Healthcare Science | Major

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF
Alvernia is a Franciscan university rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University, from course selection and scheduling, to connecting with peers and colleagues.

The purpose of the Healthcare Science program is to provide a rigorous curriculum that will build upon entry-level professional training and position one for career advancement in the healthcare environment. Consistent with Alvernia University’s Franciscan Values, students will become broadly educated, lifelong learners who will engage with their communities. Utilizing a strong interdisciplinary design, this program encourages service and the promotion of healthy lifestyles for all persons of all abilities, income levels and social/cultural backgrounds. The Healthcare Science program creates advocates for individuals and communities that are underserved or underinformed on issues related to health and wellness, health systems policies and health management. Students with a Healthcare Science degree will graduate prepared to expand roles in healthcare agencies, businesses and various medical care settings.

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA
Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth and is a builder of pride through recognition. The Alvernia University ASL Chapter serves as a vehicle for imparting appreciation for adult students’ academic achievements and contributions. To this day, Alpha Sigma Lambda is not only the oldest, but also the largest chapter-based honor society for full- and part-time students.

CAREER SUCCESS
The Healthcare Science program prepares students for work in healthcare agencies, businesses and medical care settings as healthcare educators, healthcare advocates or healthcare managers. Emphasis on health behavior theories through educational programming and experience will offer students a variety of educational tools and techniques to use in their professions. Healthcare program graduates could continue in the healthcare field as health counselors or advocates, leaders, change agents, science and health writers or policy analysts. In addition, graduates from the Healthcare Science program may find positions in government organizations, consumer groups, healthcare agencies, scientific research or consumer institutes.

ACADEMIC QUALITY
The Healthcare Science program is an excellent mid-degree opportunity for transfers or new applicants with associate’s degrees as occupational therapy assistants, physical therapy assistants, medical imaging professionals, dental hygienists, or respiratory therapists. Students in the Healthcare Science program are concerned with the well-being of all people. Completing the Healthcare Science program requires a mastery of science, the ability to engage in critical appraisal and the desire to serve the community. In addition, to take the required courses in Healthcare Science, students are able to study 15 credits in an area of concentration such as Business, Communication, Biology, etc.
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

BS/Healthcare Science

Liberal Arts Core (31-55 credits)
All Alvernia University Students are required to complete between 31-55 credits toward the Liberal Arts Core. Transfer work may be applicable for this area. As part of the application process, students receive specific information regarding remaining credits.

General Elective requirements (as needed)*
Recommended core 100-level science with lab: BIO 107/117, BIO 115/116 or BIO 109

Healthcare Science Major Requirements (30 credits)
HCS 200 Foundations of Healthcare Science 3 credits
HCS 300 Writing for Healthcare Science 3 credits
HCS 310 Health & Wellness Over the Lifespan 3 credits
HCS 320 Healthcare Science & Cultural Competence 3 credits
HCS 330 Healthcare Literacy & Advocacy 3 credits
HCS 340 Healthcare Science Management 3 credits
HCS 400 Healthcare Systems & Policy 3 credits
HCS 410 Community Health Organization & Administration 3 credits
HCS 420 Current Issues in Healthcare Science 3 credits
HCS 430 Healthcare Science Capstone 3 credits

Related Requirements (12 credits)
PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology (Social Science Core applicable) 3 credits
BIO 216 Nutrition 3 credits
PSY 208 Human Development Across the Lifespan 3 credits
SOC 111 Intro to Sociology 3 credits

The remaining credits are free electives that can work towards a student’s area of interest or a minor.

*A minimum total of 123 credits are required to earn a bachelor’s degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. Transfer students admitted to Alvernia’s Mid-Degree Program must complete a minimum of 30 Alvernia credits at the 300/+ level.

LOCATIONS
Students can choose to take classes where and when it is most convenient. This program is offered on campus at our Reading, Philadelphia, and Pottsville locations.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Alvernia University (Reading) School of Adult Education
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA ext. 6 or 1.610.796.5187
adultedu@alvernia.edu

Alvernia University (Philadelphia) School of Adult Education
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA ext. 7 or 1.215.635.4734
philadelphia@alvernia.edu

Alvernia University (Pottsville) School of Adult Education
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA ext. 9 or 1.570.385.2382
schuylkill@alvernia.edu

www.alvernia.edu/gradandadult