

Creating Our Culture

Our Evolution

The University Of North Carolina Board Of Governors approved the development of the College of Health Sciences at Appalachian State University on October 17, 2008. The proposal and concept for the College of Health Sciences grew out of the Appalachian 2008-2013 strategic plan, *Reach Greater Heights*. This was a significant milestone for Appalachian, as it marked the first new College at the university in 40 years. The six charter departments/programs in the new College included Nursing, Communication Disorders, Social Work, Health Care Management, Nutrition and Food Systems, and Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science. Dr. Fred Whitt was named as Founding Dean for the new College of Health Sciences on January 1, 2010, and the new College began operations July 1, 2010. The Institute for Health and Human Services (IHHS) transitioned into the new College in January 2011. Current academic departments include Communication Sciences and Disorders; Health and Exercise Science; Nutrition and Health Care Management; Nursing; Recreation Management and Physical Education; and Social Work.

Our Vision

The College of Health Sciences will be the preeminent and most comprehensive academic center for health professions in western North Carolina. We will be recognized nationally for our innovation and collaboration in education, scholarship and service that produces high quality graduates, attracts superior faculty and staff, and transforms health and quality of life for the communities we serve.

Our Mission

The mission of the College of Health Sciences is to provide transformative education, conduct collaborative research that advances knowledge and practice in our disciplines, and engage in community service that enhances health and quality of life in our region. To accomplish our mission, the College of Health Sciences blends diverse health-related disciplines that are committed to:

- Meeting the existing and future health-related workforce needs in our region
- Improving organizations and systems of health and human services throughout NC
- Advancing applied knowledge and practice through research and scholarly activity
- Engaging in partnerships with health and human services agencies and organizations
- Providing socially responsive clinical and community outreach in Northwestern NC
- Implementing collaborative & transformative models of education, research & service

Our Core Values

The College of Health Sciences embraces the following core values that guide us in achieving our vision and fulfilling our mission. We are committed to:

PROFESSIONALISM *Modeling honesty, integrity, ethics & professional behaviors for our students.*

INNOVATION *Embracing change that promotes excellence and reflects best practice.*

ACCOUNTABILITY *Honoring our commitments in all that we say and do.*

TRANSPARENCY *Making decisions in an open and honest manner that support shared governance.*

CIVILITY *Encouraging open dialog and debate, free from bullying behaviors.*

RESPECT *Treating each other with dignity and respect.*

DIVERSITY *Promoting diversity and expanding inclusion in our programs.*

EQUITY *Striving to reduce health disparities and promote health equity for all.*

STEWARDSHIP *Managing our resources efficiently and effectively.*

WELLNESS *Living and promoting healthy lifestyles.*

Our Guiding Principles

The following principles guide planning, decision making, and change in the College of Health Sciences:

- Enhances the quality of our programs and/or people
- Central to our vision, mission, and values
- Consistent with best professional practice
- Encompasses the best interests of students
- Provides a comparative advantage
- Maintains viability and sustainability

Our Strategic Themes

The following themes provide the foundation for developing our strategic initiatives and operational goals to advance the mission and vision of the College:

- Achieving Academic Distinction (QP²)
- Developing a Collaborative and Cohesive Culture
- Engaging in Public and Private Partnerships
- Securing External Resources
- Enhancing Transcultural Opportunities

Attributes of Successful CHS Faculty

The College of Health Sciences believes that all academic faculty should model professional skills and attributes, and these characteristics should be considered when recruiting new academic faculty. In addition to discipline-specific requirements, successful CHS faculty exhibit the following attributes:

- Terminal degree earned in the discipline (*for tenure track faculty only*)
- Collegiality that contributes to a positive work environment in the college.
- Commitment to the strategic goals of the department, college, and university
- Promoting excellence in teaching, including learning opportunities for students through research, study abroad, service learning, and interprofessional experiences, etc.
- Conducting productive scholarship consistent with the teacher-scholar model, to include peer reviewed publications and grant proposal writing (*for tenure track faculty only*)
- Engagement in professional service within the University and beyond
- Technological literacy and a commitment to using technology in teaching and scholarship
- Willingness to engage in diverse academic and professional communities
- Student engagement through recruiting, advising, retaining, and mentoring qualified students

Attributes of Successful CHS Students

The College of Health Sciences shares common expectations for students who graduate from our various programs of study. In addition to displaying competencies in specific discipline-related skills and knowledge, it is our goal that students who graduate with a degree from a CHS program are able to:

- Work effectively across and within interprofessional environments and disciplines
- Solve problems effectively using critical and analytical thinking skills
- Display leadership, engaging in community and regional service that is socially responsive
- Think globally and value diverse environments
- Practice the highest standards of professional ethics and responsibility
- Incorporate technology and innovation to promote learning and engagement
- Make decisions utilizing evidence, best practice and current knowledge in their discipline
- Act with compassion and cultural sensitivity
- Commit to lifelong learning and professional development