



We Are HRS

*Transforming Health,
Empowering Futures*

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Impact Report 2024-2025



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCES



About HRS

The Ohio State University's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (HRS) has been a leader in training health and rehabilitation science professionals for almost 60 years.

Since our founding in 1966, HRS has grown to become one of the largest providers of health professionals in the nation. Many of our programs are ranked in the top 10 percent nationally, and we pride ourselves on the comprehensive training all our students receive. As a result, our graduates are highly sought after, boasting strong career paths and successes in graduate schools.

Dear Colleagues,

I'm proud to share the 2024-2025 Impact Report for The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

This year's theme, We Are HRS, celebrates the transformative power of education, research and community engagement across our school and its programs.

From impactful research in injury biomechanics and nutrition science, to creative programs like AquOTic and CARESTREAM, our faculty, staff and students continue to lead with purpose and imagination.

With 2,943 total students and \$12.2 million in research expenditures this past year, we are shaping the future of health care through collaboration and excellence.

Our Transforming Health in 2030 Strategic Road Map guides us with bold priorities that expand programs to meet growing workforce needs in health care, strengthen community engagement and support student success.

Thank you to our alumni, clinical partners, friends, faculty, staff, students and families for your continued support.

Together, we are building a community of people in service to others.



Jimmy Oñate, PhD, ATC, FNATA

Interim Vice Dean and School Director

The Ohio State University
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



MISSION

To develop transformative leaders in health and rehabilitation sciences.

VISION

To be a global leader in advancing scholarship, education and practice in health and rehabilitation sciences.

The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

By the numbers

Established: **1966**

18,740 living alumni

5th largest academic unit on campus

2,943 enrolled students
(pre-major, undergraduate and graduate)

1,301 pre-major

1,229 undergraduate

413 graduate

124 faculty

54 staff



23 academic programs

9 undergraduate programs

7 graduate programs

3 minors

4 certificates

Graduates

1,393 degree-earning graduates
(encompasses winter, spring and summer commencements in 2024-2025)

647 in the largest graduating class
(Spring 2025)

385 students with Latin honors
(summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude)



Program Rankings

U.S. News & World Report

“Best Online Bachelor’s Degree” – **Health Sciences #5**

“Best Graduate School Program” – **Physical Therapy #4**

“Best Graduate School Program” – **Occupational Therapy #9**

Student demographics



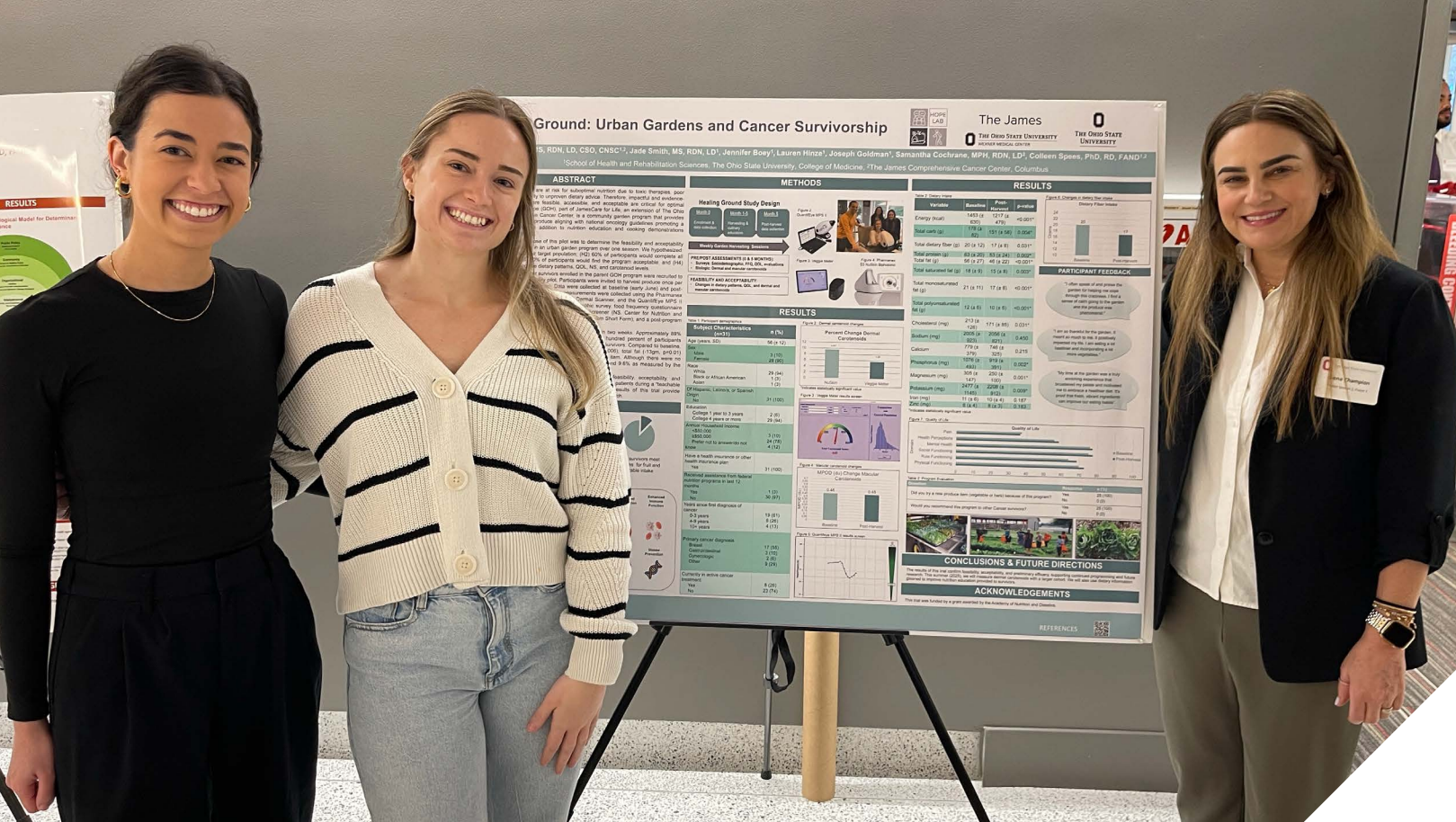
31% first-generation

165 honors students

71 military-affiliated students and veterans

48 student athletes

3 Paris 2024 Olympians



“Our transformational research culture empowers faculty and students to explore, innovate and collaborate as we drive discoveries that improve lives and shape the future of health and rehabilitation sciences.”

– Laura Schmitt, PT, MPT, PhD
Professor of Physical Therapy and HRS director of Research

Fourth Annual Research Day

- 42** presentations (oral and poster) made by:
 - 22** graduate students
 - 19** undergraduate students
 - 1** non-degree seeking student



IBRC by the numbers

The Ohio State University Injury Biomechanics Research Center (IBRC) brings together an interdisciplinary team of engineers, anatomists, anthropologists, computer modelers and technicians who focus on mechanisms of injury and the injury thresholds of the human body.

- 35** grant proposals submitted
- 29** grants awarded
- 44** publications

IBRC community engagement

Julie Mansfield, PhD, has led transformational community engagement through the Buckle Up With Brutus initiative, securing \$30,000 from the Honda USA Foundation to expand outreach locally and globally. Dr. Mansfield partnered with the Ohio Traffic Safety Office to develop a one-hour vehicle safety curriculum for elementary students, now taught in 28 Ohio schools. Her work also includes two public service announcements promoting child passenger safety, featuring Brutus Buckeye and members of the Buckeye Paws therapy dog program.



BUCKLE UP
WITH **BRUTUS**

Research by the numbers



- \$12,226,946** funded research dollars by HRS PIs (principal investigators)
- 118** proposals submitted
- 40** PhD students

NIH Award funds nonpharmaceutical strategy for pancreatic disease

Kristen Roberts, PhD, RD, LD, is part of an interdisciplinary team of researchers who were awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to study chronic pancreatitis (CP), a progressive, inflammatory condition of the pancreas with no current treatment to reverse damage.

Dr. Roberts joins Thomas Mace, PhD, of The Ohio State University, in a pilot R01 clinical trial investigating a novel soy-tomato juice dietary intervention aimed at reducing inflammation and improving outcomes in CP patients.

The trial will assess the juice’s safety, compliance and anti-inflammatory effects in CP patients, along with patient-reported outcomes. Findings from this study may inform future nutritional recommendations and support a larger clinical trial.



CARESTREAM Program

CARESTREAM stands for Cultivating Augmented Resilience-Building Efforts and Systems for Transitions, Rehabilitation, Education, Access and Maintenance.

The CARESTREAM Program provides our undergraduates with direct exposure to real-world environments within the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to enhance their understanding of health care. While the students gain valuable experiential learning, they also meaningfully fill gaps. This helps support clinical operations.



BuckIPE

Interprofessional Practice and Education

During fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), 1,320 HRS students participated in Interprofessional Practice and Education programming, including BuckIPE and the Education for Clinical Interprofessional Simulation Experience (ECLIPSE). These programs provide practical experiences that prepare learners to enter the workforce ready for interprofessional collaboration.

Learner satisfaction

Ninety-six percent of students developed an increased understanding of the drivers of health and well-being through their engagement in interprofessional practice and education programming.

Working to bring information together from each of our respective specialties was really practical and will benefit me in the future.

– Occupational Therapy student, on their IPE experience



This course helped me understand the different trajectories and life paths every person has and caused me to be more considerate of others. This will help me provide better care as a health care professional in the future and hopefully improve others' lives to the best of my abilities. I learned the flow of the different care settings, and I now feel comfortable going into any care setting and I would not face any surprises.

– Student survey response, spring 2024 cohort

CARESTREAM by the numbers

Total annual student enrollment: **69**

Total experiential learning hours: **3,100+**

Student-patient contacts by site:

Emergency department: **618**

Geriatrics unit: **692**

Inpatient rehabilitation: **3,983**

Other: **939**





Athletic Training by the numbers

- 62** enrolled students
- 32** graduates
- 100%** pass rate on the Board of Certification exam
- 100%** job placement



Laura Boucher, PhD, AT, ATC
 Director, Division of Athletic Training, and recipient of the Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching

Student Highlight

The Athanasiou Student and Post-Doc Awards recognize the top graduate and postdoctoral papers published in the *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*, celebrating emerging leaders in biomedical engineering for their scholarly excellence and impact on the field. Carly Smith received this award for her paper, "Characterizing Head Acceleration Events in Law Enforcement Cadets During Subject Control Technique Training."

Putting first responder concussions in focus



A study published in the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, led by Jaelyn Caccese, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, highlights the prevalence of head injuries, and related mental health symptoms, in law enforcement officers.

"The goal is really to improve officer safety and health in the long term. And I think there's a lot of potential there, especially when it comes to improving career longevity - that although treating these injuries is difficult in the moment, it leads to a longer career, better health outcomes and better quality of life, not only in their service, but also in retirement. I think with that awareness, they will be more likely to report injuries as they sustain them," Dr. Caccese says.



Scan to learn more.

Our transformational approach to education empowers students and faculty to learn, teach and grow together as we advance health and rehabilitation sciences through innovation, collaboration and a deep commitment to excellence.

- Lindy Weaver, PhD, OTR/L
 Director of Academic Affairs and recipient of the Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching



Dietetics and Nutrition by the numbers

69 students enrolled

29 graduates

\$246,000 awarded for **6** United States Department of Agriculture National Needs Fellowship recipients

100% pass rate on the Commission on Dietetic Registration exam

3 grants awarded



Student Highlight

Claire Roche, Outstanding Dietetic Student, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Outstanding Dietetic Student Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics honors exceptional students in accredited dietetics programs for their academic excellence, leadership and professional promise.

Faculty Highlights

Kristen Roberts, PhD, RDN, LD, clinical associate professor

2024 American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition – Excellence in Nutrition Support Education Award
2024 Fellow, National Academies of Practice
2024 Lead.Serve.Inspire. Outstanding Educator – Gastrointestinal and Renal Disorders, The Ohio State University
2025 HRS Senior Investigator Award, Clinical Track

Ingrid Adams, PhD, RDN, LD, professor

Fellow, International Federation of Diabetes
Colleen Spees, PhD, MEd, RDN, professor

Appointment (invited) – American Heart Association “Food Is Medicine” Health Care Food Field-Based Infrastructure Committee
HRS Senior Investigator Award, Tenure Track

Chris Taylor, PhD, RDN, LD, division director and professor

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Medallion Award
Oklahoma State University, Outstanding Alumni Award

Health Sciences by the numbers

Ranked **#5** by *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Online Bachelor’s Program”

926 students enrolled

10th largest undergraduate major at The Ohio State University

12 grants awarded

Minors: Aging and Integrative Approaches to Health and Wellness

Faculty Awards

Claire Bollinger, PhD, clinical assistant professor
2025 HRS Associated Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kristen Welker, PhD, CHES®, clinical assistant professor
2025 HRS Excellence in Teaching Award.

Lindsay Sullivan, PhD, MA, CHES®, assistant professor
HRS Outstanding New Investigator Award.

Brett Nickerson, PhD, CSCS*D, EP-C, associate professor
Centennial Scholar Award, University of Alabama, Graduate School and College of Education.

Jessica Krok, PhD, MA, associate professor

2024: Recipient, Program of Distinction for ARISE (Arts Through Intergenerational Social Engagement), Generations United
2024: Fellow, Gerontological Society of America
2024: Recipient, BJ Kennedy Award for Best Poster, International Society of Geriatric Oncology annual conference
2024: Recipient, Oncogeriatric Travel Award, the OSUCCC – James
2024: Recipient, Michael L. Hess Prize for Cancer Research Excellence: Second Place, the OSUCCC – James

Student Highlight

Eight students graduated with research distinction:

- **Abigail Dumm**
- **Jay Patel**
- **Sadaf Farsi**
- **Cecilia Glancy**
- **Emma Krantz**
- **Dena Mossad**
- **Madison Posner**
- **Seynabou Sall**





Health Information Management and Systems (HIMS) by the numbers

67 students enrolled

29 graduates

93% pass rate on Registered Health Information Administrator exam

In July 2025, the HIMS Program received recognition as a Program of Distinction from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The program was honored with the commendation, which represents the highest level of excellence given by a programmatic accreditor. This recognition occurs along with the program's early adoption of accreditation under the CAHIIM Future Education Model. It reflects the HIMS Program's commitment to academic excellence.

Self-study completed Sept. 30, 2024. Accreditation site visit (virtual) completed March 5.

Faculty Award

Laurie Rinehart-Thompson, JD, RHIA, CHP, professor and program director, was recognized for her dedication to the Ohio Health Information Management Association (OHIMA) through her volunteer efforts as project leader during the 2024-25 association year.

Student Award

Kylie Kurzawa, HIMS class president, was tapped by the Ohio State Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. Kylie was selected for her distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. What made this tapping extra special is that Rinehart-Thompson is an Ohio State Mortar Board alumna.

Medical Laboratory Science by the numbers

51 students enrolled

24 graduates

97% American Society of Clinical Pathology Board of Registry exam pass rate within one year

Faculty Award

Morgan Cummings, MLS, (ASCP) CM, instructor of practice – HRS Associate Faculty Teaching Award

Student Awards

Chandler Deaton – ASCP Foundation Lab Student Scholarship (\$1,000) and ASCLS (Martha Winstead) Scholarship (\$3,000)

Cole Petrilla – API Scholarship (\$5,000)

Duncan Harlan – Beth Bowman Award



Master of Science by the numbers

Offered in-person and online

2 specialized tracks to match career goals – research and advanced practice

12 students enrolled

7 graduates



PhD by the numbers

23 students enrolled

6 graduates

55 publications

16 first authors on published manuscripts

100% exam pass rate for four candidates

100% dissertation defense for six candidates

100% career placement for graduates

Khawlah Al-Muhanna, PhD, MS, RDN – Assistant professor of Health Sciences, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

Gregory Edwards, PT, DPT, PhD – Assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

Daniel Gilmore, PhD, RDN – Postdoctoral scholar, The Ohio State University

Zac Haverfield, PhD, RT(R) – Postdoctoral research scientist, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Jamie Kronenberg, PT, DPT, PhD – Assistant professor and researcher, High Point University, High Point, North Carolina

Cody Mansfield, PT, DPT, PhD – Director of the Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship at The Ohio State University College of Medicine

97 first-author presentations

12 international

49 national

36 regional/state/local

Occupational Therapy by the numbers

Ranked **#9** by *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Graduate School Program”

146 students enrolled

8 grants awarded

100% pass rate within the first year of graduation on the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, a national certification exam required for individuals to become licensed occupational therapy professionals in the United States.

Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Certificate Program

57 students enrolled

49 graduates

Faculty Award

Valerie Hill, PhD, MS, OTR/L, assistant professor – Faculty Liaison of the Year Award, Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity

Staff Award

Lynn Nishimoto, education program specialist – HRS Distinguished Staff Award

Student Award

Amy Watson-Grace

AOTF Ayres Doctoral Candidate Scholarship

Awarded by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. This scholarship supports emerging occupational therapy scientists conducting research in sensory integration and sensory processing. It honors A. Jean Ayres, PhD, the originator of sensory integration theory.

Research Highlight

AquOTic Grant from the Department of Defense for \$2.9M

Drowning is a leading cause of death for children on the autism spectrum. A \$2.9 million grant from the Department of Defense is helping Ohio State's AquOTic Laboratory change that. Led by Drs. Erika Kemp, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, and Jewel Crasta, PhD, OTR/L, the lab developed a scalable, evidence-based water safety program integrating occupational therapy with sensory, behavioral and motor learning strategies. The initiative trains graduate students and community instructors to deliver inclusive aquatic instruction. Outcomes show improved water competency, physical ability and social engagement. Instructor recruitment started in September.



AquOTic

Physical Therapy by the numbers

Ranked **#4** by *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Graduate School Program”

148 students enrolled

48 graduates

45 graduating students had a **100%** first-time pass rate

14 grants awarded

44 publications and **1** book chapter

82 presentations made

8 DPT students presented at national conferences (APTA and AOTA)

Nine students were inducted into Delta Phi Theta, the National Student Honor Society for DPT graduates.

Thirteen DPT students completed a research specialization.

My research experience as a PT student has enhanced my professional growth by deepening my understanding of evidence-based practice, critical thinking and problem-solving. It has improved my ability to evaluate research and apply it to patient care, while also emphasizing the importance of considering psychosocial and environmental factors in treatment. Additionally, working on the FND research project has strengthened my communication and collaboration skills, preparing me to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams.

– Ally Tefft, third-year DPT student

Alumni Event

The Division of Physical Therapy welcomed distinguished alumna **Carole B. Lewis, PT, DPT, MSG**, as the 2025 Leader in Physical Therapy. A global authority in rehabilitation and optimal aging, Dr. Lewis inspired students, faculty and clinicians through her keynote at HRS Grand Rounds and a special session for DPT students. She shared insights from her career, including founding a Washington, D.C.-based private practice, leading an international journal, and receiving top honors from the APTA and the Gerontological Society of America. During her visit, she also led a continuing education course on orthopedic care for older adults. The division extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Lewis for her mentorship and lasting impact.

Faculty Awards

Deb Kegelmeyer, PT, MS, DPT, and clinical professor; and **Anne Kloos, PT, PhD, NCS**, and clinical professor, were both named as Catherine Worthingham Fellows of the American Physical Therapy Association (FAPTA), our profession’s highest honor.

Cathrine Quatman-Yates, PT, DPT, PhD, an associate professor, was named as an Executive Leadership in Health Care (ELH) Program Track Fellow through the Drexel College of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Quatman also received the HRS Excellence in Mentoring Award.

Staff Award

Toby Whitehead, program coordinator – Outstanding HRS Administrative Staff Award

Radiologic Sciences and Therapy by the numbers

Radiation Therapy

24 students enrolled

12 graduates

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Credentialing Exam:

12 graduates took the exam and **100%** passed on first attempt

Radiography

38 students enrolled

19 graduates

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Credentialing Exam:

19 graduates took the exam, with **100%** passing on their first attempt

Sonography

20 students enrolled

10 graduates

Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI):

10 students took the exam, and **9 out of 10** passed on the first attempt

AS to BS Degree Completion

18 students enrolled

8 graduates



Staff Award

Alexis Neuenschwander, Education Program Specialist – HRS Staff Excellence Award

Student Highlights

Seven students were inducted into Lambda Nu, the National Honor Society that recognizes academic excellence, professional integrity and leadership in radiologic and imaging sciences.

Kate Collins received the prestigious American Society of Radiologic Technologists Student to Leadership Development Program Award, a three-year initiative providing access to leadership training, attendance at national conferences and professional development.



Respiratory Therapy by the numbers

- 39** students enrolled in master’s and undergraduate programs
- 11** graduates
- 92%** pass rate on the Registered Respiratory Therapist Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care

Faculty Highlight

Jessica Schweller, CNP
 NBRC H. Frederic Helmholz, Jr., MD Educational Research Grant supports graduate-level research with practical value to the respiratory care profession.

Student Highlight

Krista Marlin: Champion in the Pool, Classroom and Clinic

Krista Marlin, a senior in the Respiratory Therapy Program, exemplifies excellence as a student-athlete and future health care professional. A standout on the Buckeye swim team, Krista has earned CSCAA Second Team All-American and Scholar All-American honors, Academic All-Big Ten recognition and two-time Big Ten Distinguished Scholar and Ohio State Scholar Athlete accolades.

Krista shines in the classroom and clinic too; praised for her advanced clinical competence, positive patient interactions and eagerness to learn across diverse care settings. She balances elite athletics with demanding academics through discipline and drive. Beyond her studies, Krista volunteers to teach CPR to fellow HRS students and serves as a program ambassador, helping recruit future respiratory therapists. Her leadership, compassion and commitment embody the Buckeye spirit and make her a role model in every arena she enters.



Philanthropic Support

18,740 total living alumni
\$289,820 from annual giving
594 donors



Employee giving

\$32,564.38 raised during employee giving campaign
81 donors
45.5% participation

1,169 alumni donors

Philanthropic Gifts

54 pledges
4 estate commitments
1,591 gifts (including recurring gifts)
275 cash gifts

FY25 philanthropic support

\$5,010,558 total activity (gifts and private grants)
\$3,648,280 new fundraising activity



Make a difference for HRS students and programs - every gift matters!



**HRS
 Scholarship Fund**



**HRS Medical
 Endowment Fund**

Transforming Health in 2030: Year 2 Strategic Priorities

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (HRS) will continue to advance bold initiatives across four key pillars to meet the evolving needs of our learners, communities and health care systems.



Education and Workforce Development

- Expand enrollment in high-demand programs like Radiologic Sciences, Respiratory Therapy and Medical Laboratory Science.
- Launch new academic programs in Assistive Technology, eSports & Game Studies and Cardiac Sonography.
- Strengthen outreach and community engagement to address workforce needs and boost enrollment by launching pathway programs with Military and Community College partners and introducing the Academy for Health Careers.
- Enhance student engagement through leadership initiatives, experiential learning and career readiness with targeted support and mentorship.



Research and Innovation

- Increase our research dollars and grant submissions across the school.
- Establish interprofessional research centers and increase tenure-track faculty.
- Boost student research participation and support for publishing and presenting.
- Develop metrics to assess and amplify the impact of HRS research outputs.



Culture and Community

- Empower students and faculty to improve health outcomes through community-based initiatives.
- Launch the HRS Leadership Academy and expand career development for staff and faculty.
- Strengthen alumni and community engagement while embedding shared values into our culture.



Operational Excellence

- Modernize financial and administrative systems to improve transparency and efficiency.
- Optimize space utilization and infrastructure to support strategic growth.
- Elevate HRS's brand and reputation through targeted marketing, philanthropy and stakeholder engagement.



“As we look to the future, our strategic priorities reflect a bold vision for advancing health and rehabilitation sciences through transformative education, impactful research and meaningful community engagement. We are building a foundation that empowers learners, strengthens partnerships and drives meaningful impact across the education and healthcare landscape.”

– Jimmy Oñate, PhD, ATC, FNATA

Interim Vice Dean and School Director

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Atwell Hall, 453 W. 10th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210

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