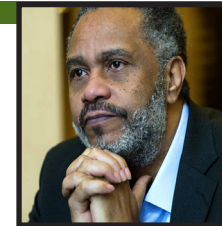




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Spring 2021

# Theory and Application

## UVU Celebrates the first graduating class from new engineering programs

In 2020, UVU celebrated the first graduating class from its newly established engineering programs. A total of 21 students were honored with a graduation service in August.

Since its creation in 2018, the newly formed engineering department has become an established part of the College of Engineering and Technology. The engineering department is experiencing rapid growth and has quickly become one of the largest departments in the college. This rapid growth could not have come at a better time, as opportunities for employment are booming within the engineering fields.

These new programs were selected due to the high demand in the local industry, specifically for engineers with each particular skill set. Engineering Department Chair, Afsaneh Minaie,

says that the department plans to continue growing in the coming years.

UVU's engineering programs are specifically designed to prepare graduates with professional experience, internships, and hands-on learning that will prepare them for a smooth transition into the workforce. This focus on hands-on, experiential learning is something that electrical engineering graduate Mike Zimmerman valued greatly during his time at UVU. "The labs were the best thing for my education," Zimmerman says. "Hands-on learning is critical to an engineering degree. Being able to apply the theory helps solidify everything in my head."

Students in the engineering program at UVU are grounded in the fundamentals of engineering through a well-rounded education.

Class sizes stay small, with emphasis placed on hands-on learning and working closely with professors and other engineering students.

"I studied civil engineering at UVU because it felt like each professor was personally invested in my success," civil engineering graduate Julie Hansen says. "The small class sizes really helped me to be able to work closely with professors to make sure that I understood the material in a way that prepared me for the professional field."

Given the rapid growth of the engineering programs at UVU to date, the College of Engineering and Technology is working to secure funding for a new engineering building. This innovative building will be the first 'smart building' at UVU and will be a landmark for engineers and higher education facilities across the nation.

[Article adapted from UVU Magazine](#)

### Semester Dates & Deadlines

Monday, February 22  
Priority registration begins  
for summer semester

Tuesday, February 23  
Last day to withdraw/  
audit classes

Monday - Saturday  
March 8 - 13  
Spring Break

Monday, April 5  
Priority registration  
begins for fall semester

Monday - Thursday  
April 30 - May 6  
Final Exams

# Inclusion and Diversity

UVU has 20+ centers, initiatives, and other resources to ensure that students feel like they are safe and championed while being a Wolverine

## What We Mean by "Inclusion"

UVU is committed to preparing all students and employees for success in an increasingly complex, diverse, and globalized society. We promote civility and respect for the dignity and potential of each individual. We seek to advance the understanding of diverse perspectives. We value and promote collegial relationships and mutual respect among students, faculty, and staff. We acknowledge and seek to address the needs of populations who are underrepresented and students with varying levels of academic preparation, even as we strive to provide access and support for all students and employees in ways that are culturally relevant and responsible.

## Student Resources:

UVU proudly offers [numerous campus resources](#) for its students, especially for those who may come from historically underserved or underrepresented populations. Below you will find a brief description of a few of these resources and links to the various centers and initiatives we have on campus.

- [Accessibility Services](#) | LC 312 | 801.863.8747  
Offers important resources to students with disabilities, from deaf/hard of hearing services, speech-to-text/captioning, to assessment and other needs. They also map all campus buildings to guide students who may need elevators or specific needs.

- [Food Pantry](#) | SC 105 | 801.863.8786  
In partnership with Community Action Services and Food Bank, the Center runs an on-campus food pantry available for students, faculty, and staff struggling with any type of food insecurity.
- [International Student Services](#) | LA 114  
Provides visa information, employment advice and academic advisement to the University's international students. In addition, ISS offers an international student orientation each semester for new students and provides a wide array of support services designed to promote the academic success of international students. They also help international students with financial aid and other resources.
- [Multicultural Student Services](#) | LA 114  
Facilitates student success by fostering and sustaining an inclusive campus community, where the dignity, worth, identities, and cultures of every individual are validated and respected. Multicultural Student Services is home of the African Diaspora, Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander initiatives, as well as LGBTQ+ Student Services.
- [Suicide Prevention & Awareness](#) | SC 221  
Call for an appointment at UVU Student Health Services (801-863-8876, M-F 8am-5pm). If you are currently in a suicide crisis, notify the person answering the phone that this is an emergency for priority scheduling.

[Article adapted from the Inclusion and Diversity website.](#)

## A New Campus Connection

### UVU Pedestrian Bridge Opens a Pathway to Exceptional Results

Approximately 80 people, following appropriate social distancing and mask guidelines, gathered in the northwest corner of Utah Valley University's Orem campus to cut the ribbon on a new pedestrian bridge, connecting UVU's main and west campuses and the UTA FrontRunner Orem Central Station.

The bridge is Utah's largest pedestrian bridge, spanning more than the length of three football fields. The covered bridge features 15,000 square feet of heated concrete and a walkway lined with 125 lights and 18 security cameras. The new addition, providing students with a faster and safer way to get to campus, will be fully finished in early February.

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY  
**PARENT** news

A Newsletter for Parents  
of UVU Students

Published Each Semester

[www.uvu.edu/parents-families](http://www.uvu.edu/parents-families)

Articles adapted from: UVU Magazine, UVU Review, UVU Press Releases, and [www.uvu.edu](http://www.uvu.edu).  
Photos Complements of UVU Marketing and Communications

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY  
**PARENT** news

## Executive Summary

**Student Success:** As a student-centered university, UVU strives to help individuals reach their educational goals in an environment that allows them to thrive personally and professionally.

**Growth and Educational Demand:** Utah has experienced and will continue to experience tremendous population growth and economic growth, and, consequently, growth in educational demand. Utah County will be at the center of this expansion.

**Utah System of Higher Education and Integrated Dual-Mission Institutions:** Utah's higher education system has successfully addressed student growth and met business/industry needs through various methods, including the innovative development of integrated dual-mission institutions. Utah's three integrated dual-mission institutions economically serve 50% of Utah's students by offering a simultaneous community college and university experience.

**Utah Valley University:** As an integrated dual-mission institution, UVU has successfully met and will continue to meet the educational and workforce needs of a rapidly growing population and economy.

**UVU's Solutions to Meet Educational Demand:** UVU's solutions are specifically designed to address growth at UVU over the next decade and beyond while strengthening its integrated community college and university mission. The following strategies and initiatives, each aligned with UVU's mission, values, and action commitments, are prioritized to help UVU students succeed.

# Vision 2030

## A 10-year vision outlining how UVU will meet the higher education and workforce need of Utah

### **Strategy #1: Achieve**

#### ***Enhance Student Success and Accelerate Completion of Meaningful Credentials***

UVU champions a university experience through which students can realize their educational, professional, and personal aspirations. For most students, this means completing a meaningful postsecondary credential in a timeframe suitable for their individual circumstances. For many other students, this means being prepared for graduate or professional school. UVU continues to work aggressively to reduce barriers to completion in its curriculum, administrative processes, and student services in ways that enhance academic quality and rigor.

### **Strategy #2: Include**

#### ***Improve Accessibility, Flexibility, and Affordability for All Current and Future UVU Students***

UVU provides accessible and equitable educational opportunities for every student who wants to receive a rewarding postsecondary education. UVU's non-prejudicial approach to education enables all students to come as they are, finding access not only to admission but to success. Initiatives will strengthen opportunities for students from traditionally underrepresented groups throughout UVU's service region and give all students the flexibility and resources they need to succeed.



### **Strategy #3: Engage**

#### ***Strengthen Partnerships for Community, Workforce, and Economic Development***

UVU delivers rigorous, meaningful, and experiential learning opportunities driven by shared responsibility for student success. These opportunities are based on the relationships and outreach opportunities with students, alumni, and community stakeholders that build UVU into the fabric of their communities. Strengthening UVU's ongoing partnerships with other educational institutions, community organizations, and industry ensures that UVU will continue to meet the region's needs as the university grows along with the communities it serves.

[Article adapted from Vision 2030](#)

# The Sun Does Shine

## UVU Welcomed Anthony Ray Hinton as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, hundreds of attendees from Utah Valley University logged onto a virtual call on Wednesday with former death-row convict Anthony Ray Hinton. Author of the New York Times bestselling book *The Sun Does Shine*, Hinton spent an hour speaking in depth about his experiences on death row and with the American judicial system. He also answered questions from the online audience consisting of UVU students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Hinton was falsely convicted of two murders in 1985 in Birmingham, Alabama, and served 30 years on death row until his release in 2015. He published *The Sun Does Shine* in 2018.

Hinton's book was selected this year for the Freshman Reading Program at UVU. Each freshman received a copy and read it for their introductory courses. After reading his story, these freshmen were able to hear from Hinton himself and ask him further questions about his experiences.

Noemy Medina, director of First-Year Experience and Student Retention at UVU, spoke of the significance of Hinton's visit. "It was clear at our freshman book discussion this fall that there is a lot of student interest in discussing the issues and themes highlighted in Mr. Hinton's book," Medina said, "many of which are like those Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to. I hope that

students will gain a more critical perspective as they examine their own participation in systems and their communities so that we can work to do better as a society to be an equitable, inclusive, and more just society."



The keynote began with an introduction from Jerome Currelly, program director for the African Diaspora Initiative at UVU, and remarks from UVU President Astrid S. Tuminez. Hinton began his speech by acknowledging the racial issues that exist around the world in places such as Palestine, Brazil, and here in the United States.

"I wish I could tell you the state of Alabama made an honest mistake," Hinton said. "I wish I could tell you that being black and poor had nothing to do with me spending 30 years in a five-by-seven cell. But the state of Alabama did not make an honest mistake."

Hinton's speech reflected Dr. King's

sentiments and beliefs. He encouraged all listeners to appreciate freedom and the chance to live life in whichever way they please. He spoke of the existence of racism in modern society and the dangers of racism within the judicial system.

"We are not dealing with mass incarceration," Hinton said. "We are dealing with a new form of slavery."

After his speech, audience members asked Hinton questions through a live chat portal. One student asked the question, "How have you managed to move forward with your life after such a horrific experience?"

Hinton responded, "I want people to realize I am still deeply scarred. I forgave those men who did this to me so I could be free. I didn't forgive them so that they could sleep through the night. I forgave them so that I could sleep through the night."

After answering a few more questions, Hinton wrapped up his speech by quoting Dr. King. "We fight for those who can't fight for themselves. We speak for those who don't have a voice for themselves," Hinton said. "I was once one of those people who couldn't fight for themselves and speak for themselves."

[Article adapted from UVU News](#)