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B.S. in Health Science

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Program Information

Health science is a broad interdisciplinary field that exposes you to multiple aspects of health care. It encompasses both natural science and behavioral science, combining laboratory science classes with those essential for understanding the factors that influence people's health. It prepares graduates for immediate employment and provides a solid foundation for anyone considering a health care program in graduate school.

During your undergraduate journey, you will prepare for a career in health care under the broad context of intellectual growth, academic excellence, and, in keeping with SBU's Franciscan mission, engaged service to others. That's what sets SBU apart from other undergraduate experiences.

Courses include Medical Terminology, Health Related Fitness & Wellness, Nutrition, Epidemiology, Healthcare Ethics, as well as courses in biology, chemistry and psychology.

As seniors, you will intern under professionals in their chosen health field and engage during senior capstone in discussions of health issues with peers and professors.

Four Concentrations

Health science majors choose one of four concentrations:

General

This concentration provides students a path to use the degree to support health care careers immediately upon graduation. Examples include health promotion, patient and health educator. Students may also pursue professional degree programs in public health (wellness education),

business (pharmaceutical sales), law (healthcare regulation), and public policy (health care reform).

Social, Physical & Psychological Development

This prepares students for graduate studies in occupational therapy (MSOT, OTD). Occupational therapists help people participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). SBU offers a Master of Science in OT.

Kinesiology

This concentration prepares students who want to pursue graduate studies in physical therapy (DPT). Physical therapists (PTs) are licensed healthcare professionals who help patients reduce pain and improve or restore mobility, in many cases without expensive surgery and often reducing the need for long-term use of prescription medications and their side effects.

Biomedical Science

This concentration prepares students who want to pursue graduate studies in physician assistant studies (MS). Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on teams with physicians, surgeons, and other health care workers. They examine, diagnose, and treat patients. St. Bonaventure offers a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program.

Career Outlook

The job growth rate for most health science occupations is expected to double, triple or even quadruple the average growth rate for all occupations through 2028, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, making them among the most promising choices for career-bound students.