

ALLIED HEALTH



"...the idea of working in a hospital, where every day I would have the ability to help people, was something that I had always dreamed of."

– James Johnson '13

The healthcare professions offer individuals highly rewarding careers involved with saving lives and improving patients' quality of life. Millersville University's allied health programs provide students with an excellent education in the basic sciences (biology, chemistry, math and physics) while accelerating their clinical preparation for the health profession to which they aspire.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

The allied health programs at Millersville generally follow a 3 + 1 pattern. Students spend three years on campus completing general education and science requirements followed by 11-12 months of instruction in a hospital-based program. The pre-athletic training program is 3+2 program that leads to a B.S. in Allied Health from Millersville and a Master's in Athletic Training from an affiliated graduate program. The Sports Medicine option is a 4-year program that prepares students for graduate or professional studies.

Students majoring in an allied health field can select from the following areas of study:

- **Clinical Laboratory Science** – Clinical laboratory scientists are healthcare professionals who conduct microbiology and immunology laboratory procedures to help identify infectious disease-causing agents; use sophisticated chemical instruments (clinical chemistry), microscopes and computers (hematology) to analyze blood; and perform tests to assure that quality and appropriate specimens are sent to the lab. They are also responsible for assuring that test results are accurate (quality control). The clinical laboratory scientist provides the physician with more information about a patient than any other health profession.
- **Nuclear Medicine Technology** – Nuclear medicine technologists (NMTs) are healthcare professionals who are trained to safely prepare and administer small doses of radioactive compounds (radiopharmaceuticals) to patients to help detect diseases, injuries or abnormalities. The NMT uses sophisticated radiation-detecting diagnostic equipment to create images of virtually every organ in the body, study body functions (stress test), analyze biological specimens and treat disease (certain cancers). The physician uses this information to make a diagnosis and determine the proper treatment.

- **Respiratory Therapy** – Respiratory therapists are allied health professionals who are educated and trained as physician-extenders. They are patient-care managers who perform physical examinations and ongoing patient assessments to determine the need for and allocation of respiratory-care services. Managing clinical resources from acute care through discharge planning and/or home care, they can interpret clinically derived patient data and modify treatment as the patient's needs change.
- **Pre-Athletic Training** – Athletic trainers are highly educated and skilled professionals specializing in the prevention, assessment, management, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries. Through our affiliated graduate programs, students are able to have hands-on experiences under the guidance of Certified Athletic Trainers while earning a Master's in Athletic Training.
- **Sports Medicine** – Specialists in sports medicine are experts in nutrition, sports psychology, and the prevention and care of injuries. They include athletic trainers, physical therapists, physicians and physician assistants.





CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to coursework, the allied health programs offer opportunities for further academic and career exploration:

- The Millersville University Society for Respiratory Care Practitioners, chartered in 1997, was founded to serve students who have interest in the practice of respiratory care. The society meets monthly during the academic year to plan and conduct field trips, make facility tours and enjoy speakers who come to share their experiences and insights regarding respiratory care practice. The society maintains communication with representatives of the American Lung Association, and members volunteer their time to work with children and adults who seek its services. Its goal is to promote enthusiasm and scholarship of students in the respiratory therapy curriculum, increase awareness of the respiratory care profession, advance the role of the respiratory care practitioner in healthcare, and promote the cardiopulmonary wellness of all people in our community.
- Students seeking a degree in allied health with an athletic training specialty work directly with athletes to prevent and care for sports injuries. They learn these hands-on skills under the guidance of Certified Athletic Trainers while earning a Master's degree in Athletic Training from an affiliated graduate program.
- For exceptional students, the University Honors College and Departmental Honors are available. Juniors and seniors may participate in departmental honors and earn credit towards graduation through completion of an acceptable independent research thesis.

CURRICULUM

The clinical programs provide classroom, laboratory and patient experiences under the supervision of medical instructors. Our curricula in allied health are designed to be rigorous and challenging, and provide both depth of knowledge in a specialized area of biology in preparation for a career in healthcare as well as a solid, broad background in biology and the physical sciences. In a society that is increasingly dependent upon technology, it is very important that all biologists develop technological competency. We strive to help our allied health students develop the necessary computer, analytic and contemporary experimental skills to be competitive in today's marketplace.

FACULTY

The first three years of undergraduate coursework are offered at Millersville University by science and liberal arts faculty. The faculty at Millersville prepares students to meet the career challenges of today's world and to become ready for the unknown challenges of the future. Thus, we strongly believe that the best training for the future is to become a lifelong learner. The faculty members within the allied health programs are respected scholars in their areas of specialization. Small class sizes allow students to form personal interactions with professors who are devoted to excellence in both teaching and learning. After completing all coursework requirements, the professional program is then administered by an accredited regional teaching hospital with clinical faculty.

OPPORTUNITIES

Our graduates are extremely successful in a wide variety of areas in allied health and are in great demand by employers. For example, a graduating senior in the respiratory therapy program typically receives two to five job offers. In many instances these offers are extended prior to graduation. Recently many of these students also have been offered "signing bonuses" to agree to work for a specific healthcare provider. The degree also affords Millersville graduates many options for postgraduate study and thus many opportunities for career advancement. Some of our graduates have continued their health-oriented education in medical school and optometry school.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation plays an important role in many allied health professions. Our graduates are eligible to sit for the appropriate national certification exam. The number of Millersville University graduates who pass these exams approaches 100 percent. Because of the high demand for supervisory personnel in these fields, the demand for trained persons with bachelor's degrees remains high.

The Millersville University program in respiratory therapy is one of the longest continuously accredited respiratory care schools in the nation, having its roots in a training course that was first offered in 1963. The bachelor's degree respiratory therapy program at Millersville is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). The program has been the recipient of the Distinguished Respiratory Therapy Credentialing Award since the award's inception in 2012.