A UNIVERSITY WITH VISION
A COLLEGE WITH PURPOSE
INTRODUCING THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

In September 2022, the College of Nursing and Health Professions welcomed students to their new academic home — the Drexel University Health Sciences Building. This state-of-the-art 12-story building is filled with lecture and seminar learning spaces, community lounges, study and breakout spaces, labs, research areas and so much more. The Health Sciences Building is a wonderful place to learn, research and practice. Located at 36th and Filbert streets, students are within easy walking distance of the University’s libraries, fitness center, theaters, athletic fields, student organizations and dining facilities.

Many of Drexel’s health-related programs will be centralized in the 460,000-square-foot Health Sciences Building, enhancing opportunities for interdisciplinary education in a facility that provides the best possible environment for continued development and growth. Joining CNHP in 2023 will be Drexel University College of Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

At CNHP, we are united and driven by a set of core values that informs our work. With a shared sense of purpose, we are dedicated to health equity, care, service, diversity and inclusion. Throughout my career as a scientist and educator, I have been committed to exploring connections between the health and life space of vulnerable individuals and designing programs and strategies in collaboration with nurses, health professionals and communities that can make life better. Your decision to join the next generation of leaders will positively shape health outcomes for our diverse communities. We hope you will consider joining our energetic, committed and passionate CNHP community.

LAURA N. GITLIN, PHD — DEAN AND DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

COMMITTED TO CARING, SERVICE AND CHANGE

Drexel University’s College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) is a vibrant and values-driven educational community located in the heart of Philadelphia. Students arrive with intellect, passion and ambition, and they graduate with the practical knowledge and experience they need to deliver high-quality care and service to solve the complex problems we face now and in the future.

Enriched by the College’s world-class faculty, dynamic curriculum and signature cooperative education program, CNHP is home to diverse undergraduate and graduate programs. Both in person and online, the College offers advanced and innovative lifelong learning opportunities for students, from undergraduates to returning students seeking new skills or embarking on new careers. As the first Age-Friendly University in the city of Philadelphia, Drexel is committed to meeting the educational aspirations of all people.

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CNHP students seeking a global perspective on complex health issues have numerous opportunities to travel, study and acquire hands-on experience. In addition to Study Abroad and Service Trips Abroad, the College offers Intensive Courses Abroad (ICAs). For example, in 2019, ICAs opened students’ eyes to innovative approaches on Global Aging in Chile and Psychiatric Rehabilitation in Singapore.

“We saw first-hand the effects of health care policy in Chile,” says Alicia Muench, a Health Sciences major. The trip included visiting clinics specifically devoted to dementia rehabilitation.

As a student in both Health Administration and Business Administration, Jeremiah Ham was prepared to lead when he graduated in 2020. Honing his leadership skills as a member of the ROTC and in the prestigious Macy Undergraduate Leadership Fellows Program, Jeremiah was paired with a faculty mentor, Professor Merritt Brockman, DHA, who is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force and previously served as a health care administrator.

“The mentoring aspect of the Macy program was very important to me,” Jeremiah says.

Interested in pursuing a career that would foster system-wide improvements in health care, Jeremiah decided that Health Administration was the right academic path for him. “Someone has to run the organization to make sure that it’s continuously stable and that it expands in the way that meets all the needs of people in all of the communities it serves,” Jeremiah says.

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Diversity and inclusion are fundamental to all of CNHP’s endeavors, enriching our educational, research and practice experiences. We are committed to reducing inequities in our education, research, practice, policy and civic engagement initiatives — advocating for intersectional social justice, promoting greater inclusivity and eliminating health disparities.

Some examples of classes that address health disparities and health inequities span disciplines, from an Art Therapy and Counseling course that explores the impacts and implications of culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and other relevant identities within the context of mental health treatment to a Health Services Administration course that looks at the meaning of health through the eyes of various distinct vulnerable populations.

MINDFUL ART-MAKING AND SELF-CARE

While Emily Wexler works toward a master’s degree in Art Therapy and Counseling, she identified, through her internship in pediatric medicine, a need for practitioners and patients to take time to practice mindfulness to reduce stress. With inspiration from Professor Michele Rattigan, MA, Emily developed a mindful art-making experience for CNHP’s physician assistant students that transformed into a virtual experience for frontline health care professionals. “I started to notice the different ways that people could be affected when we don’t take that break,” Emily noted. The experience includes a mindfulness meditation and creating art inspired by personal mantras. It also includes an explanation of self-compassion, where she reminds participants why it’s important to extend the same compassion given to others to ourselves.

A TEAM-ORIENTED AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The first time Sharon Akoto set foot in Philadelphia was for her interview day with CNHP’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. She had flown cross country from the Seattle area, and by the end of the day, it felt like home. “I decided that Drexel would, if I got in, be a place where I could definitely see myself,” Sharon says. “It just seemed like a very team-oriented and very comfortable environment to be in.”

“I took a big leap of faith, honestly, moving across the country to a place I barely knew much about. And it was totally worth it,” Sharon says.

OVERCOMING HEALTH CARE LANGUAGE BARRIERS

During her six-month, critical care co-op in the surgical intensive care unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Genesis Sanchez, BSN ’20, saw firsthand the importance of patient education in nursing. Genesis, who was born in the Dominican Republic and went to high school in Philadelphia, found that was especially true with Spanish-speaking patients.

“It’s really educating a person to truly understand their diagnosis and how to live with it with a good quality of life,” says Genesis, who also minored in education. “Health care literacy is lacking. Our health care systems is very complicated as it is. To have a language barrier makes it even more difficult.”

A DIVERSE AND DEDICATED GROUP OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION. THEY FOCUS ON CREATING A CULTURAL CLIMATE IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF THE CNHP COMMUNITY FEEL WELCOMED, RESPECTED, VALUED AND INCLUDED.

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Drexel University’s cooperative education program, also known as co-op, is one of the most distinctive features of a Drexel education. Co-ops represent the chance to gain invaluable real-world work experience in some of the nation’s best health care institutions and other industry leaders. After their first year, depending on the program they choose, CNHP students can alternate six-month periods of full-time study with full-time employment at Drexel-approved employers.

Complementing co-op, there is also a rich array of on-campus experiential learning opportunities, including those in the state-of-the-art Center for Interprofessional Clinical Simulation and Practice. This comprehensive, hands-on learning model provides the optimal environment for students to develop skills, learn from mistakes and become adept and competent caregivers for patients.

**CO-OPS: A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

- 96% of College of Nursing and Health Professions students were employed on co-op in 2020.
- 97% of College of Nursing and Health Professions Class of 2020 graduates were working or enrolled in graduate or professional education, according to the One-Year-Out Alumni Survey.
- 67% of College of Nursing and Health Professions co-op participants had received a job offer from a former co-op employee.

**SIMULATING A DISASTER**

For CNHP undergraduate nursing students, the Disaster Simulation Lab, which simulates the worst-case, yet realistic scenarios, provides an experiential learning opportunity nurses might come across in their careers. From preparing for pandemics to natural disasters, simulations help students in nursing and other health-related fields develop skills in interprofessional teamwork, multiple patient management and crisis resource management, as well as communication, collaboration and leadership. Run through the Center for Interprofessional Clinical Simulation and Practice, expert faculty support and engage students in this distinctive and critical training experience.

**MULTIPLE CO-OPS PROVIDE INVALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE**

Attending CNHP was a focused decision for Aviva Mandel. With a direct curricular path into nursing and the opportunity to gain 18 months of work experience prior to graduation, these distinctive academic hallmarks have propelled Aviva toward her goal of being a nurse. She chose the five-year program, including three unique co-op opportunities. After her first two co-op placements in a postanesthesia care unit (PACU) and a transplant unit, Aviva’s last co-op placement was at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where she spent time in general rehabilitation with children who had been impacted by stroke, traumatic brain injury and other life-altering events. This placement allowed Aviva to establish meaningful relationships, helping younger patients to achieve the best health outcomes possible.

**A PHILLY STAPLE GETS A HEALTHY MAKEOVER**

How does a student in the food science/culinary arts program get the opportunity to help develop a healthier hoagie roll, one that single-handedly cut more than 1,200 pounds of salt from the diets of Philadelphia schoolchildren? Through a partnership between the Drexel Food Lab and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. “Everything in the Drexel Food Lab has some aspect of sustainability, health promotion or food access as a part of it,” says Lauren Miller, who has been working at the lab on a grant to reduce the amount of sodium consumed in local Philadelphia communities since spring of her first year. The new, lower-sodium hoagie roll developed by students, under the direction of lab director Jonathan Deutsch, PhD, comes in well under the city’s nutrition standards’ limit for sodium — a key factor in high blood pressure. This small innovation has big health implications. The School District of Philadelphia alone purchases 1.68 million hoagie rolls annually.
CNHP DEGREE PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES

PROGRAMS UP-TO-DATE AS OF AUGUST 2022

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

18 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
30+ GRADUATE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
• Accelerated RN/BSN/MSN (BSN/MSN)
• Behavioral Health Counseling (BS) – NEW
• Culinary Arts and Science (BSCAS)
• Drexel Sales Occupational Therapy Option (BS/MSOT)
• Drexel-Thomas Jefferson University Athletic Training Option (BS/MS)
• Drexel-University of the Sciences PharmD Option (BS/PharmD)
• Exercise Science (BS) – NEW
• Health Sciences (BS)
• Health Sciences/Physical Therapy Bridge Program (BS/DPT)
• Health Sciences/Physician Assistant Bridge Program (BS/MSHS)
• Health Services Administration (BS) **
• Health Services Administration/Public Health (BS/MPH)
• Hospitality Management (BSHM)
• Nursing — ACE (BSN)
• Nursing — RN to BSN Completion Program (BSN)*
• Nursing (BSN)
• Nutrition and Foods (BS)
• Nutrition and Foods/Nutrition and Dietetics Bridge Program (BS/MS)

CERTIFICATES
• Food Entrepreneurship – NEW
• Medical Billing and Coding*

POSTBACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES
• Complementary and Integrative Therapies*
• Food Innovation” — NEW
• Healthcare Simulation” — NEW
• Nursing Education”
• Nursing Leadership and Health Systems Management”
• Quality, Safety and Risk Management” — NEW
• Substance Use Disorder Treatment”

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
• Addictions Counseling (MS)*
• Advanced Role (MSN)*
• Clinical Nurse Leader
• Healthcare Simulation
• Nursing Education
• Nursing Leadership and Health Systems Management
• Public Health Nursing
• Quality, Safety and Risk Management in Healthcare
• MSN/MBA: Leadership in Health Systems Management (Dual Degree)
• RN to MSN-Bridge Program
• RN-BSN-MSN Accelerated
• Undeclared
• Art Therapy and Counseling (MA)
• Complementary and Integrative Health (MS)*
• Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling (MA)
• Family Therapy (MFT)
• Food Science (MS)
• Health Administration (MHA)*
• Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (MS) – NEW
• Human Nutrition (MS) Plus Partner Dietetic Internship
• Interdisciplinary Healthcare (MS)*
• Master of Science in Complementary and Integrative Health/Degree/Career Counseling (Dual Degree) Program with the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona
• Master of Science in Healthcare Simulation
• Master of Science in Quality, Safety and Risk Management in Healthcare
• Music Therapy and Counseling (MA)
• Nurse Practitioner (MSN)*
• Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
• Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
• Family Nurse Practitioner (Individual Across the Lifespan)
• Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
• Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
• Pediatric Primary Care/Nursing acute care nurse practitioner Dual Program
• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
• Women’s Health/Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner
• Nutrition and Dietetics (MS)
• Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program
• Physician Assistant (MHS)

POSTMASTER’S CERTIFICATES
• Advanced Role
• Clinical Nurse Leader*
• Nurse Practitioner
• Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Family Nurse Practitioner (Individual Across the Lifespan)*
• Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Pediatric Primary Care/Acute Care Dual Option Nurse Practitioner*
• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner*
• Women’s Health/Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner*
• Nutrition and Dietetics (MS)
• Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program
• Physician Assistant (MHS)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
• Couple and Family Therapy (DCFT)*
• Couple and Family Therapy (PhD)
• Creative Arts Therapies (PhD)
• Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)*
• Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia (DNP)*
• Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (PhD)
• Nutrition Sciences (PhD)
• Physical Therapy (DPT)

POSTMASTER’S CERTIFICATES
• Advanced Role
• Clinical Nurse Leader*
• Nurse Practitioner
• Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner*
• Family Nurse Practitioner (Individual Across the Lifespan)*
• Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
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• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner*
• Women’s Health/Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner*

FOR MORE PROGRAM INFORMATION VISIT: DREXEL.EDU/CNHP
Drexel University’s Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services is a nationally recognized, nurse-led model of innovative care for the underserved. The center delivers primary care, behavioral health, dental services and health and wellness programs to more than 6,000 patients annually. 11th Street is one of eight organizations nationwide chosen to participate in a multisite demonstration promoting new approaches to integrating care for adults and children with complex health and social needs and improving health outcomes.

“At 11th Street we work diligently to ensure we are providing trauma-informed services through an anti-racist lens,” says Ebony White, PhD, the center’s interim director. “We recognize the enormous impact of racism on communities of color and on health outcomes for Black and Brown individuals and families, and we remain dedicated to our own continual education around anti-racist, trauma-informed practice so that we can provide culturally responsive, quality care to our community.”

Opportunities to engage and practice abound in CNHP’s innovative health and wellness facilities. In addition to the Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services, the Community Wellness HUB offers free health and wellness programming and disease prevention education, including screening, counseling and referral services for residents of nearby Mantua and Powelton Village.

Several CNHP practices offer real-world experience including:

- **Physical Therapy Services**, providing outpatient care for members of the community.
- **Individual, Couple and Family Therapy Services**, which offers counseling in two Philadelphia locations.
- **The Academic Bistro**, a student-run restaurant that serves as a lab for our students, who also produce, prepare and serve organic food from the Bistro Garden.

CNHP also works with community partners on exciting research opportunities like Eat Right Philly, a grant-funded program in the Department of Nutrition Sciences that serves thousands of students, families and staff in more than 70 schools in the School District of Philadelphia.

Nyree Dardarian, MS ’06, RD, and her team at Drexel’s Center for Nutrition and Performance originally developed Dragon Gels to help Drexel’s soccer team replenish carbohydrates to improve performance. While the carbohydrate-rich, 1.5-ounce gummy squares are still made by Professor Dardarian’s colleagues and student interns in Drexel’s metabolic lab kitchen, they now help players on the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team, the Philadelphia Union soccer squad and the U.S. Squash and Field Hockey teams refuel. The Center is a collaboration of Drexel Athletics and CNHP’s Department of Nutrition Sciences.

BEFORE SHE EVEN GRADUATES, ELIZABETH SINCLAIR WILL ALREADY HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE RESUME

She completed five-week clinical rotations in emergency medicine, internal medicine, women’s health and surgery at a variety of facilities in the area. In addition, she was a clinical coordinator during her six-month undergrad co-op at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and volunteered as an emergency medical technician on-campus with Drexel EMS. Her experience “taught me not only teamwork, but how to step up and become a leader,” she said.

Sinclair is in the health sciences/physician assistant bridge program that will allow her to earn her undergraduate and master’s degrees in just five years.
The Drexel Alumni Network is more than 150,000-strong, with members around the globe. CNHP alumni have access to their own networking, professional development and social events. In addition, they enjoy all that the Drexel Alumni Association offers, including community activities, campus events, continuing education courses and lifelong learning opportunities.

Inspired by her mother and grandmother, who both spent their careers as bedside nurses, Julia Lopez decided to pursue a career in nursing. As a graduate of Drexel’s BSN and online MSN in Nursing Education, Julia is leading in care through her work in a neonatal intensive care unit. “Every day I leave work, I feel happy knowing that I provided someone care, education or compassion. It’s just a good feeling knowing that I was able to help somebody. The nurse’s role in society has to do with advocacy, health promotion and health education. And I want to be able to create the next generation of great, safe, compassionate nurses.”

A Philadelphia native and lifelong Philadelphia Eagles fan, alumna Leslee Sholomskas had a unique internship opportunity while she was a student at Drexel. As the first-ever sports performance nutrition intern with the Eagles, her role coincided with the 2018 Super Bowl victory. Leslee, a registered dietitian and licensed di- etitian with a master’s degree in nutrition science from CNHP, now serves as assistant director of sports nutrition at the University of Minnesota Athletic Department, where she teaches athletes how to balance their nutritional needs to perform at the highest level.

As a third-year student in Drexel’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, Chris Recinto has many meaningful connections across campus. He initially connected with a group of friends during their new student orientation week. They now live in a shared learning community, part of their residential experience on Drexel’s campus. Whether making Oreo truffles, visiting the Franklin Institute, walking around Philadelphia or ice skating in the city, the friendships they have built are an important part of their Drexel experience and a source of joy and support. On campus, Chris participates in the Dragon Run Club, the Drexel Student Nurses Association and is a member of the Beta Chi Theta fraternity. As a leader on campus, Chris wants to welcome all new students to Drexel and looks forward to connecting with the future Dragons.
After 18 years in the business world, Natt Fiumara knew he wanted to lean in toward a significant shift, one that would allow him to help people with addictions. Having managed a substance use disorder, Natt was able to see first-hand the immediate need for counselors who were specialists in addictions — competent and empathetic. He decided to pursue an online Master of Science in Addictions Counseling at Drexel. During the program, Natt, motivated by the evidence-based curriculum, focused on actionable treatment, innovative approaches and the meaningful connections he had with his classmates.

There is great need for addictions counselors, in fact Natt’s last day of class coincided with his first day of work in his new role as a counselor at a methadone clinic in Baltimore. In a city hit hard by the opioid epidemic, Natt devotes extraordinary time and energy to connect with his patients, help them unpack their trauma and build trust with each person.

### Online Addictions Counseling Program Leads to a Meaningful Opportunity

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### Former Classmates Team Up to Promote Burn Prevention


“This book is a new way of getting the message about fire prevention and burn prevention out there, not only nationally but internationally,” Paul says. Ken views the books as another form of patient education. “I’ve been able ... to extend the patient-provider encounter time from ten minutes to bedtime reading.”

### Advocating for Social Justice and Health Equity

Jasmine Jones, BSN ’20, sees a need for more health care leaders working for social justice and health equity, and she is determined to fill that void. “What’s important to me is helping the underserved,” she says. Jasmine credits her participation in the Macy Undergraduate Leadership Fellows Program with preparing her to be an effective and socially responsible change agent. The for-credit certificate program focuses on developing leadership skills, ranging from mobilizing and leading teams to understanding your personal strengths and weaknesses.

“In Macy, we learned that as long as you believe in yourself, you can do anything,” Jasmine says. “In the first term, we learned about ourselves, and in the second, we learned about conflict management. A lot of times people stray away from conflict, and you don’t really want to do that, because that’s where change occurs.”

### Steinbright Career Development Center

A go-to resource for lifelong success, Steinbright helps students develop the professional skills they need to stand out in the highly competitive job market. Through the co-op program, Steinbright connects students to an extensive base of employer partners that includes industry leaders in Philadelphia and around the globe. It also offers a full range of workshops, seminars, career counseling and online resources to help alumni reach their professional goals and manage their careers.

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RESEARCH, DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

Drexel University’s Office of Research invests in the future, enabling advances, innovations and progress that sustain our reputation as a preeminent research university globally, nationally and locally.

In 2019, Drexel received acknowledgment from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education of its R1 research status, noting the highest research activity — one that is held by just 37 private universities.

CNHP BY THE NUMBERS

State Board Licensure Exam Pass Rate for Physical Therapy students in 2021.

97% of undergraduate on-campus students are employed or in graduate school one year after graduation in 2020.

96% of Physician Assistant graduates passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam in 2021.

93.7% NCLEX pass rate for first-time test takers from October, 2020 - September, 2021.

1,894

1,375

1,894

1,375

1,894

1,375

NUMBER OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO WERE ENROLLED IN CNHP AT ANY POINT DURING THE 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR.

NUMBER OF ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO WERE ENROLLED IN CNHP AT ANY POINT DURING THE 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR.

*Information in this publication is current as of August 2022.

OUR AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

The College of Nursing and Health Professions is a major contributor to research activity at Drexel.