ENROLLMENT

2994
Total CHHS students (fall 2018)

2054 Undergraduate Students
875 Master's and Graduate Certificate Students
65 Doctoral Students

GRADUATES

857
Total CHHS graduates in 2018

478 Bachelor's Degrees
364 Master's Degrees and Graduate Certificates
15 Doctorates

WORKFORCE

739
Total CHHS employees (fall 2018)

130 Full-time faculty
171 Part-time instructors
56 Graduate assistants and doctoral associates
142 WMU benefits-eligible and temp staff *
240 Student employees *

* Includes CHHS, CDS and Unified Clinics

RANKINGS

5
Graduate programs ranked in the top 100 of their kind by US News & World Report

32
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Offered in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids

37
REHABILITATION COUNSELING
In partnership with the College of Education

77
SOCIAL WORK
MSW in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Benton Harbor

48
AUDIOLOGY
Au.D. and accelerated Au.D. programs

46
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
One of the first such programs in the U.S.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

$12,222,145
in 71 submissions for 2017-18

$5,020,089
in 42 awards for 2017-18

$4,321,444
in research expenditures for 2017-18
In July 2018, the College of Health and Human Services held a grand reopening ceremony to officially welcome the University community to the newly renovated second floor of the Ernest Wilbur Building, which is adjacent to the CHHS building. The transformed space adds 13,000 square feet of classroom and lab space to the college.

The space is available for classes from all disciplines in the college, but it was primarily designed to accommodate classes in the new Doctor of Physical Therapy program, which will welcome its first cohort summer 2019.

The DPT program is not the only new program in the college. The college also recently began offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public health, a graduate certificate in low-vision rehabilitation for occupational therapists, and minors in American Sign Language studies and Peace Corps health preparation.

“It’s all reflective of the changing landscape of health and human services,” says Dr. Ron Cisler, dean of the college. “The University as a whole is facing enrollment challenges. However, at the same time, our college has been presented with opportunities to expand professional opportunities in the health and social services marketplace.”

In addition to new programs, several programs are undergoing other transformation.

Keeping pace with the needs of practitioners, the Department of Occupational Therapy will begin offering a Occupational Therapy doctorate degree in 2020. At the same time, WMU will cease enrolling students in the OT master’s program.

The BS in Interdisciplinary Health Services program is also undergoing a name change to better reflect the needs of our students. Effective this fall, it will be known as the BS in Health Services and Sciences, providing preparatory training in pre-PT, pre-OT, pre-PA and others.
LOW VISION FACULTY PRACTICING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

For 2018, the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies was truly focused on global outreach, sending several faculty members on different excursions to Africa.

**Dr. Rob Wall Emerson** and **Dr. Jim Leja** traveled to Botswana to visit schools for the blind in the region. They met with faculty from the University of Botswana to discuss the development of a training program in orientation and mobility and the potential for joint research projects and professional development.

**Dr. Dawn Anderson** offered training to orientation and mobility specialists and teachers of the visually impaired. She covered best practices in math and physical education instruction for children who are blind or have low vision.

The department also continued work on a postgraduate training program and research in low vision and rehabilitation with the College of Medicine at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, one of the nation’s top medical schools already collaborating with Harvard, Northwestern and many other international universities.

All of this collaboration will help fill a major health care gap in low vision services to Nigerians and other West African countries. It is the first of its kind in the West African sub-region.

Learn more about our blindness and low vision programs at [wmich.edu/visionstudies](http://wmich.edu/visionstudies).
$1.5 MILLION STATE APPROPRIATION FURThERS UNITED CLINICS REACH

WMU will receive a $1.5 million state appropriation for the Unified Clinics, a multi-specialty practice that annually serves more than 5,000 clients in Southwest Michigan and beyond and operates under the auspices of the University's College of Health and Human Services.

The Unified Clinics features 10 specialty teaching clinics that provide an array of services, including autism evaluation, behavioral health services, child-trauma assessment, hearing treatment, low-vision services, occupational therapy, speech therapy and women's health services. CHHS student practitioners and supervising professionals provide care and treatment.

At the clinics, thousands of Michigan residents receive treatment that is, in some cases, unavailable elsewhere, may not be covered by insurance or is unaffordable through other providers. The services help children and families struggling with often chronic physical and psychological conditions that negatively affect health and quality of life.

"What's special about the clinics is that they provide these essential services that other entities might not be able to provide, and they're addressing these unmet needs," says Dr. Carol Sundberg, Unified Clinics director. "We have been recognized by our patients in the community as a safety net," she says.
EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO DIVERSIFY THE NURSING WORKFORCE

The Empower Success program helps the WMU Bronson School of Nursing recruit, admit and retain students from underrepresented groups and financially disadvantaged populations, with a goal of returning more diverse graduates to the region’s nursing workforce.

In July 2017, Dr. Mary Ann Stark, was awarded a four-year, $2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration for funding to support nursing workforce diversity.

In its first year, we awarded scholarships to 10 students and stipends to 24 more. In total, BSON distributed $225,000 for student financial support. Notably, all 15 Empower Success scholars who graduated this year received offers of employment as professional nurses following graduation.

Learn more about Empower Success at wmich.edu/nursing/empower.

HEALTH CAREERS CONNECTION PROGRAM EXPERIENCES GROWTH, CHANGE

2018 marked the second year of the Health Careers Connection Program in the College of Health and Human Services. The summer bridge program for incoming first-year students from populations underrepresented in health care fields grew by 40% in its second year, bringing 17 students to campus for the summer program.

In the program, students earn six credits toward a CHHS degree, stay in a residence hall on-campus and enjoy campus dining options while they are here. The overall cost is approximately $5000 per student, which is entirely covered by scholarships.

At the closing dinner in July, Dr. Earlie Washington praised the students for their efforts and urged perseverance to meet their goals at WMU and beyond. She also thanked donors Kendall and Susan Warren, whose endowed scholarship fund was established to support students in the program.

The college paused the HCCP in 2019 to refocus efforts and to ensure that we are actively pursuing goals related to the program. We are focusing on interactions with current HCCP students and enhancing recruiting activities to find students that more fully reflect the program’s stated goal of improving diversity in the college and in health care and human services fields in these underserved areas.

When the program returns in the summer of 2020, we anticipate that it will be stronger and even more meaningful for the students chosen to participate.
Among the students who walked across the stage of Miller Auditorium to receive diplomas last summer were 15 individuals from the first cohort of the Master of Public Health program, which began in fall 2016.

“We are delighted to recognize this accomplishment of the first MPH cohort at WMU,” says Dr. Mark Kelley, director of the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs. “We look forward to seeing the wonderful ways in which they will impact the health of the communities in which they live and work."

The MPH program at WMU is offered in a hybrid format with coursework done primarily online and several face-to-face meetings in Grand Rapids throughout the year.

This first cohort was integral in suggesting improvements like moving the Grand Rapids meetings from the Downtown location to the newly renovated Beltline facility, which features free parking and easier access to amenities.

AUDIOLOGY FACULTY RECOGNIZED FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Jing Shen, assistant professor in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, received the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Early Career Research Award. The prestigious award will allow Dr. Shen to expand her research, which is currently focused on speech recognition in noisy environments.

“I am truly grateful for this support to my career development as a researcher – I owe it to my mentors, family and friends who have always been there for me,” says Dr. Shen. “I will take it as my responsibility to always challenge myself in becoming wiser and stronger in what I do – there is just so much work ahead.”

Learn about Dr. Shen’s research at wmich.edu/auditorylab.

MPH PROGRAM GRADUATES FIRST COHORT

Among the students who walked across the stage of Miller Auditorium to receive diplomas last summer were 15 individuals from the first cohort of the Master of Public Health program, which began in fall 2016.

“We are delighted to recognize this accomplishment of the first MPH cohort at WMU,” says Dr. Mark Kelley, director of the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs. "We look forward to seeing the wonderful ways in which they will impact the health of the communities in which they live and work."

The MPH program at WMU is offered in a hybrid format with coursework done primarily online and several face-to-face meetings in Grand Rapids throughout the year.

This first cohort was integral in suggesting improvements like moving the Grand Rapids meetings from the Downtown location to the newly renovated Beltline facility, which features free parking and easier access to amenities.

Learn about our public health programs at wmich.edu/publichealth.
Dr. Allen Montgomery
Speech-Language Pathology, '61

Dr. Allen Montgomery grew up with a severe stutter. The summer before entering Miami University to study mathematics, a therapist treated him with Van Riper methods of speech therapy, which virtually eliminated his stutter. That led Allen to WMU, where he studied under Charles Van Riper, and graduated with an M.A. in Speech Pathology in 1961.

Dr. Montgomery is a research professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Carolina. His 57-year career includes colleges in North Dakota, Iowa, Indiana and Melbourne, Australia.

He was a research audiologist at the Army Audiology and Speech Center in Washington, D.C. and NIH senior fellow for the Department of Communicative Disorders and Computer Science.

Antonio Giannelli
Physician Assistant, '77

Antonio Giannelli graduated with a B.S.M. from WMU's Physician Assistant program in 1977.

An expert in the area of arthritis and autoimmune diseases, he is a regular speaker at state and national conferences. Antonio remains devoted to developing the next generation of PAs. He is a clinical instructor and preceptor for Michigan State University's College of Medicine.

He and his wife are known to open their home to students with clinical rotations in the Lansing area. In addition, Giannelli is a senior PA at Great Lakes Center for Rheumatology in Lansing. He has been a practicing physician assistant for 40 years and has more than 20 years of rheumatology experience in arthritis and autoimmune diseases. Giannelli is president of the Society of Physician Assistants in Rheumatology and is also a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

ALUMNUS NAMED SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

Thomas E. McNally, WMU alumnus and social worker at Healthy Highs Unlimited, LLC, was named 2018 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. He received the award at the 2018 Legislative Education & Advocacy Day Conference in Lansing.

In 2013, McNally received the Outstanding Youth Advocate Award from the NASW. He has also previously received the State of Michigan School Social Worker of the Year award.

Read more at wmich.edu/hhs/11-2018-ssw.
EDUCATING WMU STUDENTS, ENRICHING WEST MICHIGAN’S WORKFORCE

Dr. Ann Chapleau and Dr. Jennifer Harrison received a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to support WMU’s Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery project, IPEER, a joint initiative of the Department of Occupational Therapy and School of Social Work.

The four-year, $1.8 million grant for behavioral health workforce education and training will increase the number of thoroughly trained treatment providers who work with the region’s underserved and vulnerable community members.

Chapleau and Harrison created IPEER to enhance interdisciplinary education for social workers, occupational therapists and peer specialists, and to expand the number of these professionals who are available to serve rural and medically underserved communities in southwest Michigan.

The IPEER project connects the educational training and direct service provided through WMU’s College of Health and Human Services with numerous off-campus partner organizations where students complete their required fieldwork.

Learn more about the IPEER project at wmich.edu/hhs/about/interprofessional.
FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

On behalf of the College of Health and Human Services, I want to thank you for taking the time to look over our 2019 Impact Report. Like any annual report, it is merely a snapshot of where we are at this moment, and I think it is important to add a little context to your reading.

We are in the middle of a very challenging time for higher education. Nationwide, the number of high school graduates is in decline. The cost of higher education is increasing while states are offering less and less financial aid. These show no signs of slowing; in fact, data shows that we are about at the midpoint of this particular cycle.

Against that challenging backdrop, I can assure you that the College of Health and Human Services remains as impactful as ever in our local and regional communities.

Our research activities and sponsored projects consistently bring in enough external funding to place us in top three producers in the University. Last year, we were second with $5 million. As of the printing of this report, we have $6.5 million in awards for the fiscal year, which is nearly double what we had this time last year.

While the demand for higher education in general is in decline, demand for health and social services professionals remains quite strong. In 2004, this college accounted for 5.4% of WMU’s student body. Today, we account for 13.9%. As Baby Boomers get older, demand for our programs should also continue to grow.

This is a transformative time for the University. And many exciting things are underway in our college as well. We are improving our student and career services offerings. We are developing continuing education programs. We are investing in recruiting and student retention.

All these things will help the College of Health and Human Services maintain our positive impact at the University and in our community. I look forward to sharing more about them in the future.

Thank you,

Dean Ron Cisler
2018 FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

- **Outstanding Customer Service Award**
  Janay Christian
  Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies

- **Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**
  Sally Sutkowi
  Bronson School of Nursing

- **Interprofessional Collaboration Award**
  IPEER - Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery project
  Ann Chapleau - Department of Occupational Therapy
  Rosie Corliss - Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan
  Jennifer Harrison - School of Social Work

- **Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award**
  Samuel Abraham
  Bronson School of Nursing

- **Scholarship Excellence Award**
  Yvette Hyter
  Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

More information about the individual awards and all of this year’s recipients can be found on the CHHS website at [wmich.edu/hhs/about/awards](http://wmich.edu/hhs/about/awards).

DEAN’S OFFICE STAFF

- **Ron A. Cisler, Ph.D.**
  Dean

- **Wam Chen**
  Finance Analyst

- **Nancy Cretsinger, MA**
  Director of Academic and Student Services

- **Alicia Dorr**
  Executive Assistant to the Dean

- **Joel Krauss**
  Manager of Marketing and Communications

- **Cassandra Motycka, MA**
  Administrative Assistant I

- **John Stanford**
  Director of Information Technology

- **Ann Tyler, Ph.D.**
  Associate Dean

- **Tiffany White, Ph.D.**
  Business Manager

CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

- **David Areaux, MPAS, PA-C**
  Chair, Department of Physician Assistant

- **Carla Chase, Ed.D., OTR**
  Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy

- **Linwood Cousins, Ph.D.**
  Interim Director, School of Social Work

- **Laura DeThorne, Ph.D.**
  Chair, Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

- **Kieran Fogarty, Ph.D.**
  Director, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program

- **Stacie Fruth, PT, DHSc, OCS**
  Chair, Department of Physical Therapy

- **Mark Kelley, Ph.D., M.Ed.**
  Director, School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs

- **Mary Lagerwey, Ph.D., MSN**
  Director, WMU Bronson School of Nursing

- **Jim Leja, Rh.D.**
  Chair, Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies

- **Carol Sundberg, Ph.D.**
  Director of Unified Clinics and Center for Disability Services

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | 2019 IMPACT REPORT

Editors:
- Joel Krauss
- Ron Cisler

Contributors:
- Paula Davis, writer
- Fran Dwight, cover photo

Printer:
- Holland Litho
  Zeeland, Michigan

Questions/Comments:
Contact the CHHS dean’s office at (269) 387-7367 or hhs@wmich.edu.