TODAY’S DISCUSSION

• SALUS UNIVERSITY – OUR MISSION
• HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER OPTIONS
• ADMISSIONS TIPS
• GET TO KNOW SALUS
• What does Salus mean?
  • Latin word for health and well-being.

• Our mission: Advancing integrated health care through innovative education, research and clinical services.

• Our vision: Impact the future of healthcare, education and professional practice.
PROGRAMS OFFERED

• Pennsylvania College of Optometry
  • Doctor of Optometry (OD) *Traditional & Scholars*
  • Advanced Studies Certification
  • Professional Studies & International Programs

• George S. Osborne College of Audiology
  • Doctor of Audiology (AuD) – 4 Year & 3 Year Tracks
  • Online Bridge degree (AuD)
  • Advanced Studies Certifications
  • International Programs

• College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation (CHER)
  • Physician Assistant (MMS)
  • Biomedicine (MSc and PhD)
  • Occupational Therapy (MSOT, OTD and Certificates)
  • Speech Language Pathology (MS)
  • Blindness & Low Vision (MS, MEd and Certificates)

NEW
Post-Baccalaureate in Health Sciences Certificate
HEALTH SCIENCE CAREERS

WHICH ONE IS BEST FOR YOU?

Optometry

Audiology

Physician Assistant

Occupational Therapy

Speech Language Pathology
An O.D.,
or Doctor of Optometry,
is an independent primary health-care provider who examines, diagnoses, treats, and manages disorders and diseases of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures.

American Optometric Association
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

- Nation’s third largest independent health care provider
  - Physicians, Dentists
- Entry point into the health care system
- Optometrists provide the majority of primary vision care administered in the U.S. Even people who may not require corrective eyewear need regular care to prevent, detect, and manage eye disease.
THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY

• Not only prescribing and fitting glasses and contacts – performs routine eye exams and refractions

• Pre- and Post-Operative Care

• Corrects visual skill problems

• Prescribes ocular medications

• Provides preventative care
THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY

- Diagnoses and treats diseases of the eye and associated structures
- Specialties include Pediatrics, Contact Lens, Vision Therapy, Low Vision, Ocular Disease, Sports Vision
HEALTH SCIENCE CAREERS

WHICH ONE IS BEST FOR YOU?

Optometry

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Speech Language Pathology
WHAT IS AN AUDIOLOGIST?

Audiologists are the primary health-care professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss and balance disorders in children and adults.
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

- Doctor of Audiology (AuD) is the required degree to practice in the field
- Over 28 million Americans suffer from some type of hearing problem
- Job Outlook, 2019-2029: 13% growth (15,600 expected jobs – much faster than average)
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

Audiology practice settings:
- Private Audiology Practices
- Medical Group / ENT Practices
- Private / VA Hospitals
- Hearing Aid Industry
- Private / Public Schools
- Universities / Teaching Hospitals
THE PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY

- Hearing Loss – Evaluate and treat hearing, balance, and tinnitus disorders.
- Hearing Screening and Testing – Testing will confirm if a hearing loss is present and determine the kind and degree of loss.
- Hearing Aids/Assistive Technology – Select and custom-fit hearing aids and assistive technology.
- Dizziness and Balance – Evaluate and treat balance problems, such as vertigo.
- Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention – Explain how to protect hearing from the effects of noise (e.g. industry & musicians)
- Tinnitus – Advise people about how to treat and cope with ringing in the ears.
- Cochlear Implants & Intra-operative Monitoring
- Communication tips – Provide tips to improve communication in daily living.
- Research, Identification & Public Health
HEALTH SCIENCE CAREERS

WHICH ONE IS BEST FOR YOU?

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Occupational Therapy

Speech Language Pathology
WHAT IS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT?

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine under the direction of physicians. They are formally trained to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment.
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

- Master’s degree is entry-level degree required
  - Master of Medical Science - MMS

- Team member, collegial relationship with other health care providers

- Allows for better distribution of health care and improved, accessible cost efficient health care

- Flexibility in Specialties & Practice Type:
  - PA’s work in physicians’ offices, hospitals, and other healthcare settings
  - PA’s can specialize in many of the same areas as physicians
  - Most work a normal work week

- As more physicians enter specialty areas of medicine, there will be greater need for PAs in primary care
THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE

• With a physician’s supervision, PAs exercise varying degrees of autonomy in medical decision-making:

  • Conduct physical exams
  • Diagnose and treat illnesses
  • Order and interpret tests
  • Assist in surgical procedures
  • Prescribe medications
  • Preventative Health Care
HEALTH SCIENCE CAREERS

WHICH ONE IS BEST FOR YOU?

Optometry

Audiology

Physician Assistant

Occupational Therapy

Speech Language Pathology
WHAT IS AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST?

Occupational therapists (OT) treat patients with injuries, illnesses, or disabilities through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They help these patients develop, recover, and improve the skills needed for daily living and working.
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

• OT’s can be licensed and practice with a Master’s degree. Doctorate degrees are also available for further specialization.

• Occupational therapists’ goals are always functional and enable you to “live life to the fullest.”

• Direct involvement with patients using creativity, imagination and “puzzle solving”

• Bridges education and medicine
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

Occupational Therapist work settings:

- Private / Public schools
- Rehabilitation Centers / Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Patients’ Homes

Nearly 1/3 of people employed in the profession of occupational therapy work with children.
THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE

• Serve as direct care providers, consultants, educators, managers, researchers, and advocates
• Design customized treatment plans and goals
• Teaching a stroke victim how to get dressed
• Leading an autistic child in play activities for socialization
• Demonstrate exercises that can help relieve chronic pain conditions
  • Join stretches for arthritis
• Recommend special equipment, such as wheelchairs and eating aids, and instruct patients on how to use that equipment
• Fabricate the orthotics or splinting for a patient and train them on proper use
• Doctoral Specializations possibilities at Salus:
  • Health & Wellness
  • Vision Rehabilitation (pediatric vision therapy, acquired brain injury, and low vision rehabilitation)
HEALTH SCIENCE CAREERS

WHICH ONE IS BEST FOR YOU?

Optometry
Audiology
Physician Assistant
Occupational Therapy

Speech Language Pathology
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) evaluate and diagnose speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders and treat such disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly.
OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSION

- Master’s degree is entry-level degree required
- SLPs practice is a variety of settings including:
  - Hospitals
  - School systems
  - Community clinics
  - Home health agencies
  - Nursing care facilities
  - Research laboratories
  - Private practice
- Increased awareness of speech and language disorders, in younger children, esp. children with autism has lead to a need for more SLPs who specialize in treating that age group.
THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PRACTICE

• Serve as direct care providers, consultants, educators, researchers, and advocates; assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in patients who:
  • Cannot make speech sounds or cannot make them clearly
  • Have speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering
  • Experience voice quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice
  • Have problems understanding and producing language
  • Wish to improve their communication skills by modifying an accent
  • Have cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem solving disorders
WHY CHOOSE ONE OF THESE HEALTH PROFESSIONS?

• Help improve the quality of life for others
• Interprofessional team
• Job flexibility, various practice types, settings and specialties
• Opportunity for work/life balance
  • Depending on practice – never “on-call,” average work week, job satisfaction
• Job Outlook/Stability
  • Employment for all of these professions is expected to increase between 18 - 30% through 2026, much faster than average for all occupations
  • With the aging baby-boomer generation there will be more instances of health conditions that cause age-related eye care, hearing loss, physical disabilities, or speech/language impairments (i.e. cataracts, strokes, Alzheimer’s disease)
    • Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018
WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

• Healthcare occupations projected to grow by 18% (2.4 million jobs) from 2016 to 2026 (Health Leaders)

• 30 Best Jobs in Healthcare – US News
  - Audiologist (26)
  - Occupational Therapists (17)
  - Optometrist (11)
  - Physician Assistant (2)
  - Speech-Language Pathologist (6)

• Average salaries are on the rise! - BLS
POTENTIAL EARNINGS

- Average Salaries – earnings also depend on practice type/specialty, time in practice, and practice location
  - Optometry - $143,520
  - Audiology - $80,000
  - Physician Assistant - $112,260
  - Occupational Therapy - $84,950
  - Speech-Language Pathology - $80,000
  - Blindness & Low Vision professionals - $75,000

SOURCES:
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
ASHA AUD & SLP SURVEY REPORTS
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
RECRUITER.COM
ADMISSIONS TIPS

WAYS TO BECOME A QUALIFIED APPLICANT...
ACADEMIC PREPARATION

• Know the prerequisites! www.salus.edu
  • Prerequisites can be in progress during application cycle

• Achieve consistent grades with strong course loads

• Take relevant courses beyond the prerequisites
  • Upper level human biological sciences
  • Post-bacc programs to strengthen your credentials

• Entrance exam preparation (OAT, GRE)
  • OT program is now test optional

• Letters of recommendation

• Seek advice
  • Pre-Health Advisors
  • Admissions Offices
GAIN EXPERIENCE

• Work experience or “shadowing”
  • Highly recommended!
  • Does not substitute for academic preparation

• Knowledge of the profession

• Motivation and enthusiasm for the profession

• Extra-curricular activities

• Excellent communication skills
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Apply early!
  - Rolling admissions vs. Block admissions
  - Don’t wait until deadline
- Learn about the application process
  - OptomCAS www.optomcas.org
  - CASPA www.caspaonline.org
  - CSDCAS csdcas liaisoncas.com
  - OTCAS www.otcas.org
- Interview preparation
LEARN MORE ABOUT SALUS
1919 Founded as the nation’s first non-profit, independent college of Optometry – Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)

1983 Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment
College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation

2000 Doctor of Audiology program
Osborne College of Audiology

2007 Physician Assistant program
College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation

2008 Salus University
PCO became the first independent college of Optometry to establish a university!

2018-19 Salus celebrated 10 Years. PCO celebrated 100 Years.
WHAT SETS US APART?

• **Interdisciplinary Approach** in a Graduate/Professional Heath Science Environment
  • Commitment to inter-professional education
  • Mirrors today’s integrated health systems

• **Integrated Curriculum**
  • Provides a bridge between the basic/clinical sciences and their application to patient problems.
  • Allows students to spend less time in traditional classroom and laboratory settings, and more time experiencing independent, case-based, and small group activities, increasing critical thinking skills.

• **Increased Clinical Training**
  • Hands on approach to learning
  • Externships and Rotations
OPTOMETRY LEARNING EXPERIENCE (OLE)*

• (almost) Free! – students are responsible for getting to/from campus and pay a small fee ($30/night) for hotel accommodations
  • Continental breakfast at hotel
  • Lunch provided by Salus
  • One dinner provided by Salus
• 2.5 days long – usually early January and/or during summer
• Programming:
  • Class observation
  • Faculty/staff presentations
  • Campus and clinic tours
  • Clinical skills demonstrations
  • 1 on 1 counseling sessions
  • Financial planning
• Application – submit transcripts, short essay, biographical information

*OLE MAY BE VIRTUAL FOR 2021
AUDIOLOGY LEARNING EXPERIENCE (ALE)

- (almost) Free! – students are responsible for getting to/from campus and pay a small fee ($30/night) for hotel accommodations
  - Continental breakfast at hotel
  - Lunch provided by Salus
  - One dinner provided by Salus
- 1 day long – usually during summer or fall
- Programming:
  - Class observation
  - Faculty/staff presentations
  - Campus and clinic tours
  - Clinical skills demonstrations
  - 1 on 1 counseling sessions
  - Financial planning
- Application – submit transcripts, short essay, biographical information

*ALE MAY BE VIRTUAL FOR 2021*
Schedule a phone counseling, visit campus (virtually!), attend a webinar or take part in the Optometry or Audiology Learning Experiences
THANK YOU.

ANY QUESTIONS?