



The College of Health Professions

It is an exciting time for the health professions as we study and practice in an ever-changing health care environment. There has never been a better time to enter the health care field.

Health professions specialists, as a diverse group, account for more than half of the health care workforce in the United States. Salaries continue to rise, and jobs are plentiful. If you are looking for a rewarding career where you can make a difference, take the time to explore the programs offered through the College of Health Professions.

Educating tomorrow's health care professionals is what we do best. The College of Health Professions offers preparation to suit many different interests. From working in a clinical or research laboratory to providing direct patient care, from managing health informatics and information systems to providing oral health services, our dynamic faculties have created an exciting and supportive interdisciplinary learning culture. The accomplishments and accolades of our students and faculty are sources of pride for the University of Tennessee.

If you are interested in being part of the health care team, I hope you will contact us in the near future so we can work together to help you achieve your goal. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at hpcareers@uthsc.edu.

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Statement of Values

The College of Health Professions looks to the future by preparing our students for a lifetime of learning. Our history imbues us with a student-centered focus, and the importance of each student remains our central defining value. Together, we are dedicated to creating an educational community where mutual respect and caring among students, faculty and staff are shared commitments.

Our college culture recognizes the dignity of the individual and the exciting potential for each health professions specialist to bring about important changes in health care and in society. Throughout the duration of the students' professional programs, our collective energy is directed at nurturing and encouraging students to successfully achieve the competencies of their profession. Similarly, we expect students to embrace the work required to become a health professional.

By creating a learning environment based on the highest standards of professional performance, we encourage our students to critically examine professional boundaries so that they may become independent voices ready to contribute new ideas to their respective professions and to promote justice.



The College of Health Professions affirms such core values as:

- Leadership
- Integrity
- Veracity
- Social Responsibility
- Quality
- Collaboration
- Patient Privacy and Advocacy
- Professionalism
- Diversity
- Accountability



Each professional program in the College of Health Professions incorporates these core values in the classroom, in practice, in research, and in service.

The members of the faculty of the College of Health Professions recognize that they have unique responsibilities and welcome opportunities to model professional behavior by supporting interdisciplinary and creative learning, and by collaborating across programs to address the needs of the college.

Conscious of our obligation to the citizens of the state of Tennessee, to our alumni, and to the others who have assisted us in organizing and delivering quality education, we remain committed to ensuring that a degree or post-baccalaureate certificate from the College of Health Professions is highly valued. Our faculty and graduates will continue to provide exceptional service to the citizens of the state, the nation, and the world.

Notables

Founded in 1972, the College of Health Professions (COHP) has more than 8,500 alumni members in clinical, administrative, educational and service roles throughout the state of Tennessee and around the world. COHP students contribute 8,500 volunteer hours annually in Tennessee communities. The work of the COHP extends across the state, with our students completing some portion of their professional education in 45 different counties.



- The **Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology** is nationally ranked and emphasizes excellence in advanced research and student preparation for professional practice.
- The **Master of Cytopathology Practice** degree program prepares students for certification in both cytotechnology and histotechnology. It is the only program in the state of Tennessee preparing graduates to practice in these fields.
- The **Medical Technology** program, started in 1922, is the oldest in the United States and prepares graduates for careers in medical, biotechnology and forensic laboratories.
- The **Department of Health Informatics and Information Management** offered the first entry-level master's program in the country and the only online postgraduate degree program in the state.
- The **Department of Occupational Therapy**, established in 1988, was the first accredited OT program in the state of Tennessee. Our entry-level master degree program has an excellent reputation, with 100 percent of graduates obtaining national certification.
- The **Department of Physical Therapy** is the first in the state of Tennessee to award the Doctor of Physical Therapy and the Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy degrees.
- The **Department of Physician Assistant Studies** mission is to prepare a diverse group of highly skilled Physician Assistant practitioners who are dedicated to improving access and providing high quality primary and/or specialty health care as part of interprofessional teams, and who are committed to lifelong learning and to increasing the knowledge base of the profession.

Degree Programs

Audiology and Speech Pathology

- Doctor of Audiology
- Master of Science in Audiology
- Master of Science in Speech-Language

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

- Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science

Cytotechnology and Histotechnology

- Master of Cytopathology Practice

Medical Technology

- Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology

Health Informatics and Information Management

- Master of Health Informatics and Information Management

Occupational Therapy

- Master of Occupational Therapy



Physical Therapy

- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Master of Science in Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy

Physician Assistant Studies

- Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant

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Speech-language pathologists are concerned with prevention, evaluation, and treatment of speech, language and swallowing disorders. They diagnose and evaluate speech problems, such as fluency (e.g., stuttering), articulation, voice disorders and language problems, which include delayed development and aphasia, as well as related problems, such as dysphagia (e.g., swallowing difficulties).



Audiologists identify, assess and manage disorders of the auditory and balance systems for all ages. Audiologists select, fit and dispense amplification systems such as hearing aids and related devices, and provide audiological (aural) rehabilitation.



Cytotechnologists and histotechnologists are highly skilled laboratory professionals who work in the area of anatomic pathology. Histotechnologists prepare human tissues for microscopic analysis using special techniques and stains. Cytotechnologists are responsible for the preparation as well as the microscopic analysis of human cell samples in order to detect cancer, infection and other diseases.



Health informatics and information management specialists work with health care professionals in the use of health information technology (HIT) to ensure timely, accurate and complete patient information is available for patient care, quality, safety and research initiatives. HIIM professionals also maintain the security as well as confidentiality of patient information and often have the flexibility to work remotely.



Physician Assistants are medical professionals authorized to examine, test and treat patients with the supervision of a doctor as part of a health care team. The exact duties of PAs depend upon the type of medical settings in which they work, the understanding they have with their supervising physicians, their level of experience and the laws in their states.



Medical technologists are diagnostic detectives who use a variety of sophisticated instruments to perform tests on blood, body fluids, and tissues to obtain data on which a diagnosis of health or disease is made and appropriate therapy initiated.



Physical therapists are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals of all ages, who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities. PTs examine each individual and develop a plan using treatment techniques to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function and prevent disability.



Occupational therapists use occupation or meaningful activities with specific goals to help people of all ages prevent, lessen or overcome disabilities and deal with health problems that interfere with their ability to function in daily life.

For more information about the UT Health Science Center College of Health Professions, visit www.uthsc.edu/chp.

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