

College of Natural & Health Sciences

2022-2023 Progress Toward NHS Identity, Values, and Goals

NHS Value 2

We value and deliver high-quality programs that prepare tomorrow's workforce, develop lifelong learners, and empower students to become global citizens and problem-solvers.

Goals & Accomplishments

1. Prepare students for global challenges by incorporative interdisciplinary learning outcomes in courses.

- 148 undergraduates are majoring in the newly created Health Sciences major.
- The Science Education Coordinating Committee reworked the Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree in Science Education to the MA in Science Education. Teachers in the program can now earn 18 credits in Biology or Earth and Atmospheric Science on their way to a master's degree. These changes support teachers in gaining credentials to teach dual enrollment courses in our local school districts and beyond.
- NHS faculty continue to engage in interdisciplinary research. Examples of interdisciplinary collaborations include:
 - Dr. Tyler Engstrom (PA) & Dr. Andrea James (BS): Developing new biophysical models of choroid fissure closure in zebrafish and foveal pit formation across species.
 - Dr. Cindy Shellito (EAS), Dr. Sharon Bywater-Reyes (EAS), & Dr. Chelsie Romulo (Geog., GIS & Sustainability) NSF Community Collaboration and Learning for Climate Resilience (COOLER) grant program.
 - Dr. Reid Hayward (KiND/UNCCRI) & Dr. James Haughian (BS): Understanding the mechanisms that may explain the beneficial effects of exercise in cancer survivors.
 - Dr. Caitlin Raaz (CSD) & Dr. Dannon Cox (CoSPH): Parent early communication enrichment coaching via telepractice in rural communities.

2. Ensure courses and programs are developing students for careers in the natural and health sciences.

- New programs were developed to address community needs and student demand: BS in Statistics, PhD in Mathematics Education, BS in Computer Science, & BS in Health Sciences with concentrations in Health Care Administration and Public Health. A Health Sciences 4+1 option is available leading to a Masters in Public Health.
- The Doctor of Audiology Program is being redesigned from a 4-year to a 3-year program in response to student demand and changes in the discipline.

