

2 New CHaSS Departments

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Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology at Utah State University Makes Way for Two New Departments

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LOGAN, UT — The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology (SSWA) is dissolving to form two new departments. This expansion within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Utah State University allows for an increase in specialization and more opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

The split will officially occur on July 1, 2021, and the new departments will be known as the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) and the Department of Social Work (SW).

“This is a monumental moment,” SSWA department head Derrik Tollefson said. “The phenomenal growth experienced by SSWA’s programs during the past decade has resulted in a large department this is increasingly difficult for one department head to manage effectively. The restructuring will facilitate a strong, clear base one which to build communities for the students, faculty and alumni of the various programs.”

Judson Finley will serve as head of the new SOAN department, and Jess Lucero will serve as the new SW department head. Both Lucero and Finley are currently associate professors in the existing SSWA department.

Faculty and staff are working to make this transition as seamless as possible for students. Individuals currently enrolled in SSWA programs will be allowed to finish their degrees without any issues.

“Growth is exhilarating!” Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Joseph Ward said. “The creation of these new departments will give students even more opportunities to learn about themselves and the world around them. The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology has done an excellent job of this in the past, but the futures of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Department of Social Work are brighter than ever.”

Individuals affected by this change will continue to receive further information as it becomes available.

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