Kasiska Division of Health Sciences

Mission Statement

Idaho State University’s Kasiska Division of Health Sciences provides leadership in the delivery of rural health care by educating caring and competent professionals across all dimensions of health and promoting interprofessional research and practice in the health sciences.

Vision

The Kasiska Division of Health Sciences is a destination site for health profession education.

Core Values

Professional Integrity - Promoting professional ethical standards and respecting the integrated roles of all health professionals.
Holistic Approach to Health - Emphasizing a comprehensive view of human health, including curative and preventive dimensions.
Collaboration - Recognizing the value of internal and external partnerships through professional and community engagement.
Discovery and Innovation - Seeking new evidence to improve health.
Dedication - Supporting the mission and vision of the KDHS.
Excellence - Striving for excellence in all aspects of professional, academic and personal endeavors.

Goal Areas

Goal 1 - To provide high quality programs that are efficient, cost effective, and student oriented.
Goal 2 - To create an environment conducive to inquiry.
Goal 3 - To facilitate interprofessional health services to the community.
Goal 4 - To expand/improve the image and reach of the KDHS as a destination site for health professions education.

Overview

Idaho State University’s Kasiska Division of Health Sciences (KDHS) provides continued leadership in the delivery of health care by educating caring and competent professionals across all dimensions of health. The KDHS is also committed to promoting collaborative research and interprofessional practice in the health sciences.

Idaho State University is Idaho’s health care university, as designated by the Idaho State Board of Education, and offers 75 percent of the state’s health profession degree programs. One third of Idaho State University’s graduates receive degrees in the health professions.

The majority of the University’s health profession programs are housed in the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences. Nineteen health professional programs, including 35 degrees/options, make up the Division. Several of the Division’s programs are offered on both the Pocatello and Meridian campuses, and a number of degrees are offered in an online format. Programs partner with hospitals, clinics, and specialized medical facilities throughout the state and nation to provide state-of-the-art training opportunities and clinical rotations for our students.

A mix of classroom and clinical experiences ensures that graduates are prepared for licensing exams and positions in a wide range of health care fields. On-campus and statewide clinics provide students with hands-on training. Fourteen in-house clinics include medicine, dentistry, dental hygiene, audiology, speech pathology, counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vestibular (balance), and wellness. Beyond the basic skill sets associated with clinical practice, we train our students to become leaders in their professions and communities. Doing this requires hiring and retaining nationally recognized faculty, using the most current teaching technologies, and giving students access to the hands-on learning opportunities they need for success.

The Kasiska Division of Health Sciences is organized into two colleges:

- College of Health
- College of Pharmacy

Pre-Health Professions Advising (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/divisionhealth/pre-health-advising/)

Idaho State University offers advising for pre-health professional students, which prepares them for application to and acceptance by a variety of health professional schools. Health professional programs for which advising is offered include: dentistry, medicine, osteopathic medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, and physician assistant. For students interested in one of the health professional programs offered at Idaho State University, such as medical laboratory science, counseling, dental hygiene, family medicine, health and nutrition sciences, health care administration, nursing, physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, radiographic science, and speech pathology and audiology, the Pre-Health Advisor will refer the students to the appropriate department or college for additional information.

Bachelor of Science in Health Science (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/divisionhealth/bachelorofscienceinhealthscience/)

The Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree is offered at ISU through the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences in cooperation with the College of Health and the College of Technology. The Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree provides several pathways for students, depending on their ultimate educational and career goals. The choice of five different areas of concentration allows students flexibility in meeting their professional goals.

The objectives of this multidisciplinary degree are to prepare marketable students for entry-level employment in the health care field and to prepare students for admission to professional schools or graduate programs.

Associate of Science in Health Science (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/college-of-health/community-and-public-health/as-health-science/)

The Associate of Science in Health Science degree is offered through the Kasiska Division of Health Sciences and serves as a launching pad for students who intend to pursue a career in a health science-related field. This degree will provide basic health science knowledge to students while serving as a bridge to our Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) as well as other bachelor-level programs in the health sciences. There are two “track” options: Track 1 for students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS), Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Radiographic Science, or Communication Science & Disorders programs; and Track 2 for students pursuing Medical Lab Science, Pharmacy, or other graduate-level health profession (PA, PT, OT, Medical, Dental, etc.).
Similar to the BS Health Science degree, the objectives of this AS degree are to prepare marketable students for entry-level employment in the healthcare field and/or to prepare students for admission to health professional schools or graduate programs.

The program consists of specific general education requirements, health science core competencies, and prerequisite courses required for other bachelor-level and/or graduate-level health profession programs.


Course offerings provide students from any major an opportunity to become knowledgeable about the biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of the aging process. Additionally, required course work furnishes students with an excellent understanding of health and aging, as well as an understanding of the social welfare policy and programs related to the older adult.


ISU’s Kasiska Division of Health Sciences offers the 8-credit Geriatric Certificate Program to prepare students to support the increasing older adult population with health care needs, and gain practical experience through 90 hours of hands-on educational rotation.

The Geriatric Certificate Program at ISU is available online, and awards undergraduate and graduate students with a Geriatric Certificate along with their degree upon graduation.

Credits count towards upper-division elective credits for undergraduate students, or elective credits for graduate students.

The certificate cannot be awarded without the completion of a concurrent degree program.

Kasiska Division of Health Sciences Leadership (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/divisionhealth/leadership/)

DHS Courses (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/dhs/)