

Academic Planning 2009-2014
College of Health Sciences Student Affairs Office
August 2008

I. Mission and aspirations

Mission Statement

To recruit, counsel, and help prepare students and prospective students of the College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming and the state of Wyoming to thrive in health care careers and become responsible, committed citizens by helping them understand various career options and expectations; by promoting a diverse student body, especially encouraging student populations underrepresented in their future health professions; and by supporting interprofessional and interdisciplinary activities, volunteerism, leadership, and a spirit of community.

The Student Affairs Office in the College of Health Sciences consists of two professional staff members and serves multiple and diverse functions:

- A. Serves as the state **certifying office** for the WICHE, WWAMI, and WYDENT programs as well as the contract office for the WWAMI and WYDENT programs.
- B. Serves all students of the University for **preprofessional health advising** in the areas of
 - Chiropractic
 - Dentistry
 - Medicine (allopathic, osteopathic, and podiatric)
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Optometry
 - Physician's Assistant Study
 - Physical Therapy
 - Other (public health, etc.)
- C. Coordinates **dental hygiene** program with Sheridan College and the Outreach School, advises pre-dental hygiene students and those seeking bachelor's degrees.
- D. Coordinates **recruiting** activities for College.
- E. Coordinates College student **scholarships**.
- F. Coordinates **advising** and all student issues for College. Serves as resource for departmental and faculty advisors and students of other programs.
- G. Advises all College of Health Sciences **undeclared** students.
- H. Advises academically **under-prepared students** for other units as students strive to reach unit admission requirements.
- I. Oversees the staffing and evaluation of all courses taught under the HLSC prefix.
- J. Coordinates **Learning Communities** including FIGs for College.
- K. Coordinates the interdisciplinary **Health Sciences major** (currently inactive) and the **Health Sciences minor**.
- L. Support College initiatives and activities, including **interprofessional** academic and social events.

II. Previous planning accomplishments

(Taken from the Division of Medical Education and Public Health's 2004-2009 planning document)

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

- *Strengthen interdisciplinary focus and establish the program's reputation as the preferred pre-professional major*

Exploration of this major raised serious concerns about rigor and actual usefulness. While we had a few preprofessional students in it, most of the students were those who couldn't gain admission into one of our professional programs. After a great deal of discussion, we decided that our preprofessional students would be better served in other majors. We closed the major to new enrollments with the idea we'd give it some time to see if we wanted to discontinue the major or commit the resources to revitalize it. We've graduated most of the students in the program and have admitted no new ones, but still haven't made determination for the degree's future.

- *Investigate feasibility of creative partnerships with Business and/or Arts and Sciences to offer a Masters in Health Administration.*

We developed a minor in health sciences partly to replace some functions of the major and to offer students who were interested in working in a health care environment but not as providers a means to gain a background in health care. This includes health administration. Response to the minor has been minimal.

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

- *Investigate feasibility of linking with the Dental Hygiene Program at LCCC in a way similar to what currently is in place at Northern Wyoming Community College in Sheridan.*

This topic was explored but needs were mutually exclusive. The newly approved Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) should meet most of these needs.

- *Work with Outreach School to investigate the feasibility of offering more courses needed for the BS in Dental Hygiene online.*

Students can easily finish the BSDH online. We have been very proactive with students, the Sheridan program, the Outreach School to streamline this process for students. As a result, we have more students than ever completing the BSDH.

III. Relevant institutional issues

- "Professions and Issues Critical to The Region" in the area of health care is a perfect match for our mission. We continually monitor workforce demand in the health professions through WICHE and other sources. We keep up to date on changing trends as well as requirements for the various health professions and provide this information to our students.
- We also play a significant role in
 - Motif 3, Access
 - Delivery

- Partnerships with community colleges, Outreach
 - Dental Hygiene program
 - Discussion list with Wyoming community college preprofessional health advisors
- Student Success
 - High school student identification and preparation
 - Retention efforts
 - Student success opportunities and resources
- Motif 5, Leadership

Leadership is a natural partner with health care since many health care professionals are also community leaders. We support this initiative through the national health honorary, Alpha Epsilon Delta and also by encouraging and facilitating volunteer and leadership opportunities for our advisees.

IV. Action Items and

V. Implementation

1. Work with the Directors of Medical Education, WWAMI, and others to identify Wyoming high school and community college students for possible health careers. Strategic planning to begin fall 2008. Continue building through the 5 year planning period. Evaluate methods and results summer 2010.
2. Explore the feasibility of a College of Health Sciences Honors Program. This would allow us to recruit, promote and reward our top students. Begin discussions spring 2009.
3. Work with the Director of Medical Education to institutionalize the MCAT review course, continue to build and improve on it. Eventually, we plan to expand this course to be helpful for students taking the Dental Admission Test and the Optometry Admission Test. Beginning fall 2008. Consider expansion fall 2010. If feasible, add additional areas spring 2011.
4. Strengthen and build our preprofessional services
 - a. Continue and build our interview workshops
 - b. Continue and build mock interviews. Expand to cover all preprofessional areas
 - c. Strengthen and expand application services workshops
 - d. Strengthen and build essay workshops
 - e. Continue partnerships with regional health professions advisors
 - f. Improve our web resources
 - g. Write premed handbook; eventually expand for all preprofessional areas

All except G are in progress and require building and strengthening, to continue throughout the planning period. G began winter 2008. Premed handbook(working draft) to be completed summer 2010. Revise for dentistry by summer 2011. Revise for physical and occupational therapy summer 2012. Revise for physician's assistant summer 2013, and for optometry summer 2014.

5. Review the Health Sciences major and determine whether or not it should be revitalized or discontinued. Academic year 2008-9. Review minor to make it more manageable for students and to see if we can better promote it with the other colleges. 2008-2010.
6. Begin advising assessment. Develop benchmarks and goals during AY 2008-2009. Develop online survey mechanism for piloting fall 2009. Continue evaluation and adjustment into the future.
7. Explore the feasibility of establishing a research associate and / or a mentoring program with health care professionals and UW alum for students interested in health care. Consider partnerships with AHEC and the CHS Development Officer to maximize opportunities. To begin summer 2010.
Note: this will not be possible without assistance from other sources. We do not currently have the person-power to take this on otherwise.