Research on the individual behavioral and cognitive aspects of varied social phenomena such as health, crime, developmental trajectories over the life course, and socioeconomic attainment and how historical and cultural community contexts produce differential outcomes form the basis of scholarship and work within IB&CC. Faculty in this domain see their research as having a profound impact on the health of our local and regional communities, and they see themselves as “agents of change.”

Two long-term key strengths emerge as drivers for this domain. Researchers in the Colleges of Humanities & Social Science and Human Science & Education collaborated in a town/gown project with the City/Parish of East Baton Rouge that addresses crime and safety issues within two specific areas within the city. The Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination program (BRAVE) has received national recognition for its approach and effectiveness in reducing crime rates and improving the lives of area residents.

Studies in health and wellness over one’s life course has been a coordinating research domain for almost 20 years. The Life Course and Aging Center has served as a locus for discussion, collaboration and facilitation of interdisciplinary research, and recent collaborations with the Pennington Biomedical Research Center have been driven by research in the effects of aging on locomotion, memory, obesity and diabetes.

Recent faculty investments have given rise to research in brain and neuroscience. In collaboration with the existing cognitive science and psychology expertise, neuroscience research has also emerged as an important area of scholarship.

A faculty Town Hall meeting was held on October 10, 2016 to discuss future directions, goals and needs of researchers in the Individual Behavior & Community Context focal area. At a follow-up discussion during at the ORED Retreat, held October 27, 2016, faculty identified three areas as critical to enhancing the future research goals within the IB&CC focus.

**Community Development:** Programs like BRAVE have had a transformational and translational impact on communities in Baton Rouge and beyond. Collaborations between researchers in social work, education, psychology, and sociology have the potential to further engage underserved communities with research-driven projects to address persistent social issues and crime. As well, there is significant work in the impact of hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters on communities in South Louisiana. Such research has tremendous impact on understanding the needs of elderly populations, those displaced by flooding events, and those whose communities are threatened by the impact of climate change. LSU is well positioned to leverage additional research domains and technologies (GIS, social media) to be highly competitive for grant and foundation resources.
**Health & Aging:** LSU and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center have both been increasing their research activities in fields relating to health and aging, including research into the impact of Alzheimer’s Disease, Diabetes, and Obesity on general wellness and physical mobility in aging populations. Collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects that draw upon those faculty interests should be highly competitive for state, federal and foundation based funding.

**Neuroscience & Cognition:** Neuroscience and brain research is a growing area of federal and foundation funding opportunities. Cognitive Science and Psychology have been areas of strength for many years and recent collaborative efforts in the colleges of Science and Humanities & Social Science identify areas of overlap for interdisciplinary research. Long term funding growth in brain-centered research from federal agencies and foundations point to growth opportunities in this field.