Allied Health

The program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science (BSAS) in allied health provides maximum opportunities for contemporary health care professionals in dental hygiene, emergency medical services, medical assisting, medical laboratory technology, radiological technology, diagnostic medical sonography, surgical assisting, dental assisting and other health careers to continue their formal education. The program provides students with additional knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enhance their career mobility in the health care setting. In addition, the degree program allows students to pursue further education at the graduate level.

Degree Options
The Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in allied health is designed as a multidisciplinary two-plus-two degree program with health-related associate degree programs. The primary objectives of the allied health degree program are: 1) to provide graduates of health care programs the opportunity to gain the added expertise needed to expand their professional roles in the health care system; 2) to broaden the knowledge base in the health care professional’s discipline; and 3) to allow students the opportunity to build a curriculum to suit their personal, educational and/or employment goals. The following program features afford students the opportunity to achieve these goals:

- The “plus-two” component of the allied health major, which consists of an interdisciplinary core
- Other allied health and health-related courses
- Student-selected minor

The Department of Health Professions is flexible in accepting all relevant previous academic credit, thereby allowing graduates of a two-year health-related degree program direct entry into the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in allied health degree program.

Transfer Credit Awarded to Hospital-Based/Other Graduates
Transfer credit will be awarded for graduates of nationally accredited, hospital-prepared and vocational school educational programs in radiological technology, diagnostic medical sonography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, surgical assisting, dental assisting and licensed practical nursing. A completed “Request for Academic Credit for Hospital-based Experiences” form, along with all supporting documentation, must be turned into the Department of Health Professions for processing.

Graduates of any individual two-year nationally accredited or appropriate state-accredited hospital-prepared educational program, having passed appropriate professional registry and/or certification examinations, may be awarded a maximum number of transferable hours of credit not to exceed 33 semester hours.

Graduates of one-year health-based training programs or those holding dual professional credentials, having passed appropriate professional registry and/or certification examinations, may be awarded up to 20 semester hours of credit.

Credit will be awarded on a conditional basis. Students must complete at least 24 semester hours of earned credit at YSU with a minimum GPA of 2.0 before the credit will be applied as lower-division technical hours towards the allied health degree requirements.

Dental Hygiene. Dental hygienists with an associate degree are encouraged to pursue a bachelor’s degree for professional advancement or to change employment settings. Dental hygienists with a BSAS degree may expand their career opportunities for employment in state health departments, hospital dental clinics, pharmaceutical companies, dental equipment and supply companies, institutions of higher education, public health settings or research programs.

Emergency Medical Technology. A baccalaureate degree, according to the national EMS journals, is a necessity for career advancement in emergency medical services. Youngstown State University offers EMT-paramedics direct access to advanced educational opportunities.

For more information about this program, go to www.ysu.edu, click on Colleges, then Bitonte College of Health & Human Services

(see following page)
EMT-paramedics with a relevant baccalaureate degree enjoy employment opportunities as EMS administrators/supervisors, department/service training officers, educators at the college or university level, hospital EMS coordinators, aeromedical flight paramedics, equipment sales representatives and pharmaceutical sales representatives. The baccalaureate degree also provides the student with the necessary foundation to pursue graduate studies.

**Medical Assisting Technology.** Associate degree graduates of medical assisting who pursue a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science degree in allied health will complete the required core courses in addition to a minor that is selected by the student. The minor is used to enhance the student's preparation for a specific career goal.

The BSAS degree in allied health provides the medical assistant with a diversified academic and field experience. Career opportunities include administrative and clinical supervision and management, patient and community health/medical education and medical equipment and pharmaceutical sales and marketing.

**Medical Laboratory Technology.** The Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in allied health degree program provides an alternative pathway for medical laboratory technicians to become medical technologists. The Bachelor of Science in allied health degree program can provide medical laboratory technicians with academic experience in public health, management, education and research. These experiences can serve to expand the career opportunities of the medical laboratory technician.

**Respiratory Care.** Even though graduates of associate degree respiratory care programs enjoy a high placement rate, the best preparation for career advancement and leadership positions exists for practitioners who obtain a focused, health-based Bachelor of Science degree commensurate with that offered by the Department of Health Professions. Highly qualified faculty offer advanced specialty course work in growth areas such as pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary stress testing, and respiratory services management. These specialty courses are in addition to the “multidisciplinary” health core curriculum.

This challenging degree program helps to prepare the graduate for advancement to managerial or clinical specialist positions in the hospital setting. Many respiratory care departments already require bachelor’s degree preparation for all entry-level supervisory positions. The need for a higher academic degree will continue. In addition, a minimum of a bachelor’s degree is needed to obtain respiratory care faculty positions in colleges and universities. Many respiratory care graduates obtain a B.S. degree to gain positions as sales representatives for national pharmaceutical companies or medical equipment dealers.

**Other Health Professions.** Graduates of associate degree programs or hospital-based/vocational diploma programs in health-related professions, including nursing, radiologic technology, physical therapy assisting and many others, are eligible to enter the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in allied health degree program. The Department of Health Professions maintains a liberal transfer policy; therefore, students with associate degrees from accredited health care programs from other colleges or universities or from hospitals and vocational schools can receive transfer credit that is directly applied toward their total hours of credit and can enter the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in allied health degree program as juniors and complete their baccalaureate requirements at YSU.

Students graduating with the BSAS degree in allied health may find career opportunities in management, administrative and clinical supervision, marketing, medical and pharmaceutical sales, and patient and community education. Graduates may find many avenues of employment locally, regionally, and nationally.

**Faculty**

The allied heath program faculty consists of full and part-time faculty with expertise in various health professions. This expertise along with real world experience in health care and education enhances students’ learning experience. Youngstown State University maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:20, among the best of state-affiliated universities in Ohio.

**Scheduling**

All of the allied health courses required for the major are offered online, allowing greater convenience and flexibility for students scheduling classes. Online courses allow students to complete courses at a distance while providing student-faculty interaction. Students typically complete general education requirements and other required courses either on the YSU campus or through partner institutions. Occasionally, allied health courses are offered on campus. These classes are scheduled predominantly in the evening to accommodate students who are working in their health professions while pursuing their degree.

**Distance Learning**

Learning at a distance from the YSU campus is commonplace. Students at selected community colleges in Ohio and in nearly any location with Internet access can enjoy learning in an online environment. Our web-based courses allow students to discuss issues with colleagues and interact with faculty they might otherwise never meet. Courses offered online allow learning and participation in the course to occur when and where students can access the Internet. These courses require students to have Internet access and basic computer and technical skills. Students participating in these courses must have access to minimum hardware and software requirements.
Curriculum Overview

Core courses
- Preventive Public Health Care
- Stress and the Health Professional
- Health Education for Allied Health
- Research Methods
- Management Skills for Health Care Professionals
- Directed Research
- Epidemiology
- Comparative Health Systems

Elective courses
- Pharmacotherapeutics
- Pathology of Infectious Disease
- Special Topics
- Epidemiology
- Comparative Health Systems
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Environmental Health Concerns
- Environmental Regulations
- Industrial Hygiene
- Principles of Occupational Health/Safety
- Elements of Urban Environment Health Practices