Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Sacred Heart University

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[COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS]
Vision for 2020: Preparing Leaders to Serve

The College’s vision includes integration of academic programs and clinical centers that lead to engaged learning, academic excellence, and inter-professional practice.

The College will be known for:

- Excellence of academic programs,
- Success of a diverse student population prepared to serve a global society,
- Scholarship that showcases evidence-based practice and best practices,
- Inter-professional collaboration in teaching, scholarship, and service, and a
- Commitment to the growth of the mind, body, and spirit of the communities that we serve.
Mission Statement

The College of Health Professions seeks to foster the development of women and men who demonstrate intellectual and professional integrity, who value compassionate service to others, and who take leading roles in communities governed by spiritual and moral values.

As a professional college within a Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts tradition, the College of Health Professions is committed to providing an education built upon a deep respect for the dignity of the human person and a recognition of the responsibility of each individual to contribute to the building of a more just society. Specifically, the college strives to teach the skills necessary for developing ethical responses to the new and ever-changing circumstances of a future filled with discoveries, technological advancements, and social change.

The college provides opportunities for students to gain knowledge, experience, skills, and values necessary to begin a first career, to advance in an existing career, and to prepare for new career challenges in response to the changing needs of society.

The college’s cooperation with professional partners in the community ensures that students benefit from an integration of academic, internship, and clinical experiences; this collaboration also enriches the health care endeavors of the community and instills an ethic of community service among students.

The college is committed to professional and academic excellence and measures this by the quality of its faculty, programs, resources, and student achievements.
Core Values

The core values of the faculty and staff of the College are:

1. **Active and Engaged Learning** – We believe an excellent academic environment is one where both the faculty and students are committed to making optimal use of available teaching-learning strategies and resources. Among those resources, our clinical, fieldwork, and intern experiences are integral to the learning process and our curricula would be lacking in achievement of critical learning objectives without them. We provide an engaging, welcoming, yet challenging environment where students perceive the people who work here care about them, respect them, and want them to succeed.

2. **Pursuit of Wisdom** – The Catholic Intellectual Tradition has as one of its cornerstones the pursuit of wisdom. Our faculty is engaged in scholarly and creative pursuits, exhibit enthusiasm for “the search for truth,” and use their discoveries to inform their teaching and benefit their students and the community.

3. **Innovation** – We develop and use methods such as problem-based, team-based, on-line, and service learning methods in our curricula. Our faculty is recognized as leaders in professional education within their disciplines and our experiences are disseminated locally, regionally, and nationally among our peers.

4. **Integrity** – We hold our students and ourselves to professional standards for ethical behavior within our academic programs and in interactions with each other.

5. **Leadership** – We have leadership roles in both the professional and general communities, contribute to the growth of knowledge and its dissemination within our given disciplines, and take active roles in policy development and implementation.

6. **Diversity** – We offer opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and learning styles by hiring a culturally competent faculty and staff who can adapt offerings and support systems within the college and university to provide the best opportunity for success.

7. **Service to Others** – We are preparing leaders to serve and because of this our students must interact with, empathize with, communicate with, and learn from the diverse populations we call community. Our graduates can neither teach, nor care for, nor serve people they do not understand so community-based instruction is critical to their success as professionals and human beings.

8. **Spiritual and Personal Growth** – We believe meaningful lives come from an education built upon deep respect for the dignity of each person, the value of compassionate service, and a recognition of the responsibility of each individual to contribute to building a more just society.

9. **Collaboration** – We encourage inter-professional collaboration among the departments within the college to deliver curricula that model team-based practice we experience in our work settings. We involve community-based practitioners and educators in the learning process because we believe theoretical knowledge is complemented by experience and skills honed in the workplace. The benefits the faculty and students bring to the community setting are equally important as they enhance the education and health care endeavors of the professional staff which in turn impacts the quality of service delivered to their students, patients, and clients.

10. **Professionalism** – We utilize best practices in the classroom. We believe it is necessary to model this approach to our students if we expect them to use this approach to learning as students and later as practitioners.

11. **Responsiveness** – As leaders in professional education, we believe it is our role to anticipate and be responsive to the changing environment in education and health care.
Service to the Community

The expertise and interests of our faculty and students allow the College to implement several initiatives that will enrich our academic programs, enhance our global, national, and regional reputation and provide opportunities to carry out the scholarship, community outreach, and service aspects of its mission.

Community Health and Wellness – Faculty, staff, and students engaged in contemporary practice will offer an integrated set of interprofessional and single discipline health services to the university and the broader community. These services will model excellence in health care through evidence-based practices and will be intentional as part of community-based learning experiences for our students and as part of our roles as professionals for our faculty and staff.

Underserved populations – Faculty and students of the college participate in service activities that advance the mission of the university and the college in local, regional, national and international communities. These activities promote excellence in professional and interprofessional education, social justice, and the dignity and well-being of the people we serve.

Professional Development - College offerings for professional development will take place at different sites dependent upon need and demand. In-service programs will include continuing education and career advancement opportunities for individuals as well as programs that benefit our institutional community partners.
Strategic Plan

CHP objective 1: Develop and implement strategies for regular dissemination of program outcomes and faculty and student accomplishments. (Aligned with university goal: Academic Excellence)

Strategies:

- Implement assessment plan for college-wide and program student learning outcomes on a three year basis and post results on college web sites
- Use results of assessments to improve program curricula and student outcomes.
- Support faculty development related to assessment teaching, and curriculum
- Support faculty scholarship on assessment

CHP objective 2: Foster and promote research for students and faculty (Aligned with university goal: Academic Excellence and Strengthen Long-term financial Stability)

Strategies:

- Develop CE programs and other activities to generate funds for research support
- Develop a CHP research committee to plan IP activities and to support faculty and student research
- Collaborate with University Office of Sponsored Programs to increase resources for research support
- Fund research GAs
- Update faculty research database and make it searchable and more accessible
- Disseminate IP results of educational activities through scholarship and faculty development activities

CHP objective 3: Capitalize on faculty expertise and interests, and new facilities and technologies to develop a Center of Excellence integrating research, practice, and service. (Aligned with university goal: Academic Excellence)

Strategies:

- Establish the Center of Excellence in Neurological Health for Neurological Health
- Establish a steering committee to develop a mission and strategic plan
Strategic Plan

CHP objective 4: Develop new academic and certificate programs and targeting new populations (Aligned with university goal: Academic Excellence)
Strategies:
- Implement the Master of Public Health program
- Implement the Quality Improvement certificate program
- Assess the feasibility of additional degree and dual-degree programs for example, Certificate of PA Education, PA/MPH, MPH/JD in Health Policy and Law, DPT/MBA
- Develop and implement certificate programs; Wilderness EMT, Basic Life Support
- Attract and support non-traditional students and career changers

CHP objective 5: Develop opportunities for students to build competencies for Interprofessional (IP) team-based practice (Aligned with university goal: Academic Excellence)
Strategies:
- Develop IP capstone courses
- Add one IP PBL tutorial case in adult rehabilitation
- Continue IP student seminar series engaging all programs
- Develop and implement interprofessional clinical education experiences
- IP Committee will discuss feasibility of implementing one or two common IP courses, e.g.
  - Research methods
  - Statistics
  - Journal club
  - Grand rounds
  - CHP Common Core in graduate programs

CHP objective 6: Expand college-wide experiential learning (Aligned with university goals: Academic Excellence and Develop a Student Development Plan of Learning and Living outside the Classroom)
Strategies:
- Articulate SHU WELL LLC with Director of student experience activities
- Develop more domestic SL opportunities
- Integrate freshmen into domestic SL experiences
- Design a mandatory-entry course for UGs
Appendix B - Academic Programs

The College of Health professions will offer baccalaureate, masters and professional doctoral level educational programs. In addition to the continuation and expansion where possible of existing programs, new academic programs will be established.

College of Health Professions current program offerings include:

- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Master of Science in Exercise and Nutrition
- Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
- Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science
- Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
- Bachelor of Science in Health Science
- Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Clinical Residency program
- Geriatric Physical Therapy Clinical Residency program
- Minor in Geriatric Health and Wellness (undergraduate)

New degree programs to be established or under development by 2020 are:

- Master of Science in Athletic Training
- Master of Public Health
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)