



## Research and Scholarly Activities Strategic Plan

**Mission:** To promote scientific inquiry in support of the university's core values by building research capacity and enabling the production and dissemination of scientific discoveries advancing patient treatment and care and delivery of educational content.

**Vision:** Research and scholarly activities will be a defining feature of the academic culture and educational experience at Touro University Nevada.

**Core values:** The TUN Department of Research advances the values of Touro University Nevada by promoting:

- Service-oriented research to improve access to healthcare and educational outcomes for the citizens of Southern Nevada and beyond.
- Groundbreaking research to discover new and innovative treatments and approaches to socially important problems.
- Research that actively involves students to help them become critical evaluators of new research findings who can increase the future quality of patient care and educational experiences.

### **Purpose of research at TUNCOM:**

Research at TUN is focused on supporting the needs of students and faculty. As future physicians, medical students require opportunities to practice the research-based skills needed to successfully apply current literature findings to practice evidence-based medicine. Research may also play a role in supporting students pursuing particular areas of clinical interest by creating opportunities to gain insight into a desired specialty. Finally, students well-versed in research are poised to become intellectual leaders who promote journal clubs and knowledge of current literature in residency and in practice.

Faculty benefit directly and indirectly from involvement in research. Research allows faculty to engage in pursuit of scholarship of discovery. It also increases their engagement in healthcare problems and helps them integrate those understanding in their teaching or clinical work. Faculty involvement in research is linked to professional growth, intellectual satisfaction, and deeper engagement in a chosen area of expertise. Faculty research activity can also expand TUN's established role as an educational entity, broadening its service to students and society.

The objectives and strategies below are supported by the TUNCOM Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which is anchored by the missions of the Touro College and University System, TUN, and of TUNCOM and TUCOM. This plan is the result of a committee consisting of students, faculty, and administrative staff, who worked to develop the objectives and strategies which were included. The work was informed by feedback from the COM faculty and students via a survey, as well as the experiences of the members.



# Touro University Nevada

The Research Strategic Plan is intended to guide the growth of a high quality, sustainable research program at TUNCOM that helps attract and retain outstanding research-oriented faculty and staff and enables students to have research experiences that are meaningful to their interests, skills, passions and career aspirations.

**Objective 1: Increase research capacity to provide high quality opportunities for all students.** A high quality research opportunity is defined as one that allows students to practice aspects of research that are beneficial to their medical education, chances for placement in competitive residencies, and future profession, and that culminates in a scientific publication in a peer-reviewed journal, a presentation at a local, national, or international meeting, or similar product.

**Strategy 1:** Consider research experience and scientific interests of faculty and staff when hiring at TUNCOM, and make targeted hires specifically to foster the research footprint. Consideration would extend to knowledge and skills related to developing IRB protocols, grant seeking and writing, statistics, manuscript preparation, and the publication process.

**Strategy 2:** Adjust task allocation (release time, FTE devoted to research), recognition, and compensation for faculty that involve students in high quality research.

**Strategy 3:** Encourage faculty and staff to promote the growth of TUNCOM research.

- **Strategy 3a:** Cultivate collaborations that could lead to research partnerships with clinicians, medical centers, pharmaceutical companies and other entities that can expand the research footprint of TUNCOM and provide more high quality research collaborations for faculty and opportunities for students.
- **Strategy 3b:** Support and encourage acquisition of external funding and develop infrastructure sufficient to successfully pursue grants.

**Strategy 4:** Establish a strong faculty and student development program that incorporates research guides and resources, instruction, informal groups, and mentoring.

- **Strategy 4a:** Synergize with other COMs and schools in the Touro system to deliver high quality, specialized research training, guidance, and mentoring.
- **Strategy 4b:** Increase staff support for research activities, including training and supervising students.
- **Strategy 4c:** Increase the conversion rate from initiating a project to completing and disseminating the project to the community through presentation, publication, proposing legislation and testifying to support it, or product development.



**Objective 2: Create a diverse ecosystem of research, emphasizing areas where different fields can synergize to produce novel insights.**

**Strategy 1:** Consider synergy in research interests with existing faculty in other programs at TUN during the hiring process.

**Strategy 2:** Support cross-cutting work or team science with additional resources.

**Strategy 3:** Provide seed funding for clinical pilot studies based on basic science discoveries done at TUNCOM.

**Objective 3: Foster research efforts on issues that are critical for the health and welfare of the local community, extending worldwide.**

**Strategy 1:** Seek out research that relates to existing service and/or educational activities to broaden and extend the mission of Touro University Nevada.

**Objective 4: Promote local, national and international appreciation for TUNCOM research to expand the pool of prospective students and attract private sources of funding.**

**Strategy 1:** Work with Advancement to connect researchers to potentially interested groups in the larger community.

**Strategy 2:** Work closely with Advancement for announcing research breakthroughs and their medical implications to local, state, national and international communities.

**Strategy 3:** Financially support activities that help faculty and students disseminate research.

**Objective 5: Facilitate student engagement in research.**

**Strategy 1:** Create a transparent and accessible path for students to access research opportunities and training.

**Strategy 2:** Target capital spending toward increasing capacity for student projects.

**Strategy 3:** Target students with no research background with introductory information early in their program to help them formulate a strategy for pursuing research during undergraduate medical education.

**Strategy 4:** Assist students directly by instituting a process to find time-flexible opportunities or release time for students for research and/or developing a system of bonus credentials for research efforts and accomplishments.



# Touro University Nevada

## Metrics to track:

- Research activity of newly hired faculty during their first two years
- Number of collaborations with outside entities
- Number and dollar amount of internal and external funding
- Opportunities for research training offered to faculty and students
- Research projects, stratified by service-based, osteopathic, and those involving students
- Number of public announcements about research or scholarly activities
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Conference presentations
- Number of students involved in research and scholarly activities

**Document available:** <https://tun.touro.edu/media/schools-and-colleges/tun/documents/TUNResearchandScholarlyActivityStrategicPlan.pdf>

*This strategic plan was created by the COM members of the Research Committee, listed below. It was developed using ideas from the committee, input from a survey sent out to the COM faculty and students during spring 2021, and it relies heavily on concepts from the approved COM Strategic Plan. It was approved by the committee May 14, 2021, and it was approved by the COM Faculty Council on December 17, 2021 (9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention). It was approved by the Dean Wolfgang Gilliar December 21, 2021.*

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