

## Applications, nominations and expressions of interest

For best consideration, applications should be submitted by December 31, 2024. Candidates are requested to submit the following materials:

- i) A curriculum vitae,
- ii) A letter of interest that addresses the leadership opportunities in the profile and
- iii) Contact information for four references (to be contacted with candidate's permission at a later date) to the AGB Search portal: ASU Director, T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics. [bit.ly/40FJb3y](https://bit.ly/40FJb3y)

Nominations and expressions of interest in the director of the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics opportunity are encouraged. Please direct them to [ASUDirectorSanfordSchool@agbsearch.com](mailto:ASUDirectorSanfordSchool@agbsearch.com) or to the AGB Search consultants:

Nancy Targett, PhD, Executive Search Consultant,  
[nancy.targett@agbsearch.com](mailto:nancy.targett@agbsearch.com)  
C: 302.233.5202

Joy Yablonsky, Executive Search Consultant,  
[joy.yablonsky@agbsearch.com](mailto:joy.yablonsky@agbsearch.com)  
C: 215-934-1386

Anne Hoffman, Executive Search Associate.  
[anne.hoffman@agbsearch.com](mailto:anne.hoffman@agbsearch.com)  
C: 805.490.9161

A background check is required for employment.

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.

<https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.  
<https://www.asu.edu/titleIX>.

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at <https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU-Clery-Report.pdf>. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.



# T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics Director

[thesanfordschool.asu.edu](https://thesanfordschool.asu.edu)

Social sciences

T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 877203  
Tempe AZ 85287-7203

**ASU** The College  
of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Arizona State University





## The opportunity

Arizona State University, a leading public research university that is repeatedly ranked first in innovation, global impact and sustainability, seeks an experienced, transformative director for its T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics (SSFD) with a concurrent appointment as a tenured full professor, to join a leadership team that is redefining the future of higher education.

The new director of The Sanford School will lead an energetic, interdisciplinary community of over 55 research, teaching and clinical faculty members and 34 staff members who maintain a strong commitment to inclusive excellence. The school engages in a wide variety of approaches to study micro- and macro-level social and developmental processes across the human lifespan which include the study of society, institutions, communities, children and families and individuals.

The school engages in rigorous use-inspired research, and its faculty have an excellent track record of securing external funding to support their scholarly endeavors. A broad range of sponsors support external sponsored research, including federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, National Science Foundation and Department of Defense, as well as research foundations, such as the Russell Sage Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and others.

The school hosts two undergraduate majors (family and human development and sociology) with approximately 1,800 undergraduates enrolled in online, in-person or hybrid degree programs. The school offers MA (online), MAS Marriage and Family Therapy (campus-based), MS (online) and PhD (campus-based) degrees in family and human development and sociology. Recently re-launched, the sociology PhD program is rapidly growing. The family and human development PhD program is ranked as one of the top 10 programs in North America. These programs are supported by award-winning faculty, including two MacArthur Genius Fellows and the winner of the 2023 American Psychological Association's Urie Bronfenbrenner Lifetime Achievement Award among its distinguished faculty and a broader network of over 50 sociologists across the university. The family and human development PhD program is ranked 6th overall in North America and 2nd in the area of adolescence and young adulthood, with a strong specialization in quantitative methods. These programs are designed to train students to think critically, to be accountable to the communities with which they engage and to utilize a full repertoire of theoretical approaches and innovative research methods, with training in quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Reporting to the Dean of Social Sciences within The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the new director will be an accomplished leader who is passionate about advancing ASU's Charter in both teaching and research and someone with the capacity to engage faculty across a range of disciplines. The new director will be a visionary thinker and inclusive relationship builder who will lead the school and its energetic community of educators-scholars into the future by strategically aligning the unified vision of The Sanford School with the ASU mission of achieving excellence and access, enhancing innovation and creativity in research, increasing external funding and achieving top-tier programs. The new director will provide effective leadership in establishing a culture of collaboration by strengthening connections among faculty, staff and students, while furthering ASU's commitment to interdisciplinarity and engagement with other academic units at ASU and the wider community

## Leadership opportunities

The next director will lead a school focused on both student success and access to education and research excellence in an institution known for its significant growth and innovation. In leading The Sanford School, the new director will be expected to work with all faculty and staff to foster a unifying and shared vision for the school that embraces and celebrates the heterogeneity of sociology and family and human development, and fosters growth and innovation to further position The Sanford School for educational and research success.

The new director will demonstrate understanding and value the contributions of all (TT and career-track) faculty and staff to work proactively to develop and nurture an organizational culture based on democratic principles, engagement, inclusion, respect and transparency. The new director will provide effective leadership in establishing a culture of collaboration and strengthening connections among faculty, staff and students, while furthering ASU's commitment to inclusion and engagement with other academic units at ASU and the wider community.

The director will have the opportunity to think big about how to achieve a meaningful interdisciplinary school that honors various disciplines in family and human development and sociology, and support ASU's mission to include a vibrant student population and foster their success. The new director will have an opportunity to foster growth and innovation in the school's research endeavors; attract, develop and retain exceptional faculty members from many different backgrounds and disciplines;

promote student success and career readiness; develop interdisciplinary research and teaching initiatives; advance entrepreneurial opportunities; and enhance productive relationships within and outside the university. Another opportunity for the director is to maintain an internationally recognized research program and contribute to the teaching mission of the university.

The director's responsibilities include (not in priority order): work closely with the university; collaborate with faculty, staff and the Office of the Dean in defining and articulating a vision and implementing a strategic direction that fosters excellence, innovation and interdisciplinary opportunities and generate enrollment growth; establish transparent and effective budgeting practices; cultivate and encourage the growth of rigorous, impactful research by supporting existing faculty and hiring new faculty with strong funding potential, and mentoring faculty to advance grant writing and externally funded research; create a culture that allows multiple disciplines to collaborate and work together synergistically as one school striving for a cohesive work environment in support of all faculty, interdisciplinary initiatives and elevated student success; commitment to inclusive excellence including attracting, recruiting, retaining and promoting a wide range of faculty, staff and students; address new and existing challenges in an environment of transparency; enhance The Sanford School's impressive online presence through expansion of greater online offerings including identification of new areas of interest for program development; and support the overall teaching mission more broadly.





# About The Sanford School

At the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, our faculty and programs focus on the most important challenges of the 21st century – namely, the well-being of children, youth, families and their communities across their lifespans. We build on our rich heritage and focus our resources on cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative action to generate meaningful impact.

Through cutting-edge research and its translation, high-quality instruction and community engagement, we are dedicated to improving the lives of all children, youth and families – without exception. We believe individuals and families should be defined by their best qualities and not by their shortcomings. This strengths-based focus is key to recognizing the importance of inclusive excellence:

- Undergraduates (immersion and online): **1,773**
- Graduates (immersion and online): **288**
- Graduate and undergraduate degrees granted (2022-23): **799**
- Total faculty: **57**
- Tenured and tenure-track faculty: **33**
- Student to faculty ratio: **8:1**
- First generation: **42%**
- Incoming students: **358**
- Students taking courses (fall 2023): **14,048**
- Ranked **No. 3** as a national leader in family and human development by the Human Development and Family Science Report.
- Two **MacArthur “genius grant”** recipients
- Home to one of the **oldest, continuously operated early-childhood education centers** in Arizona, founded in 1942.
- Part of an international team that received more than **\$6 million from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development** to study children’s social competencies in countries across the globe.
- Leaders of a **new \$18 million ASU Institute** focused on fostering healthy relationships for children and their caregivers



## Undergraduates pursuing a degree from The Sanford School can explore:

### Family and Human Development

- Human development through the life course
- Marriage and family relationships
- Early childhood intervention
- Various family, ethnic and cultural backgrounds

### Sociology

- Race, ethnicity and immigration
- Law and society
- Youth and families
- Health and illness
- Technology and society

Our award-winning faculty members and students are actively engaged in several, cutting-edge research centers, labs and initiatives. These provide exciting opportunities for growth in learning, side-by-side research with faculty members and hands-on opportunities to enrich the lives of children, youth and families. Recent examples include

- The Child Development Lab
- Center for Child and Family Success
- Center for the Study of Guns in Society
- Arizona Youth Identity Project
- Justice Futures Project
- ECLIPSE Studies Lab
- Kindness in Development (KID) Project
- The Latino Resilience Enterprise (LRE)
- Romance and Dating in Later Life
- PEERS Project
- Positive Environments for Adolescents and Children (PEAC)
- Dynamics of Relationships, Emotion and Asset in Multiple Systems (DREAMS) Lab
- Center for Work and Democracy
- The Public School Exclusionary Discipline Study (PEDS)
- Children’s Attitudes, Relationships and Education (CARE) Project





## Responsibilities and qualifications

### Principal responsibilities

The director's responsibilities include (not in priority order):

- Provide intellectual leadership and a strong commitment to the education (undergraduate and graduate) and research programs within The Sanford School.
- In collaboration with the faculty and staff, develop a collective vision and implement a strategic direction that fosters the school's academic and research growth and is aligned with institutional priorities.
- Foster a culture that integrates and supports tenure/tenure track faculty, career-track faculty and staff in a strong, cohesive community environment.

- Creatively leverage and manage resources to fuel the school's aspirations (e.g., foster the growth of world-class research, enhance access by evaluating new audiences for and modes of course delivery, develop partnerships and fund/friend raise).
- Build networks that forge and strengthen alliances between the school and industry and government partners.
- Foster efforts in the school to enhance student access, improve student experiences and career preparedness and elevate student success.
- Work with ASU leadership to advance the mission and vision of the institution.

- Oversee the operation and management of the school's undergraduate and graduate academic programs, including academic quality, and identification of new areas of opportunity for curriculum and program development.
- Provide strategic leadership to position the school favorably with respect to emerging directions in higher education.
- Enhance and further integrate inclusive excellence and ASU Charter initiatives throughout the fabric of The Sanford School.
- Recruit, retain and support excellent faculty and staff.

### Minimum qualifications

- A PhD or equivalent is required in family science, human development, psychology, sociology or in a related field or discipline.
- A distinguished scholarly record commensurate with the rank of full professor.
- Demonstrated experience in an academic leadership position including budget and/or personnel management.
- Capacity for supporting and advancing research, teaching and community engagement.

### Desired Qualities

- Ability to work with a wide range of constituencies with exceptional problem-solving and conflict management skills while leading with transparency toward a shared academic goal.
- Experience in cultivating and encouraging rigorous, impactful research and supporting externally funded research with knowledge of funding mechanisms related to these fields.
- A record of effective leadership and innovation to build an enterprise with vision through strategic planning, assessment and outreach activities with industry partners, grant-awarding agencies and fundraising.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience of academic program development, development of interdisciplinary education and appreciation and demonstrated success with online education.
- Experience related to effective hiring and management of faculty and staff, budgeting and academic policies.
- Experience mentoring faculty and students in advancing high-quality research and scholarly productivity.
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written.





Photo:  
Wilson Hall; The  
Sanford School is  
housed here on the  
ASU Tempe Campus



## Greater Phoenix

Phoenix offers the amenities of a major metropolitan region.

### **Climate**

Enjoy 300 days of sunshine a year.

### **Arts and culture**

Greater Phoenix is a rich arts and culture environment with museums, theater, concert halls and cultural centers, such as the renowned Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Opera, Ballet Arizona and the Arizona Theatre Company.

### **Outdoors**

Phoenix has a number of lakes just a short drive away offering opportunities for boating, sailing, windsurfing, water and jet skiing, fishing and more. The area is home to dozens of parks and preserves – both in and around the city – with hundreds of miles of multiuse trails for hiking and biking. The state is home to three national parks, including the Grand Canyon, thirteen national monuments and other popular destination spots like Sedona.

### **Sports**

All three of Arizona's major professional sports teams – Arizona Cardinals (NFL), Phoenix Suns (NBA) and Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) – call the metro Phoenix area home, as do the Phoenix Mercury (WNBA), Arizona Rattlers (IFL) and Phoenix Rising FC (USL). The area has over 170 golf courses.

### **Cost of living**

Greater Phoenix offers the amenities of a major metropolitan region without the high cost of living. As the fifth largest state in the U.S. and one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the nation, living and working here is both exciting and affordable.

### **Business and industry**

Arizona is home to a surging industrial ecosystem, early-stage entrepreneurs and tech-savvy millennial talent who are breaking new ground across a wide range of industry growth sectors. What's more, Arizona offers a robust portfolio of programs and resources supporting both large and emerging tech companies. The state's rich startup culture continues to thrive and is a preferred choice for technology companies seeking growth. Leading startups have collectively taken advantage of Arizona's high-skills talent base. Arizona's solid reputation and assertive stance on innovation led Fast Company to rank Arizona No. 1 in the country for "entrepreneurial activity."







# Arizona State University

Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution committed to excellence, access and impact – the New American University: A comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves. Nine design aspirations guide the ongoing evolution of ASU. These institutional objectives are integrated in innovative ways throughout the university to achieve excellence, access and impact.

Year after year, ASU ranks at or near the top of the list in areas that matter. Consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the country’s most innovative school, ASU also takes the top spot in the nation for sustainability (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) and global impact (Times Higher Education). The ASU faculty is at the forefront nationally in advancing research and discovery. The university’s 5,300 faculty members inspire new ways of thinking, innovating and solving problems socially, culturally and economically in our region and in the international community. Reporting over \$905 million in research expenditures in FY23 (13% growth from FY22), ASU is among the fastest-growing top research institutions in the nation.

## Leverage Our Place

Enable Student Success

Transform Society

Fuse Intellectual Disciplines

Value Entrepreneurship

Be Socially Embedded

Conduct Use-Inspired Research

Engage Globally

Practice Principled Innovation

**5**  
Nobel laureates

**11**  
Pulitzer Prize winners

**12**  
MacArthur fellows

**41**  
Guggenheim fellows

**162**  
National Endowment for the Humanities fellows

**298**  
Fulbright American Scholars

**6**  
National Academy of Medicine members

**8**  
National Academy of Education members

**10**  
National Academy of Public Administration members

**11**  
National Academy of Engineering members

**26**  
National Academy of Sciences members

# The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences educates the next generation in the power of language, culture and society, critical thinking, scientific exploration and discovery. Through first-of-their-kind degree programs, world-class research and innovative learning experiences, The College is committed to improving communities on a local, national and global scale, while supporting the largest student population within ASU.

Over 90% of all ASU undergraduates (immersion and online) take at least one course in The College, and over 50% of all undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in at least one course in The College, known as the academic heart of ASU. The College also sends more students to medical school and law school than any other college at ASU. Its degree programs and research centers are organized within three divisions: humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. With over 100 undergraduate programs and 150 graduate programs, students of all ages and backgrounds graduate as socially and globally aware citizens with critical writing and thinking skills that prepare them for successful and fulfilling careers.

**21**  
schools and departments

**50+**  
research centers and institutes

**100+**  
undergraduate programs

**150+**  
graduate programs

**31,468**  
Total enrollment (fall 2023)

**15,082**  
On-campus students (fall 2023)

**16,386**  
Online students (fall 2023)

**27,532**  
Undergraduates (campus and online) (fall 2023)

**3,936**  
Graduates (campus and online) (fall 2023)

**1,300**  
Total faculty (fall 2023)

**751**  
Tenured and tenure-track faculty (fall 2023)

**549**  
Career-track faculty (fall 2023)

**12:1**  
Student-to-faculty ratio (fall 2023)

**31%**  
First-generation students (fall 2023)

**63%**  
Female students (fall 2023)

**31%**  
Historically underrepresented minority students (fall 2023)