Utah Valley University’s planning process drives achievement of the university’s mission as articulated in its core themes and administrative imperatives and put into practice in its objectives:

Utah Valley University is a teaching institution which provides opportunity, promotes student success, and meets regional educational needs. UVU builds on a foundation of substantive scholarly and creative work to foster engaged learning. The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as life-long learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community.

This mission is articulated through four core themes. These themes developed during a campus-wide integration process President Holland led during this inaugural year. This process was focused on reducing complexity that had developed through previous planning efforts and coincided with a new accreditation framework from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities that required development of core themes, defined as:

a manifestation of a fundamental aspect of institutional mission with overarching objectives that guide planning for contributing programs and services, development of capacity, application of resources to accomplish those objectives, and assessment of achievements.

The integration process resulted in the identification of core themes, where the university promotes student success by being inclusive, serious, and engaged. The mission and core themes represent the central identity of UVU; faculty, staff, and students are conscious and aware of them on a daily basis. Three administrative imperatives that UVU considers key practices and principles critical for sustained fulfillment of the university’s mission were added that, while less prominent than the core themes, are nonetheless immediately relevant to achieving the mission. Each core theme and administrative imperative is put into action through a series of objectives and assessed on the basis of key indicators of performance.

This model guides planning throughout the university. The core themes framework identifies the aims of UVU. Assessment processes at all levels of the university, including accreditation, program review, learning outcomes, and unit self-evaluations determine areas where action is needed. These areas are then reflected in strategic plans developed at the institutional and unit levels as well as the annual areas of focus. The strategic plans are put into action across the university through unit work plans, daily activities, and the PBA resource allocation process.

UVU’s planning process is a signature success. During its Mid-Cycle review in 2014, an NWCCU accreditation team member remarked, “I’ve never seen anything quite as well done in higher education.” The effectiveness of our planning processes reflects everyone’s commitment to the culture of planning, assessment, improvement and accountability.