

PROGRAMS OF STUDY



Exercise Physiology
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Physician Assistant
Sciences

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES. Saint Francis of Assisi had a legendary gift for caring. Saint Francis University, in turn, has helped thousands of students find their vocations in healthcare. Through its mission, the School of Health Sciences synchronizes innovative educational opportunities and experiences to skillfully prepare individuals to provide competent, compassionate, and ethical care to regional and global communities including the medically underserved in rural areas. Contemporary curricula and outreach programming influenced by the Franciscan tradition provide the foundation for graduates to demonstrate critical thinking, cultural competence, and an evidence-based approach enhancing professional practice. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, these future leaders dedicate themselves to lifelong learning, critical self-reflection, and service facilitating positive change in health and wellness.

Updated 7/2010

School of Health Sciences highlights and features:

- Physician Assistant Sciences program ranked in top twenty percent of all masters granting PA programs in country by US News and World Report.
- Physical Therapy program boasts a three-year average of 90.7 percent first-time pass rate on National Physical Therapy Exam exceeding state and national averages.
- Occupational Therapy program graduates enjoy 100 percent graduate job placement within three months of graduation.
- Exercise Physiology program consists of four concentrations: Fitness Professionals Concentration, Pre-Allied Health Concentration, Graduate/Research Concentration, and Pre-Professional/Pre-Medical Concentration.
- Nursing program had 100 percent pass rate on NCLEX-RN exam in 2009, and 100 percent employment rate for class of 2009.



DiSepio Institute

The DiSepio Institute promotes health and wellness as part of Saint Francis University's Franciscan mission of academic excellence and achievement combined with community service, particularly to the rural, under-served population. The Institute seeks to enhance the research mission, academic curriculum, student life co-curriculum, and community service profile of the University, helping to promote it as the Catholic and Franciscan higher education institution of choice in the United States.

The DiSepio Institute features a rehabilitation center, a fitness center, the spiritual wellness center, the student health center, and a human performance laboratory, as well as a conference center.

School Vision:

To be globally recognized as the premiere rural, institutional leader in health science education and community outreach.

Competitive Advantages:

- The DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness offers students the opportunity to incorporate research and hands-on practice into their respective curricula.
- Integration with the Center of Excellence in Rural and Medically Under-Served Areas (CERMUSA) facilitates research opportunities.
- The Human Performance Laboratory supports the research function of the DiSepio Institute.
- Human cadaver anatomy is utilized in the Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Sciences curricula.
- High-tech patient simulators are utilized in the Nursing program, and there are plans to institute simulation in an interdisciplinary fashion within the School of Health Sciences.

- Students enjoy freshman-entry into all of the Health Science programs and are guaranteed progression provided they meet necessary advancement criteria.
 - Entire professional programs can be completed at the University. This eliminates the need to transfer to another university.
 - Opportunities exist for graduate admission into the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Sciences programs based upon availability.
 - All courses are taught by faculty who are experts in their fields. Many faculty members maintain clinical practice as well.
 - Students enjoy a low faculty-to-student ratio in classes.
- Unique Opportunities:**
- Many opportunities exist for service learning throughout the Health Sciences curricula.
 - Opportunities exist for international clinical studies in Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Sciences curricula.
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration is emphasized in all phases of the Health Sciences curricula.
 - The Sports Physical Therapy Residency Program is designed to advance the knowledge and skills of physical therapists who are interested in sports physical therapy.
 - Leadership opportunities are enhanced through student organizations.
 - Opportunities exist for undergraduate international studies and service opportunities.

REACHING HIGHER

Jerry Rush (PT '02), Physical Therapy, Regional VP, Central Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Services (CPRS). "Saint Francis provided me with a solid foundation to begin my career – clinically, ethically and professionally. The education, skills, mentoring and wisdom instilled in me during my time at Saint Francis has proven to be invaluable in my career advancement."

GOING FAR

Joel Bunn, '91 (B.S.) & '98 (MMS) Physician Assistant Sciences *Emergency Medicine PA, Flight PA for helicopter transport service, Team Medical Officer in Sports Medicine for professional hockey team. Invented and patented hockey equipment airflow self drying hanger organizer. PA in Interventional Radiology. Completed Ph.D. in Health Science Education and is an adjunct assistant professor at SFU.*

Tracy Beltowski, '96 Nursing *Graduated University of Pittsburgh ('01) with dual masters: MSN and Nurse Practitioner in Adult Acute Care. Works with Trauma Services at Memorial Medical Center.*

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