

# College of Humanities & Social Sciences

FY 2026 Strategic Plan Alignment and Budget Presentation

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# College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Academic/Division Departments

- Communication Studies
- English
- History
- Political Science
- Psychology and Philosophy
- Sociology
- World Languages and Cultures

## Centers

- Center for the Study of Disasters & Emergency Management
- Center for Multicultural Rural Development
- Psychological Services Center
- Texas Review Press

# FY 2025 Accomplishments

## Priority 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access

- Improved student success rates (C or better ) for ENGL 1301 (8.9%), ENGL 1302 (3.7%), HIST 1301 (4.7%), and HIST 1302 (7.0%) from Fall 23 to Fall 24
- Offered self-funded \$3,000 Recruitment Scholarships to first-time master's students in AY 24-25
- Creating CHSS Freshman Scholarships for incoming first-year students
- PSYC majors Victoria Camarillo and Ajax Nguyen were among 40 students selected by the American Psychological Association to attend the Undergraduate Summit in Phoenix, Arizona
- POLS major Martin Rojas was among 20 students selected across the United States to participate in the inaugural Meridian-Cox Foreign Service Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Washington, D.C.

# FY 2025 Accomplishments

## Priority 2: Embody a Culture of Excellence

- Dr. Adam Natoli (PSYC) and Dr. Jared Ruchensky (PSYC) received the 2024 and 2025 John E. Exner Award, respectively, for their accomplishments in the field of personality assessment
- In November 2024, the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) evaluated ten applicants for board certification and certified six; four of them were recent graduates of the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology
- Dr. Jorge Varela (PSYC Chair) received the 2025 Beverly Thorn Award from the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology for achievement in advancing graduate education in the field of clinical psychology
- Dr. Jadwiga Biskupska (HIST) is appointed as Harold Keith Johnson Visiting Chair in Military History at the US Army War College
- Dr. Marcus Boccaccini (PSYC) was recognized as the Distinguished Professor

# FY 2025 Accomplishments

## Priority 3: Elevate the Reputation and Visibility of SHSU

- *The Book of Wounded Sparrows* (by Octavio Quintanilla), published by the Texas Review Press, was selected for the National Book Awards Longlist
- *The Book of Drought* (by Rob Carney), published by the Texas Review Press, received a starred review from Kirkus Reviews
- Dr. Benjamin Park's (HIST) book, *American Zion*, was named "One of the Best Books of 2024" by *The New Yorker*
- *The Measure: A Journal of Undergraduate Research* received more than 9,000 views per year



# FY 2025 Accomplishments

## **Priority 4: Expand and Elevate our Service to the State and Beyond**

- Dr. Brian Jordan (HIST Chair) delivered a keynote eulogy for the Missing in America Project to honor the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans at Tahoma National Cemetery
- Students in the CHSS Skills Challenge are working to provide the best solutions to the problems identified by a community partner, Good Shepherd Mission
- CHSS Faculty offered 46 ACE course sections with 937 students participating in ACE projects that devoted 23,425 hours to serve the communities
- The Psychological Services Center provided 89 forensic evaluations for Texas courts and offered low-cost clinical services to 267 patients from underserved communities

# FY 2026 Keep Doing

## Statement:

The college plans to keep developing and supporting experiential learning programs because they promote active learning and student success. This action aligns with priority 1, goal 1 to empower students to drive sustainable growth and will have positive impacts in achieving student retention and completion.

## Supporting Data:

CHSS Participation in ACE	AY 2023-24	AY 2024-25
Course Sections	44	46
Faculty	19	24
Students	904	937

## Resources / Collaborations Required:

- Develop a platform for faculty to share best practices in supporting experiential learning
- Continue to encourage faculty to incorporate community engagement components into classes
- Continue to allocate financial resources to encourage student participation in experiential learning programs through scholarships and subsidized program fees (study abroad)

# FY 2026 Keep Doing

## Statement:

The college plans to keep its ongoing efforts to improve student success rates in the core offerings because it promotes student success. This action aligns with priority 1, goal 1 to empower students to drive sustainable growth and will have positive impacts in achieving student retention and completion.

## Supporting Data:

Success Rate (C or Better)	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Improvement
ENGL 1301	69.3%	78.2%	8.9%
ENGL 1302	77.6%	81.3%	3.7%
HIST 1301	73.0%	77.7%	4.7%
HIST 1302	78.4%	85.4%	7.0 %

## Resources / Collaborations Required:

- Offer training and professional development for ENGL 1301 faculty through the Composition Teaching Workshop to achieve horizontal alignment in lesson plans, assignments, learning outcomes, and student support
- Sponsor a pilot workshop in summer 2025/fall 2025 for 12 faculty
- Revise and improve the teaching sourcebook and training materials



# FY 2026 Stop Doing

**Statement:**

The college plans to stop the decentralized marketing of its graduate programs because more coordinated messages and efforts will raise awareness and recognition for prospective students. The action aligns with priority 2, goal 2 to align processes and resources to strategic priorities and will have positive impacts in achieving student enrollment.

**Supporting Data:**

“Start advertising our programs. The colleges are all engaged in creating new programs but ‘if you build it they will come’ is not a valid strategy.” (KSS Survey)

“Program needs coherent recruitment plan implemented to increase enrollments. Students are needed in the schools and are interested but not provided information or support.” (KSS Survey)

**Resources / Collaborations Required:**

- Coordinate graduate marketing efforts through the CHSS Marketing and Communication Coordinator
- Collaborate with approved vendors to coordinate and improve the marketing strategies and messages

# FY 2026 Stop Doing

## **Statement:**

The college plans to stop the lack of coordination of various student organizations in the college to build collaborative platforms to foster community building. This action aligns with priority 2 and goal 4 to advance an institutional culture that fosters and embraces inclusive excellence and will have positive impacts in achieving student retention and completion.

## **Supporting Data:**

“We need to figure something out in regards to student organizations. Building memberships and retention of students in these organizations are extremely difficult. Our environment for student orgs are difficult. I think that during the required student org training, maybe host a workshop to discuss various ways to gain and retain membership levels. Hearing it from the organizations involved will help bring forth the problems they are facing, hearing it from the source. ” (KSS Survey)

## **Resources / Collaborations Required:**

- Develop a college platform for information sharing and relations building for student organizations
- Work with the CHSS Ambassadors and Student Advisory Board to generate ideas for collaboration
- Provide regular updates of student activities to promote awareness and interest

# FY 2026 Start Doing

**Statement:**

The college plans to start promoting student career readiness by mapping the curriculum with critical skills that are relevant to various fields of study and career paths. This action aligns with priority 2, goal 1 of academic excellence and will have strong impacts in achieving retention and agility.

**Supporting Data:**

“Departments develop lists of relevant skills to help students learn/develop important career-related skills that related to that specific class and/or with a degree in their field of study.” (CHSS Strategic Planning Committee)

**Resources / Collaborations Required:**

- Begin discussions at the department and program levels for faculty buy-in
- Start with the programs and departments that are ready to move forward

# FY 2026 Start Doing

**Statement:**

The college plans to start building connections with organizations to create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage with critical issues to promote partnerships. This action aligns with priority 3, goal 3 to strengthen relationships with the greater SHSU community and will have positive impacts in achieving retention and agility.

**Supporting Data:**

“Keep providing innovative ways for departments and students to partner with community agencies in ways which promote educational gains for the students and valuable relationships for the community.” (KSS Survey)

**Resources / Collaborations Required:**

- Reach out to faculty, staff, and alumni for recommendations and possible connections
- Provide initial staff support to build the groundwork with reassigned duties

# College of Humanities and Social Sciences Summary

## Keep Doing

**Keep #1:** Keep developing and supporting experiential learning programs

**Keep #2:** Keep its ongoing efforts to improve student success rates in the core offerings

## Stop Doing

**Stop #1:** Stop the decentralized marketing of its graduate programs

**Stop #2:** Stop the lack of coordination of various student organizations in the college

## Start Doing

**Start #1:** Start promoting student career readiness by mapping the curriculum with critical skills

**Start #2:** Start building connections with organizations to create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage with critical issues to promote partnerships

# Questions?



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