



UNITED IN LEARNING

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

TRUTH FREEDOM
RESPECT **RESPONSIBILITY**
EXCELLENCE COMPASSION
CARING **INNOVATION**
INTEGRITY COLLABORATION
CULTURAL COMPETENCE

OUR MISSION

To prepare diverse healthcare professionals who are providers and leaders in the delivery of high-quality, accessible, culturally competent and compassionate care within a highly technological and global environment. To teach, conduct research and practice in service to the community through interprofessional collaboration. To create, promote, expand and validate scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice through interdisciplinary research.

OUR VISION

To be globally recognized as a higher education destination organization that is innovative, inquiry-driven and technologically advanced; drawing diverse top-class faculty, students, staff and others for positive transformation of society with a focus on the healthcare needs of underserved populations.

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An interdisciplinary alliance of students representing the departments of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

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“In the pages to follow, you will find inspiring partnerships and innovations in which the College’s faculty and students combined the quest for excellence in nursing and health sciences education with opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those in need. ‘Bravo!’ to our students and faculty.”

Message from the Dean

Dear Students, Alumni, Donors and Supporters:

The theme for our 2016-2017 Annual Report, “United in Learning,” is reflected in many ways; in the profiles about global learning experiences, student/teacher research collaborations, community partnerships to assist at-risk populations, the integration of technology for both clinical and academic advances and more.

At the time production of this report began, Hurricanes Irma and Maria were bearing down on Florida and the Caribbean. Healthcare providers in South Florida and across the state were overwhelmed with emergency situations when Irma came ashore. This crisis created a learning opportunity for FIU nursing, health sciences and medical students as they worked with faculty and others to help meet the immediate demand for care by assisting the FIU Florida Advanced Surgical Transport Team (FIU-FAST Team). This critical care team is comprised of volunteers who are highly trained, experienced healthcare professionals ready to deploy anywhere in the world. The team was called upon by the Florida Department of Health to assist with the large influx of patients in critical need of care in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

I was pleased with how quickly our students and faculty from the College’s nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist and health sciences programs and the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine moved into action to support the FIU-FAST team’s mission. This collaborative disaster medical relief team, along with faculty, staff and alumni, arrived at a crucial time as many other options for medical care in the community were understaffed, overwhelmed, or were still inoperable due to lack of power.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, FIU sought assistance from our nurse practitioner faculty and students to assist at FIU hurricane shelters that served as a haven for evacuees from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Many of the evacuees had critical healthcare needs that required medical assistance around the clock. More than 60 evacuees were dialysis patients, diabetics and amputees. This entire experience reminded us that extraordinary times demand extraordinary action.

As the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences continues its Worlds Ahead initiatives in teaching, research and service to the South Florida community and beyond, I remain grateful for your ongoing support, advocacy and collaboration as we strive to enhance the future of education for health professionals at FIU.

Most Sincerely,



Ora L. Strickland, PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

FIU Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences



*Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences
Academic Health Center (AHC) 3 Building*

About the College

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has earned a national reputation as a dynamic, forward-thinking institution of higher learning that is fueled by intellect and driven by innovation and caring. The College continues to advance through academic excellence and a philosophy that embraces diversity, technology, evidence-based practice and research to prepare healthcare leaders across various disciplines.

Our 14,000+ alumni practicing in the fields of nursing, athletic training, health services administration, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology embody the College’s ideals for culturally competent and compassionate care and interprofessional collaboration.

INSIDE THE COLLEGE

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 2,433

Number of Graduates: 929

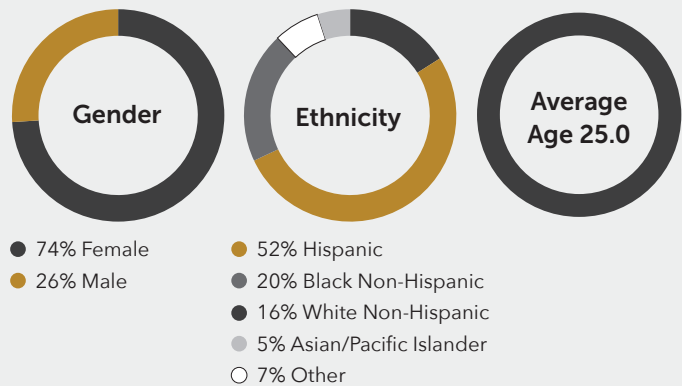
Doctorally Prepared Faculty: 91%

Full-Time Faculty: 82

Departments:

- Nursing
- Athletic Training
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Health Services Administration
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy

Student Body Diversity:



About FIU

Florida International University is a vibrant, student-centered public research university, ideally located in Miami. It is worlds ahead in its commitment to learning, research, entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity so that graduates are prepared to succeed in a global market. The University offers nearly 200 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs and holds an R1 Carnegie classification for Highest Research Activity.



JOINING FORCES FOR A GLOBAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

VBSN students deployed on academic mission to Colombia

Undergraduate nursing student Linda Flores enlisted in the military in 2010 and spent one year deployed in Afghanistan, followed by another year in South Korea before coming home in 2013. Upon returning to civilian life, she wanted a career that would complement skills she learned during active military service to continue making a difference in people’s lives. This is why she enrolled in the Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) program at FIU.

Linda and fellow VBSN students have traveled the world in service to their country. This past spring, FIU Undergraduate Nursing and the Colombian Embassy joined forces to provide another chance to travel the world, this time to advance their nursing education.

Linda and three VBSN classmates were the only undergraduates selected to join four FIU nurse practitioner students and their faculty adviser on a College-sponsored global learning trip to Colombia. The itinerary, put together by the Colombian organizers, included a visit with the executive director of the country’s nursing association and tours of universities. They also spent a week traveling to several clinics, hospitals, schools and long-term care facilities, witnessing the similarities and differences of how care is provided.

“I was shocked to hear some hospital systems have a nurse to patient care ratio of 30:1,” Linda says. “It made

me grateful for the system we have here in the U.S., but also made me realize the difference I could make in my home country of Nicaragua.”

Another difference Linda notes was the approach to undergraduate nursing education. “Even as ‘first years,’ our Colombian counterparts were getting hands-on practice with diverse patient communities. They conducted childhood development assessments, established preventive care treatments for active older adults, and provided care to abandoned elderly dementia patients.”

The students also visited Universidad de la Sabana’s new simulation center, which created a mutual bond between FIU and Colombian nursing students as they compared notes and shared their experiences with simulation education.

Linda’s lasting memory from the highly clinical expedition comes from, of all things, a meditation session held on a Bogotá mountainside. “We prepared ourselves for a ‘mini-deployment’ with little chance to slow down, but the organizers deliberately gave us this introspective moment to understand we must take care of ourselves as we do our patients,” she recalls. “It was a very spiritual experience and moved many of us to tears. It reminded us that as nurses, we play a crucial role in the mental and emotional health of our patients.”

INSIDE UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

Chair: Maria Olenick, PhD, FNP, RN

Vice Chair: Tatayana Maltseva, MSN, ARNP, PMHNP-BC

Program(s): Generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Accelerated Option (AO) BSN, RN-to-BSN Online, Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN, Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 671

Number of Graduates: 373

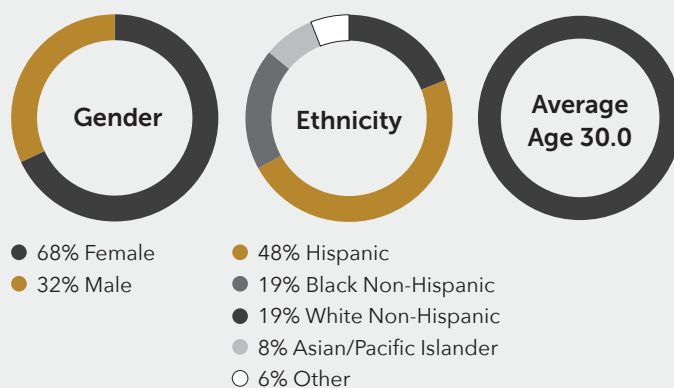
Graduation Rate: 97%

First-Time NCLEX (RN Licensure) Pass Rate: 88%

Full-Time Faculty: 22

Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Florida State Board of Nursing

Student Body Diversity:





“I was shocked to hear some hospital systems have a nurse to patient care ratio of 30:1... it made me realize the difference I could make in my home country.”

— Linda Flores



“Together with Humana and Citrus, we are creating a program that will make a meaningful difference for a patient population that is often misunderstood and overlooked in our healthcare system.”

– Dr. Monica Scaccianoce

INSIDE PHD NURSING

Director: Amy Paul-Ward, PhD

Program(s):

- PhD in Nursing
- BSN-to-DNP

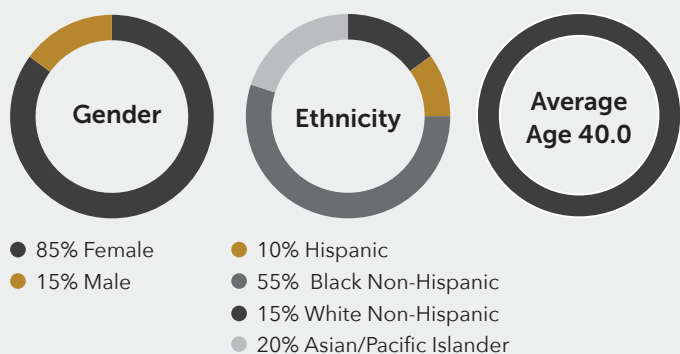
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 20

Number of Graduates: 1

Faculty/Dissertation Adviser Status: 13

Accreditation(s): Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Student Body Diversity:



KEEPING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND

New grant prepares MSN students to serve the mental health population

Monica Scaccianoce, DNP, is a nurse practitioner (NP) with more than 25 years of educational, administrative and clinical experience with psychiatric patients. Since joining the FIU Graduate Nursing faculty to help relaunch the Mental Health NP track, she's been committed to preparing her master's students to be compassionate mental health caregivers. She was especially pleased when a grant from the Humana Foundation and partnership with the Citrus Health Network community mental health center came together this past year.

The collaborative grant affords FIU NP students the chance to provide clinical care and develop treatments for adolescents with severe mental illness at Citrus Health's inpatient unit. "Many of these children come from abusive backgrounds in foster or broken homes and are referred to Citrus due to difficulty handling their trauma and co-occurring psychiatric disorders," states Dr. Scaccianoce.

Students will measure the rates of aggression on the unit, utilization of seclusion, restraint and readmission rates to judge the efficacy of the treatments. Students will also perform regular screenings using validated assessments to measure the children's success in the program during and post intervention.

A second layer to the grant involves promoting healthier living in and out of the program. For example, the teens will receive therapy through exercise and yoga. Nutrition plans will be developed for a healthier diet. The unit itself will be furnished with aromatherapy, journals, stress balls and more to help them cope with feelings of depression or aggression.

Eliminating setbacks after being discharged is the final component. The FIU team will use telehealth services to educate parents and family members at home and make sure they're equipped to help their children maintain mental health and wellness. Parents will be assessed for depression and stress before and after their child's time in the program to make sure everyone stays on the path to recovery. The FIU team will also utilize telehealth services to follow up with the entire family, providing continuous counsel as they readjust to life upon the child's return home.

Dr. Scaccianoce adds, "By collaborating with Humana and Citrus, we are creating a program that will make a meaningful difference for a patient population that is often misunderstood and overlooked in our healthcare system, while providing our graduate nursing students a unique clinical experience they may not get at any other university."

INSIDE GRADUATE NURSING

Chair: Yhovana Gordon, EdD, DNP, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC

Chair: Linda Wunder, PhD, RN, CRNA | Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program(s):

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- BSN-to-DNP
- Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degrees & Post-Master's Certificates
 - Advanced Adult-Gerontology NP
 - Advanced Child NP
 - Advanced Family NP
 - Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health NP
- Nurse Educator Post-Master's Certificate
- Dual MSN Degree/Nurse Educator Certificate

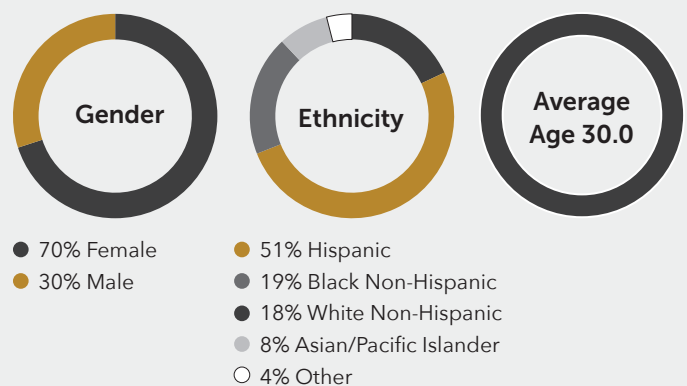
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 391

Number of Graduates: 151

Graduation Rate: 95%

Full-Time Faculty: 20

Student Body Diversity:



Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA); Florida State Board of Nursing; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

GOING PRO

Athletic training students find professional growth on the gridiron and convention floor

There are 32 teams in the National Football League (NFL) with highly coveted positions for athletic trainers. FIU Athletic Training (AT) graduates have earned some of those spots with four different teams. And it's not just the NFL. Notable alumni and current students are working with Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, even the U.S. Olympic Volleyball team.

FIU's Athletic Training program is one of the strongest in the country. Part of that strength comes from partnerships cultivated with professional sports teams nationwide—and now in our own hometown.

“A big reason our AT students are able to ‘go pro’ is because of the clinical partnerships, including a new alliance with the Miami Dolphins NFL franchise. These valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom can lead to successful careers,” says Department Chair Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, PhD, LAT, ATC.

According to Dr. Doherty-Restrepo, the teams select one student intern each season to work alongside their athletic trainers in the athletic training clinic, performing treatments and facilitating therapeutic exercise programs for athletes with injuries. The intern also assists the active roster of players in practices and after games. With the Dolphins, the opportunity to “join the team” is further extended to FIU AT

students to gain clinical experience during Dolphins pre-season minicamps to help the players prepare for the upcoming season.

Internships are just part of the equation. FIU Athletic Training students are taking the reins of their own professional development. Under the direction of Dr. Doherty-Restrepo, a new student leadership program was launched in August of 2016, in collaboration with the Athletic Trainers' Association of Florida (ATAF), called the Student Leadership Enhancement And Professional Success (LEAPS) program. The LEAPS program provides guidance and resources that encourage athletic training students to feel confident and empowered to engage in the profession and assume a leadership role at the state, regional, national or international level.

In the first year of the student leadership program, FIU AT students attended ATAF Executive Board meetings, served on various committees and provided an oral presentation at the association's statewide professional conference.

“This program has already proven to be tremendously successful,” Dr. Doherty-Restrepo adds. “The students are collaborating with their peers across the state and building a network of professionals who are leading the industry.”

INSIDE ATHLETIC TRAINING

Chair: Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, PhD, LAT, ATC

Program(s): Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS-AT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 44

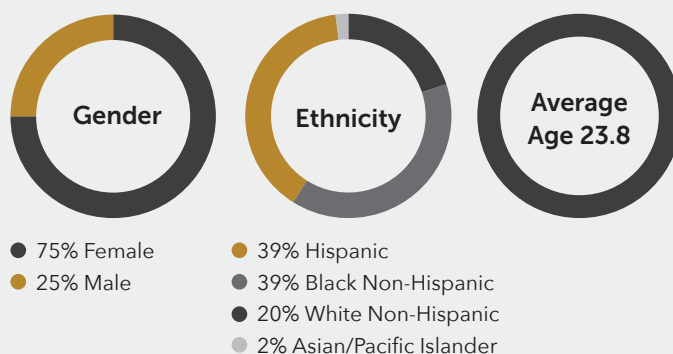
Number of Graduates: 21

Graduation Rate: 91%

First-Time Licensure Pass Rate: 95%

Accreditation(s): Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)

Student Body Diversity:



“Students are collaborating with their peers...and building a network of professionals who are leading the industry.”

— Dr. Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo



FIU AT professor Dr. Michelle Odai (right) with AT students.

RESEARCH WORTH MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS

Expanding the vocabulary of communication-impaired children is a learning experience for CSD students



Dr. Mariateresa Muñoz

A mother brings her two-year-old daughter to FIU's Communication Sciences and Disorders Department for therapy as part of a research opportunity. The child, born with Down Syndrome, can only communicate with vowel sounds.

"Alyssa is a very precious and loving young child who is aware of her environment. She wants to communicate her needs and wants; however, she is unable to request so verbally," says Clinical Instructor Mariateresa Muñoz, SLPD, CCC-SLP.

To help the toddler communicate, Dr. Muñoz uses an augmented and alternative communication (AAC) device called a GoTalk +4. AAC refers to any strategy, technique, or device used to augment or provide an alternate means to communicate for someone who has limited or no verbal output.

The use of AAC is the focus of Dr. Muñoz' research at the College. She and a team of graduate speech-language pathology (SLP) students are evaluating the effectiveness of the devices for expanding the vocabulary and communication capacity of these young patients. "It is important to use AAC since these children's thoughts are trapped within themselves. They have a thought process at different levels of cognition, yet they are not able to communicate."

The device-based therapy does more than help the individual child with a severe communication impairment: FIU SLP students are also learning to develop clinical judgment based on an AAC assessment so they can individualize therapy and select the optimal device for treatment.

Dr. Muñoz explains that the students know what strategies and equipment are out there, however, they



may not know how to assess or treat an individual who needs AAC. "Through this research, our students are learning that you can treat two individuals with the same disorder, but the assessment needs to be individualized to assure that the treatment plan is designed in the best interest of each patient," she continues. "Someone who is blind cannot use an interface with pictures, and someone who is paralyzed from the neck down might need to use an adaptive technology, such as an eye tracker or head switch."

In addition to presenting her findings at national conventions, the influence of Dr. Muñoz' research is being further expanded through an upcoming change in the curriculum.

"We are set to launch the first graduate course solely on AAC next summer [2018], and looking at creating a specialized lab so students have access to hands-on experiences with these devices," she adds. "We are excited about opportunities that bring technology and practice together to innovate assessment and treatment approaches that will provide a means to communicate for those who are trapped within."

INSIDE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Chair: Monica Hough, PhD, CCC-SLP

Program(s):

- Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP)
- Graduate Certificate in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Student Enrollment (in and out of state):

96 (degree program); 105 (graduate certificate program)

Number of Graduates: 43

Graduation Rate: 100%

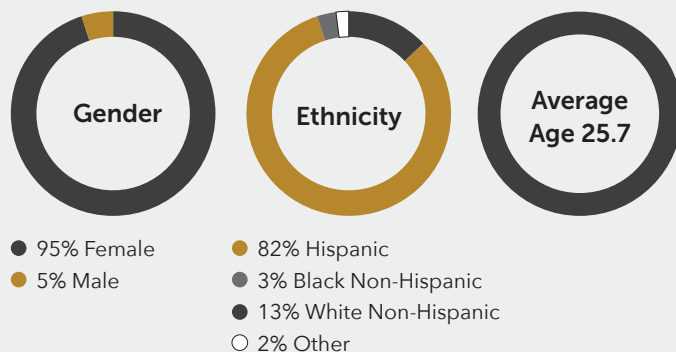
First-Time Board Certification Pass Rate: 98%

Overall Annual Pass Rate: 98%

Full-Time Faculty: 7

Accreditation(s): Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Student Body Diversity:



FINDING NEW GROUND

Program growth leads to new headquarters and collaboration at Biscayne Bay Campus

With projections of more than 20 percent employment growth between 2012 and 2022, the jobs outlook for health services administration is exceptionally strong. FIU's Department of Health Services Administration is one of the largest programs in the country, and its relocation to the Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) was the move needed to help meet this high demand.

The transfer from Modesto Maidique Campus in Southwest Miami-Dade County to North Miami's emerging Biscayne Bay Campus began in the spring of 2017. "This relocation empowers the entire department to consolidate and become more self-contained, engaging, and able to give students access to additional resources," affirms Department Chair Salvatore Barbera, DHA, MS, FACHE. "It brings our students together and unites faculty with students in a way that was not possible before."

The campus features new offices, classrooms and a dedicated conference room where adjunct faculty have a space to meet with students; something they didn't

have before the move. The conference room also provides space for an ongoing lecture series for administrative leaders from various healthcare sectors to come speak with students about their respective disciplines and discuss a wide range of career opportunities.

There is also room for future growth of the undergraduate and graduate programs. Currently, more than 60 percent of the program's undergraduate students are transfer students. That percentage will increase with the onset of a recent agreement for the department to recruit students from nearby Broward College and Miami Dade College campuses.

According to Dr. Barbera, the BBC's more central location between Miami-Dade and Broward counties will give students a wide range of new opportunities. "Our students will have better access to several mainstream healthcare organizations such as Aventura Hospital, Jackson North, Broward County District Hospitals and Memorial Health; all places we can collaborate with for employment purposes, internship opportunities and more."

INSIDE HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Salvatore A. Barbera, DHA, MS, FACHE

Program(s):

- Bachelor of Health Services Administration (BHSA)
- Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA)
- Minor in Health Services Administration

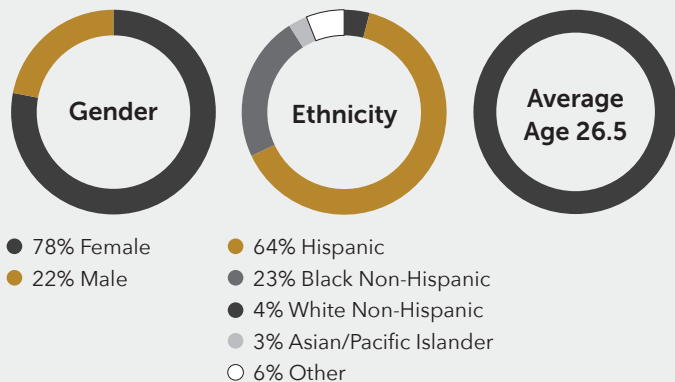
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 836 (BHSA); 47 (MHSA)

Number of Graduates: 239 (BHSA); MHSA inaugural class graduating Summer 2018

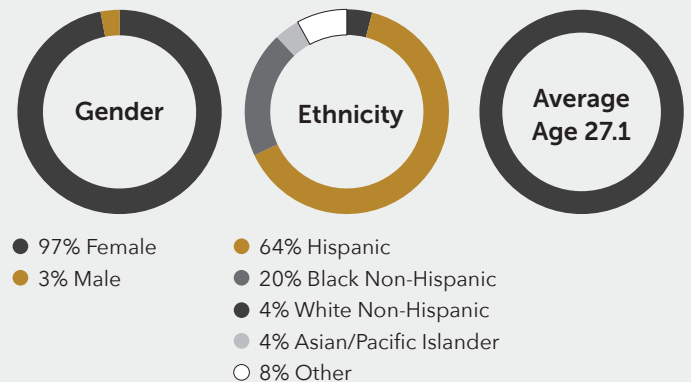
Full-Time Faculty: 6

Accreditation(s): Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

BHSA Program | Student Body Diversity:



MHSA Program | Student Body Diversity:



“This relocation...brings our students together and unites faculty with students in a way that was not possible before.”

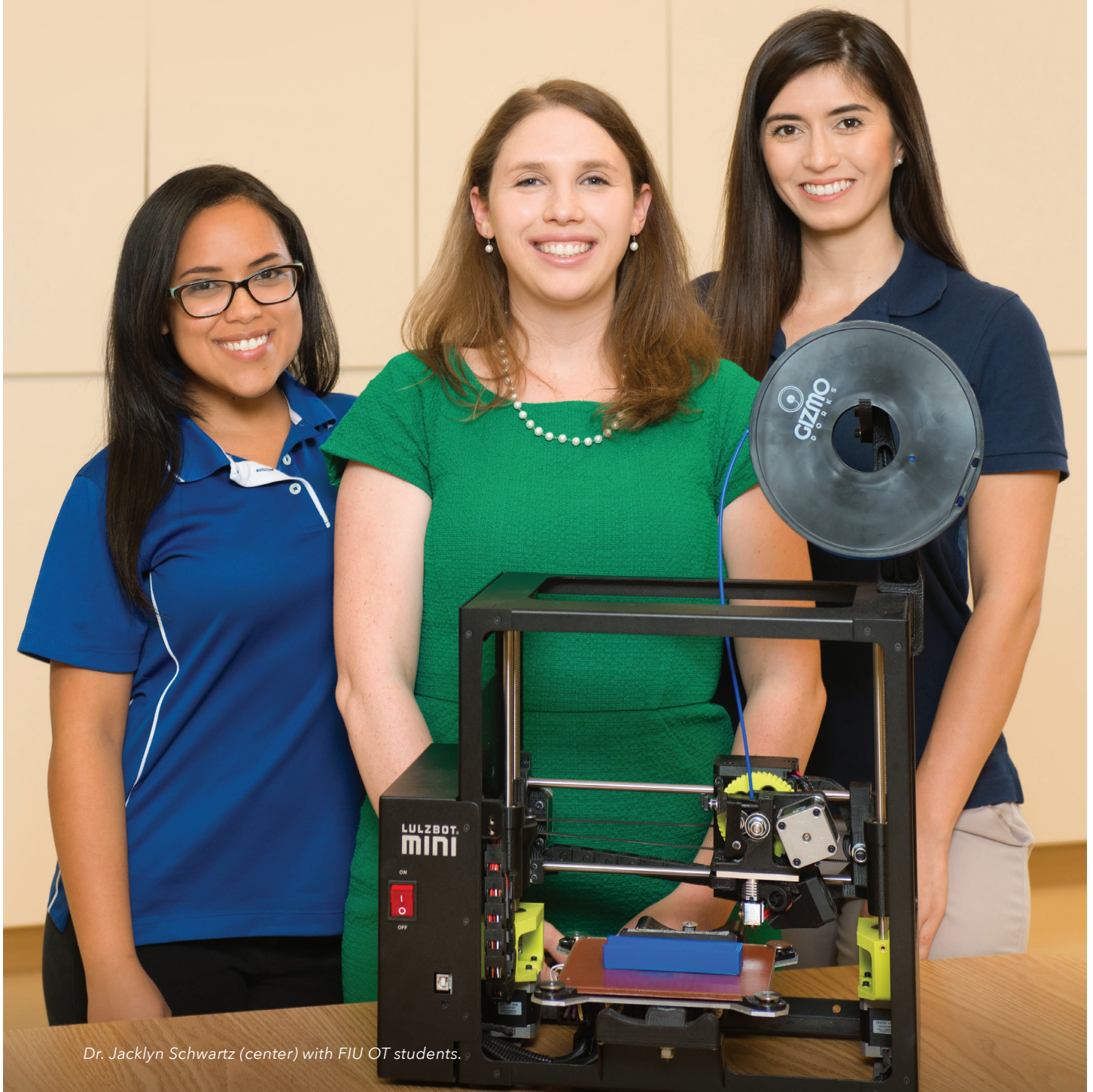
– Dr. Salvatore Barbera



FIU Health Services Administration students.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE [PILL] BOX

Occupational therapy and engineering students
unite to improve medication adherence



Dr. Jacklyn Schwartz (center) with FIU OT students.

The purpose of occupational therapy (OT) is to help people do the things they need and want in everyday life. Oftentimes, that includes use of assistive technology. In rehabilitation, these technologies can be complex (like a robot), but even simple things can prove to be important—like a pillbox.

Pillboxes are designed to help people organize and take their medications, but they're not perfect. "Our patients were complaining that their pillboxes looked too medical, so they were hiding them in drawers. Unfortunately, this meant they would forget to take their medications," observes Jaclyn Schwartz, PhD, OTR/L, an FIU Occupational Therapy research faculty member. "So, we launched research to understand if we could build a better pillbox."

Improving medication adherence, and ultimately promoting better health outcomes, is the goal of her research. Working with 16 FIU OT students, Dr. Schwartz set out to design two new types of pillboxes.

First, they examined if they could create a customized pillbox for a patient using a 3D printer. The FIU OT students used their clinical skills to evaluate a patient and help in the design and 3D printing of a pillbox specific to that patient's needs. Dr. Schwartz comments, "People were very satisfied with their 3D printed pillboxes. Compared to a generic pillbox, the 3D printed devices are less conspicuous and more aesthetically pleasing."

This project also allowed the students to get creative. "They brainstormed things like printing a glow-in-the-dark pillbox for someone who needs to take their medications at night, and a cat pillbox for a cat lover." Dr. Schwartz believes it's the student's creativity and client-centeredness that will move the pillbox from the drawer to the counter.

Second, Dr. Schwartz and team sought to design a better pillbox for everyone. In collaboration with FIU biomedical engineering students, the team developed a new "smart" pillbox intact with numerous sensors that allows patients to use the pillbox even if they have a disability that impairs their hand function.

Together, these studies showed that rehabilitation professionals can use innovative technologies like 3D printers, sensors, and microcontrollers to design assistive devices for patients. The next phase of research will investigate how well these technologies work.

The pillbox project not only fulfilled criteria for students to work with a mentor and complete a research project; it also puts them at the forefront of an evolving technology.

"3D printing is not yet widespread in the field of rehabilitation, but will likely become more commonplace in clinical settings in the next three years or so," Dr. Schwartz predicts. "We might just design something that will be on a retail pharmacy shelf one day."

INSIDE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Chair: Lynne Richard, PhD, OT/L

Program(s): Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS-OT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 153

Number of Graduates: 50

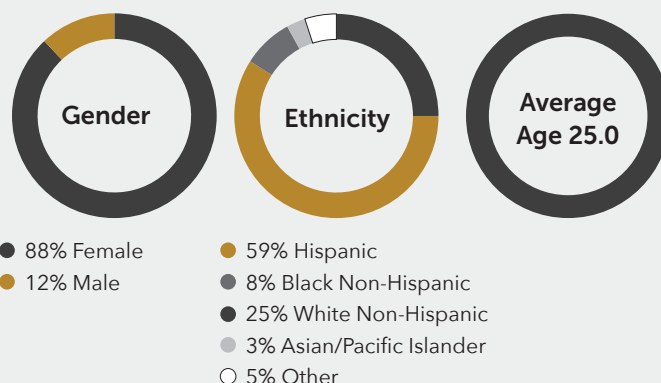
Graduation Rate: 92%

Annual Licensure Pass Rate: 96%

Full-Time Faculty: 8

Accreditation(s): Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

Student Body Diversity:



A MEETING OF THE MINDS

Interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellowship adds new perspective to physical therapy research

The partnership between FIU Physical Therapy research faculty member Laura McPherson, DPT, PhD, and postdoctoral fellow Chang Kim, PhD, exemplifies the beneficial synergy that postdoctoral fellows bring to an academic environment. Drs. McPherson and Kim share a passion for research, advancing the skills of the FIU Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students, and moving the field of physical therapy research forward together through different but complementary points of view.

Dr. Kim is not a physical therapist. But, as a motor control researcher, he studies how the body controls movement, much like physical therapists do. His PhD is in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, and his doctoral work demonstrates how visual information processing and motor output variability influence reactive driving in older adults.

“Dr. Kim’s expertise with neuroscience and motor control research provides our DPT students with a deep understanding of neural control of movement,” Dr. McPherson says. “His strong skills in research design fuel greater research acumen among FIU DPT students. He guides them in developing sound research questions and appropriate methods.”

Together, Dr. McPherson and Dr. Kim help students develop their careers with the knowledge and skills to evaluate, implement, and possibly create high

quality research with practical implications for their future patients.

FIU DPT students aren’t the only ones who benefit from Dr. Kim’s influence. “I study populations with neurological injury, so I welcome having a researcher who I can work closely with to bounce around ideas,” Dr. McPherson asserts. “Even though Dr. Kim is training with me to expand upon the knowledge and skills gained in his doctoral work, our collaboration is one in which he makes insightful contributions to support our scientific inquiry.”

Because Dr. McPherson’s research generates datasets that are particularly time-consuming to process, Dr. Kim is a valuable resource for data analysis and seeing research projects to completion. But that’s not all. “It’s fun working with someone who was trained in a different context and discovering the elements I can incorporate into my research. We have much to learn and gain by working together.”

At FIU, Dr. Kim is learning cutting-edge experimental analysis techniques and how to apply his knowledge to research involving persons with neurologic injuries. Dr. McPherson explains that, in his postdoctoral fellowship, “Dr. Kim will mature as a researcher and broaden his perspective as he advances to becoming a faculty member himself. His experience in the Physical Therapy Department will enhance the clinical relevance of his future research.”

INSIDE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Chair: Mark D. Rossi, PhD, PT, CSCS

Program(s): Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 165

Number of Graduates: 53

Graduation Rate: 98%

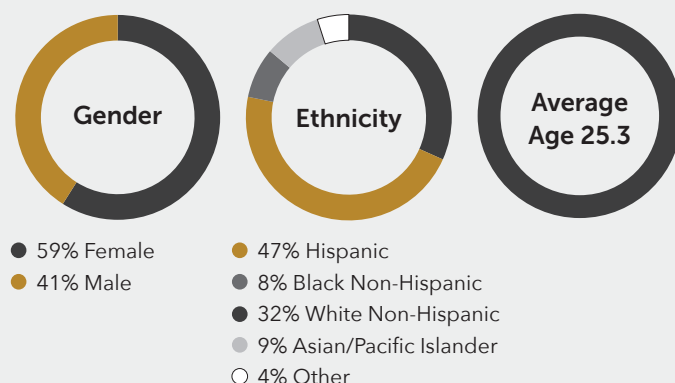
First-Time Licensure Pass Rate: 98%

Ultimate Licensure Pass Rate: 100%

Full-Time Faculty: 8

Accreditation(s): Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Student Body Diversity:





“It’s fun working with someone who was trained in a different context and discovering the elements I can incorporate into my research. We have much to learn and gain by working together.”

– Dr. Laura McPherson

FUSING EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



Double Robotics

Healthcare practice has advanced to a point where extensive technology is essential to give university nursing and health sciences students the training needed to prosper in their careers.

The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has reached several technological milestones that paved the way for a successful school year, bringing real-world healthcare experiences and cutting-edge technology to students.

HoloLens: Augmented/ Mixed Reality Learning

The Microsoft HoloLens, the first of two new devices added to the College's technology arsenal, takes reality to the next level. Unlike virtual reality devices that immerse you in a simulated world, the HoloLens superimposes 3D objects in the existing setting to create a "mixed reality" environment that has many potential applications in education. Mixed reality



The Microsoft HoloLens

STAR Center North

The College's renowned Simulation Teaching And Research Center (STAR Center) on the Modesto Maidique Campus is a high-tech training marvel emphasizing simulation technology and equipment designed for practical skills development. The remarkable hospital-like facility features a 15-bed critical care unit, as well as patient evaluation and operating rooms that allow students to deliver babies, monitor patient vital signs, intubate a child suffering an asthma attack and more.

The indisputable value of the STAR Center on the main campus, from both a teaching and research standpoint, was a driving force in the decision to invest in a massive renovation of an earlier version of a simulation education center on North Miami's Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC). Funding from the College's strategic initiatives and a \$94,000 FIU Technology grant secured by Associate Dean of Administration Helen Cornely, EdD, PT, were used to upgrade AV equipment and communications infrastructure. STAR Center North at the BBC now resembles the main STAR Center in terms of equipment, quality and experiences.

enables holograms to look and sound like they are part of that world; for example, modifying a classroom with digital content to resemble an emergency room. Through the lens, students are privy to the look and feel of real-world experiences to help build proficiency, develop confidence, explore and learn.

Double Robotics: Virtual Presence

The second new device is Double Robotics. At first glance, you'll see an iPad on a Segway. Looking deeper you'll discover a telepresence solution to enhance classroom interactivity. "With this device I can sit at my desk, and through my smartphone, become the face on that iPad that students will see and communicate with as I maneuver the robot around the room," says Dr. Cornely. "Faculty can give students accurate feedback, run lab sessions and more, even if not physically present. Double Robotics facilitates bringing in experts from around the world and opens up a whole new channel of faculty-student engagement that we've never had before."

COMMUNITY CARE STILL THRIVING

Clinic exemplifies the power of collaboration



Miami Northwestern student health advisory committee members (left to right) Mykeal Shanks and Laudz Pierre

Located in the heart of Liberty City's Miami Northwestern Senior High School, the nurse-managed John H. Peavy Health Center, now in its second year, continues to be embraced by the community as an ally in health empowerment. This ambitious community outreach initiative underscores the importance of interdisciplinary education and the potential for academic institutions to help address health disparities in underserved communities.

The primary care health center is a joint enterprise between the College, Jessie Trice Community Health Center, The Children's Trust and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Through the clinic, FIU students, faculty and professional healthcare providers come together to deliver team-based health, wellness and prevention services to school children and staff during the day, and to the public following school hours and on Saturdays.

The Peavy Center has immersed itself in the community with over 115 health events and presentations since its launch, and the results show that patient visits to the Center this year have increased by 32 percent.

The College's nursing and health sciences students participate in community outreach efforts including health screenings for hypertension, asthma and diabetes; all conditions with high prevalence among residents of Liberty City and surrounding communities.

Another celebrated collaboration stemming from the Peavy Center is the Community Outreach and Rally for Engaged Aggregates in Health Care initiative (CO-REACH). Funded by the Health Foundation of South Florida and the Miami Foundation, the program appoints peer navigators to identify individuals in the neighborhood with health concerns and encourage them to seek treatment. College faculty who are nurse practitioners provide primary care and refer patients to other healthcare providers and services as needed. A student health advisory committee has been formed and a parent council is in progress to serve as additional touchpoints for the community.

The Florida Public Health Association recognized the CO-REACH initiative for innovation during its Annual Educational Conference, aptly themed, "The Power of Collaboration."

A PAIR OF ACES

New development duo aims to grow support for the College

\$13 Million
aggregate unmet financial need

50% of NWCNHS Students
finance their education through
scholarships, loans or stipends

\$628,000
scholarships awarded

Left to right: Rachel Jenkins and Maia McGill



A new team joined the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences this past summer ready to elevate the College's status to new heights. Adjua "Maia" McGill is the new Director of Development and Rachel Jenkins is the new Development Coordinator. Both bring development proficiency within the academic arena to their new roles.

Maia, who has a bachelor's degree in Communications from Oral Roberts University, has nearly 15 years' experience in advancement, business development, marketing and public relations with institutions of higher education. Prior to joining the College, she served as the Director of Community and Multicultural Affairs at the University of Rochester Medical Center, directing community-based programs and screenings serving underprivileged residents of the area; supporting diversity research initiatives and grants; and fostering relationships with leaders in the public and private sectors, with healthcare providers and community-based organizations. Her background also includes fundraising for non-profits, such as the United Way of Greater Rochester.

Rachel has a bachelor's degree in Business Entrepreneurship from the City University of

New York. She was the Program Manager from 2015-2017 for the Miami Dade College Idea Center's Generation IT, a youth training and employment program. In this role, she organized workshops, webinars, information sessions, mock interviews and guest speaker events. Her business acumen is complemented by experience with healthcare and philanthropy. She spent one year working in the Special Needs Division of Heart of Hope Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, reinforcing behavior modification and personal development programs for students with special needs. Since 2013, she has served as the Chair of the Retention Committee for the Alzheimer's Association *Walk to End Alzheimer's* annual event.

Although they just started working together, they're already making a formidable pair, hitting the ground running to tag-team on new initiatives, programs and fundraising that will increase student access to a college education that otherwise may not be possible.

Their many priorities include continuing to cultivate current donor relationships while expanding the donor base with the goal of increasing endowment and gifts for scholarships, research, special educational projects, and global and community engagement activities.

WE ARE FUELED BY DRIVEN BY INNOVA



The faculty and staff of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences have contributed greatly to the many important strides in program excellence this past academic year. Through their dedication we can provide students with high-quality

INTELLECT; ATION AND CARING



academic health programs that address the culturally diverse healthcare needs of South Florida and the nation. These professionals embody the mission, vision and values of the College in everything they do and with every student they support.



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