

Request to Establish a New Academic Organizational Unit

Please complete all fields. Boxes may be expanded to accommodate longer responses.
Clarifying field descriptions can be found below.

University: University of Arizona

Name of Organizational Unit: <i>College of Health Sciences</i>
Academic Department: NA
Geographic Site: Tucson - Main
Proposed Inception Term: Fall 2023
Brief Description: <p>The College of Health Sciences will focus its efforts on supporting current health professional and translational science programs with their academic needs (Clinical Translational Sciences, Genetic Counseling, Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Physical Therapy programs) while identifying new degree programs that seek to serve the State of Arizona and the ongoing and projected health workforce needs within the state. Two new departments (see separate application requests) will be created to support these programs and future degree and residency programs that are being considered. A Department of Clinical Health Professions will house the Genetic Counseling, Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Physical Therapy programs. In addition, a Department of Health Sciences Graduate Studies will be created that will house the Clinical Translational Sciences program and additional degree programs that are being considered as outlined later in this document. The college will be located at the University of Arizona – Tucson campus and will serve as a conduit to support students, faculty, and staff in the delivery of high-quality academic programs focused on vital health care professions and cutting-edge translational sciences. This includes infrastructure for student support services, a focus on wellness for all, faculty affairs, and curricular support. The University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) administrative unit will provide administrative support related to finance administration, facilities, human resources, marketing, and research administration.</p> <p>The new college provides a unique opportunity to support interprofessional collaboration in health care and clinical translational sciences. For example, clinical translational research for students can be interprofessional in nature and the planned programs within the new college are interested in exploring opportunities for their students to be involved in this research. The health professional programs have also identified cross cutting areas of emphasis that could be taught as part of an interprofessional collaborative including content on blood borne pathogens, ethics, professionalism, cultural humility, diversity, equity, and inclusion in health care. All of these opportunities could contribute to the professional programs meeting their own respective accreditation and curricular requirements.</p> <p>Currently the Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix (COM-T and COM-P) have their own unique accreditation requirements that require them to be focused on preparing future physicians, the College of Nursing (CON) is similarly focused on the future nursing workforce, and the R.L. Coit College of Pharmacy is focused on future pharmacists, but the programs supporting the need for current and future workforce of health care professionals with other specialties lack a college focused specifically on their professions and their unique needs.</p>

Commonly, institutions will utilize a College of Health Science to meet the needs of these unique programs to provide the level of support required by professional accrediting bodies as it relates to institutional sponsorship criteria. The unique opportunity to build this new academic college and focus on interprofessional health education at UArizona will allow for expanded educational, research, and community engagement activities facilitating collaboration among the college's programs with other UArizona colleges and with external clinical and industry partners. Graduates of the new college's programs will be poised to contribute high-quality precision health care to Arizona's population and to enhance the knowledge base for evidence-based medical care via significant translational research and culturally relevant, person-centered care.

Reason for Establishing the Organizational Unit:

The decision to create this college and affiliated departments was both strategic and necessary. Strategically, it is designed to support the strong interprofessional focus of the health science and professional programs that will reside within this new college (Clinical Translational Sciences, Genetic Counseling, Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Physical Therapy) and their respective accreditation requirements related to interprofessional education. It also strategically addresses ongoing health workforce challenges in Arizona that limit access to health care for our communities.

It is also necessary because four of the five programs have specific accreditation requirements which require a level of institutional support that are unable to be fully met by current academic homes including clinical site development, equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, equitable faculty appointments, and student affairs support. These programs can also benefit from a college support structure that focuses on a strong evaluative process with data collection, analyses, and program improvement, particularly when many of the accreditation self-study processes have overlap with each program.

Resources

Start-up funding for the College of Health Sciences and its affiliated departments includes a combination of State appropriations for development of New Economy Initiatives (NEI), Strategic Investment funds, general operating funds and other University unrestricted funds. Budgeted expenditures include faculty and staff, operations, travel, continuing education, capital equipment, educational software, costs for clinical rotations, and fees for accreditation and society memberships. Revenues and expenditures increase annually, from FY2024 through FY2027 as the various programs become fully established.

The College will receive activity-based revenue through the University's Activity Informed Budget (AIB) model. Based on financial proformas, the College will require startup funding of just under \$10 million over the first four years and permanent state funding of \$1.1 - \$1.3 million per year, with the latter funded from permanent NEI dollars. State funds will be provided from New Economic Initiative appropriations. No new funding from the University or State is being requested. The Regents' set-aside for scholarships is estimated at approximately \$1.2 million in FY2028. The College is expected to generate future funding streams from research activity, philanthropy and new educational programs, but those revenues and associated expenses are not included in the initial budget.

Shared support services, including marketing and communications, finance and accounting, human resources, information and educational technology management, research administration, and philanthropy are provided through the Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences. Memorandum of Understanding to affect service level agreements and the expense assigned to the College will be developed for each administrative function.

Renovation to the lower level of the Health Sciences Innovation Building to provide teaching space for the Physician Assistant and Physical Therapy program was funded in FY2023. In addition to that space, the programs will utilize other already existing teaching and study facilities, including the simulation center and clinical skills labs, libraries and educational technology hardware available in Health Sciences.