

# Women's Health Education Program

## Mission

Innovate, educate, advocate and integrate: Preparing tomorrow's physicians for excellence in health care delivery to all women across the lifespan.

The lives of women will only become better when health professional training imbues a gender-informed holistic, comprehensive, (non-reproductive and reproductive) and contextual (woman in her world) approach, delivered as part of a robust multidisciplinary team.

A scholarly blending of the intersection of bio-psycho-social and public health nurtures excellence in educational innovation, clinical case and research endeavors, advocacy for patients, and mentorship and advocacy for students and future physicians.



## Director's Message

**In the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we recognize the multitude of inequities that exist throughout medicine, and we are driven to address these issues on all levels including the educational opportunities we provide. Within the Office, the Women's Health Education Program (WHEP) focuses on addressing health, as well as issues related to broader health equity across the sex and gender spectrum.**

As a Drexel medical student, you can engage in self-directed learning, mentorship and diverse educational activities to further explore your interest in the health and societal issues specific to sex and gender medicine, and broader health equity topics. As none of these exists within a vacuum, we encourage our students to see their interconnectedness, to investigate with pertinent questions, and to approach this learning through an intersectional lens.

Our focus and expertise are a continuation of Drexel's long history. Traced back to 1850 with the establishment of our predecessor the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first institution where women could train to become physicians, our "College of Opportunity" has its feet rooted in sex and gender, women's health and equity issues. The Women's Health Education Program is proud to continue this legacy.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Ryczak, MD, Director, WHEP

## History

In 1993, the Medical College of Pennsylvania became the first medical school in the country to completely integrate women's health issues into its curriculum. In contrast to schools that present women's health as an occasional lecture or elective, we are committed to integrating women's health issues into every aspect of the curriculum. We emphasize the responsibility of all physicians in delivering women's health care. The program served as a national model for other institutions and continues its legacy by developing innovative sex and gender curriculum. Our growth and innovation are largely due to input from DUCOM students. ODEI welcomes collaboration with students interested in sharing their insights!

# Women's Health/Sex & Gender Medicine | Health Equity

## Scholar Programs

The Scholar programs were designed to recognize highly motivated and exceptional students with expertise in sex/gender medicine or health equity in medicine. Upon completion of requirements, students are acknowledged for distinction at graduation with a Scholars Designation.

## Seminar Series

A credited elective course offered for medical students. The series began in 1996 in response to a group of students interested in women's health beyond the core curriculum.

## Women's Health Senior Electives

Open to all senior-level students, the goal of WHEP electives is to enrich students' experiences in girls' and women's health and sex and gender medicine. Students interested in any discipline may take WHEP electives (e.g., Ambulatory, Community, College Health, Academic, Public Policy).

## What's the difference between being a Women's Health Scholar and a Health Equity Scholar?

**Women's Health/Sex & Gender Medicine:** Explores questions focusing on sex/gender differences or unique issues for people of all gender identities.

**Health Equity:** Explores a much larger umbrella of questions regarding health disparities within any medical specialty and focus (and what we could or should do about them).

## Why become a scholar?

Provides an opportunity to increase your skills and knowledge by completing scholarly work in Women's Health or Health Equity

You receive the official title of Women's Health or Health Equity Scholar on your transcript

Gives you a more well-rounded medical school experience

Increases your expertise in critical thinking and generating practical solutions

“Being a part of WHEP, I learned a tremendous amount about the disparities within sex and gender health and how that then impacts the way we live and who we are. I decided to pursue the Women's Health Scholar Program because I thought it would be a great way for me to continue to learn more about the issues that affected me as a woman, but also would allow me to explore my own interests in women's health.”

Chevonne Parris-Skeete

## Get in touch!

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[drexel.edu/  
medicine/whep/](https://drexel.edu/medicine/whep/)

## WHEP has graduated over 150 students who have entered residencies in the following disciplines:

- Anesthesiology
- Emergency medicine
- Pediatrics
- Family medicine
- Psychiatry
- Internal medicine
- Radiology
- Neurology
- Dermatology
- Surgery
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Urology
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Orthopedic surgery
- Child psychiatry
- Otolaryngology
- Interventional radiology