plan guiding team kicks off the planning process.
Fall 2024	School feedback solicited on the previous strategic plan (dated 2016-2020).
April 2025	School feedback solicited on updated draft mission, vision, values, and priority areas. Guiding team incorporates feedback from the survey.
May - June 2025	Goal-setting sessions for each priority area with faculty, staff, and students.
July - Aug 2025	Priority area facilitators, Dean's Executive Committee, and guiding team review plan. Guiding team meets to discuss the goals, mission, vision, and values.
Sept - Oct 2025	School feedback solicited via survey and Values-in-Action series.
November 2025	2025 State of the School: Dean and leaders in strategic priority areas present goals and objectives. Final school feedback solicited via survey.
December 2025	Strategic plan, mission, vision, values, & priority area goals finalized and published.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to everyone across the Dornsife School community who shared input on the strategic planning process through surveys, meetings, and conversations. A special thanks to the following for their contributions:

Guiding team: Melissa Kaufman (chair), Dean Gina Lovasi (ex officio), Dali Ma (informal consultant), Pooja Yelgunde (student representative), Esther Chernak, Thomas Hipper, Maurits Taytelbaum, Liz Bruss, Idris Robinson, Natalie Shaak, Renee Wagoner, Jordan Wilson, and Reina Lopez.

Associate Deans: Alex Ezeh, Melissa Kaufman, Ana Martinez-Donate, Reneé Moore, Brisa Sánchez, and Loni Tabb.

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