



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER *at* FORT WORTH

School of Public Health

Dean Search



Located in the Fort Worth Cultural District, HSC educates the health care providers of the future while expanding the frontiers of scientific discovery. HSC Health provides patient-centered care to people across Tarrant County.

HSC is one of the nation's premier academic medical centers, with more than 2,000 students and five schools that specialize in patient-centered education, research and health care.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH

One of the nation's premier academic medical centers, HSC has five schools that specialize in patient-centered education, research and health care housed on a 33-acre campus in Fort Worth's Cultural District. The university includes the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Public Health, the School of Health Professions, and the College of Pharmacy. HSC Health, the clinical component of HSC, cares for patients from across the region with physicians and health providers representing many medical specialties while providing training opportunities for our students. HSC's mission is to "create solutions for a healthier community."

In 2021, HSC's \$300+ million budget supported 1,510 faculty and staff in 1.476 million square feet of state-of-the-art facilities. Total enrollment for Fall 2021 is 2,458 students, and sponsored research expenditures total \$60.5 million.

The campus includes a 140,000-square-foot Clinical Care Building, a 160,000-square-foot Center for Bio-Health and a 120,000-square-foot Medical Education building. An additional 170,000-square-foot Interdisciplinary Research and Education Building opened in fall 2019 with innovative teaching and research spaces.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



Michael R. Williams, DO, MD, MBA
Chancellor, UNT System and President, HSC

A Fort Worth native, Dr. Williams has served as President of HSC for the past eight years and recently became Chancellor of UNT System. Prior to joining HSC, he served as CEO of Hill Country Memorial Hospital from 2008-2013 after practicing anesthesiology and critical care medicine in Texas for more than 20 years.



Charles Taylor, PharmD
Provost and EVP of Academic Affairs, HSC

Dr. Taylor serves as HSC's Chief Academic Officer reporting directly to the President. He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of academics, including the schools and colleges, as well as all academic operations. He is committed to the growth and development of HSC with a strong emphasis on academic excellence across campus. He also serves as a tenured professor of pharmacotherapy in the College of Pharmacy.

HSC INSTITUTES AND CENTERS.

Our institutes and centers are critical components of HSC's academic, research and service infrastructure. They play an important role in enabling and strengthening our multi-disciplinary and interprofessional programs.

INSTITUTE FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Led by Dr. Sid O'Bryant, one of the world's leading experts in blood-based biomarkers of Alzheimer's Disease, the Institute for Translational Research (ITR) focuses on precision medicine approaches to brain disease, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, Down syndrome, Dementia with Lewy bodies and others. A major goal of the ITR team is the identification and elimination of health disparities in Alzheimer's disease faced by underserved communities.

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH DISPARITIES

Established by Dr. Jamboor Vishwanatha, Vice President and Regents Professor, the Institute for Health Disparities is one of only 12 NIMHD Specialized Centers of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities in the country. The Institute conducts research focused on health disparities, trains new investigators in health disparity research, and conducts community outreach. Our Institute for Health Disparities enables transdisciplinary, interprofessional collaborations and novel approaches to understanding minority health and eliminating health disparities.

CENTER FOR HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

The Center for Human Identification (CHI) is an accredited, world-renowned forensic crime laboratory located at HSC. With funding from the State of Texas and various federal government agencies, the CHI Team provides forensic DNA testing and anthropological exams, oversees local CODIS operations, manages the Texas Missing Persons DNA database, and serves as subject matter experts in various investigative areas.

SAFERCARE TEXAS

SaferCare Texas, formerly the Institute for Patient Safety, was created in response to the national challenge to improve patient safety. SaferCare Texas is the only state-funded institute dedicated to improving the quality and safety of health care in Texas and throughout the nation. This is accomplished through collaborative, patient-centered, interprofessional initiatives that include comprehensive professional and community education, applied research to generate new knowledge and innovations, and quality improvement projects that directly impact health care delivery.

THE SEARCH.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth seeks a visionary leader to serve as the Dean of the School of Public Health.

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Under the leadership of retiring Dean Dr. Dennis L. Thombs, the **School of Public Health** has undergone significant change in the last six years. The school is a high-performing academic unit with a successful track record in all facets of education, research and service. Many of the school's graduates hold positions of leadership in public health and health care organizations in the state and at the federal level, including the CDC.

Funded research is a priority for the faculty, and a number are supported by grants from the NIH. The school has highly selective admissions. PhD students are fully supported by generous stipends, tuition waivers and free medical insurance. Class sizes are small and student-faculty engagement is high. The school's MPH and MHA programs are offered both on campus and online. The MHA program is CAHME accredited.

270

School of Public Health approximate number of students



Approximately

\$12,000,000

Annual operating and research budget for FY 2022

Established in 1999, the SPH has 30 faculty members, 23 staff members and approximately 270 students. The school's annual operating budget for FY2022 is \$8,705,777, with an additional \$3,290,921 in revenue from grants and contracts. A large proportion of the external funding was from NIH. The school offers the following degrees: Master of Public Health, Master of Health Administration, Master of Science in Public Health Sciences with two

separate concentrations in Epidemiology and Health Behavior Research, the PhD in Public Health Sciences with two separate concentrations in Epidemiology and Health Behavior Research, as well as numerous dual degree programs, many of which represent partnerships with HSC's clinical schools and colleges. The school also offers graduate certificate programs in Public Health and Healthcare Administration.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

Proactive. Visionary. Collaborative.
Strategic. Thought leader.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate will be a recognized thought leader in academic public health with a substantial body of published scholarly work, considerable visibility in the public health research community, and the capacity to exercise policy leadership at the local, state and national levels. Candidates must have qualifications commensurate with tenure at the rank of professor at HSC.



In addition, the ideal candidate will possess the following qualities and qualifications:

- A track record of being action-oriented in collaborating with a breadth of stakeholders
- Commitment to excellence in education, research, service and public health practice and policy work
- Successful in leading complex organizational changes
- A personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and addressing health inequities
- Experience in cultivating donors and increasing philanthropic support
- Success leading or supporting faculty recruitment, retention and development efforts
- A track record of fostering high quality online educational programs
- Deep commitment to social justice and the global mission of public health
- A high level of emotional intelligence
- Able to strongly advocate for the School of Public Health to ensure HSC is accountable for population-level health outcomes
- Strong advocate for public health research in a university environment with a Division of Research and Innovation geared to laboratory-based research
- Proactively facilitate collaboration across institutions, departments or divisions to create “win-wins”
- Ability to develop and maintain a strong school leadership team and to delegate authority to achieve operational efficiencies in a dynamic environment
- Experience managing complex budgets and making decisions based on return on investment
- Values-based mindset demonstrating humility, empathy, curiosity and a sense of humor

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE INCOMING DEAN

Against the backdrop of the pandemic response, increasing recognition of systemic racism, an unprecedented drug overdose epidemic, and the recent passage of state laws pertaining to gun possession, voting rights and abortion access, the next Dean will face significant opportunities and challenges. In Texas and across the nation, the importance of public health in society has never been more center stage. With its steadfast commitment to achieving health equity and eliminating disparities, the SPH is poised to distinguish itself by realizing the potential of its students, staff and new faculty and to succeed as an inclusive home strengthened by its diversity across many different dimensions. To do so, a successful Dean will address the following opportunities and challenges.

1. Strengthen the school's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as well as its efforts to eliminate health disparities

The next Dean will build on the SPH's ongoing efforts to diversify the faculty, staff, and the student body. The Dean must foster an environment in which all members of the community are valued and heard, creating space for open dialogue and an organizational structure that promotes cultural change in supporting these values.

2. Inspire and implement an ambitious, outcomes-oriented vision for the next SPH era

The next Dean, working in close collaboration with its many stakeholders, will be expected to outline a clear vision for the School of Public Health's future as a preeminent institution of public health education, research, and practice, and raise the national visibility of the SPH. The vision must reflect all aspects of the school's education, research, service and practice missions, and it must address the public health challenges facing the State of Texas and beyond. The Dean must incorporate the deep expertise in and around the school and university to take advantage of this unique moment in time, both in terms of the pandemic response and the wealth of faculty expertise across numerous HSC disciplines. In pursuit of the school's aspirations, the Dean will chart a direction for the SPH through a collaborative

strategic planning process that engages all stakeholders and ensures alignment with the university's strategic priorities.

3. Bring forth strong leadership of SPH operations and programs

The new Dean will have to balance community-facing responsibilities with managing the internal functions of the school, including ultimate oversight of university policies and procedures, school-level administrative matters, strategic infrastructure needs and addressing the needs of students, faculty, and staff - who will be enthusiastic about engaging with the new Dean in discussions about future directions for the school. The Dean will be in a unique position to bring a fresh and holistic view of the school, and to critically assess current practices and existing processes.

4. A vision for new academic programs

The pandemic has spurred much interest in the fields of public health and health care administration. The next Dean must implement an academic program review process, ensuring that all programs are innovative, competitive and leverage the resources of other offerings at the university where collaboration might be possible. A majority of the school's MPH students are now completing degree requirements in the online format. Thus, it will be necessary for the Dean to have a strong understanding of, and commitment to, investing in nontraditional modalities of learning. The Dean will also seek to improve the MPH and MHA career placement services of the school.

5. Advocate for the growth of public health research

Because of HSC's history and development as a University, the Division of Research and Innovation primarily focuses on the support of biomedical research. It is important to note that SPH faculty were not expected to engage in funded research activity until 2011. In the past several years, the school has experienced significant improvements and growth in the research infrastructure as well as funded research. However, there is always room for improvement. The incoming Dean must be a strong advocate for the ongoing development of public health research and be willing to collaborate both internally and externally to capitalize on the numerous funding opportunities available to SPH faculty. The Dean will take the lead on shaping HSC's broader understanding of funded research within the school and the vital role it plays in addressing current and future public health issues in our community. This will be accomplished through a collaborative strategic planning process that engages all stakeholders and is in alignment with HSC's strategic priorities.

6. Enhance SPH's community engagement and student internship opportunities

For more than 20 years, SPH has developed and nurtured strong relationships with a large number of community partners from across North Texas and particularly within Tarrant County. The new Dean must prioritize these partnerships for their potential for advancing public health and health care administration practice. Currently, the school enjoys being in the position of having more community partners willing to support MPH and MHA internships than we have students. However, it is not clear that all internship sites are providing high-quality training opportunities for the school's students. The Dean must set in motion a review process to identify outstanding training sites and establish a more robust program to develop internship site supervisors. In addition, the Dean must be familiar with state public health policymaking and will work to strengthen the school's relationship with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

7. Generate and manage new resources, especially through fundraising

The next Dean must focus on cultivating donors who are invested in the school's future success. The Dean should be astute in thinking about how to increase and diversify resources, and in finding external partnerships to create shared resource opportunities. Currently, the school's alumni are kept informed and are invested in the school's growth and development. However, significant new resources are likely to come from donors not currently familiar with the school.

SPH FACTS AND FIGURES



The School of Public Health is dedicated to the prevention of disease and the promotion of health in the local, regional and statewide community.



100%
of students and faculty have a community service expectation



96%
of HSC doctoral students complete their degree within 6 years



88%
of HSC master's students complete their degree within 6 years



46,934
community volunteer hours by HSC students, faculty and staff



42%
total faculty salary costs covered by external funding, FY2021



9
average number of publications by SPH faculty in peer-reviewed journals, FY2021

PROGRAMS

- Master of Public Health (In-Person and Online Programs)
- Master of Health Administration (In-Person and Online Programs)
- Master of Science in Public Health Sciences
- Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health Sciences
- Dual Degrees
- Non-Degree
- Graduate Certificates

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

- Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use
- Engaging communities through participatory methods
- Maternal and child health
- Online mental health interventions

DEPARTMENTS

- Health Behavior and Health Systems
- Biostatistics and Epidemiology

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



• Improving alcohol treatment for homeless adults



• Healthy moms, healthy babies, healthy community



• Health disparities



• Opioid overdose epidemic



• Vaccine hesitancy

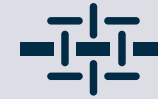


• Public health workforce development

OUR VALUES



Serve Others First



Integrity



Respect



Collaboration



Be Visionary

Our Values are based on the concept of True North. This term refers to the internal moral compass we each possess. The north arrow of the compass points to the values and principles that guide and inspire us to do the right thing – even if no one is looking.

Our Mission: Create solutions for a healthier community

Our Vision: One university, built on values, defining and producing the providers of the future

Our Purpose: Transform lives in order to improve the lives of others

SPH'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The School of Public Health is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all forms, and is dedicated to addressing the social determinants that are at the heart of health inequity. The school boldly maintains that negative population health outcomes and health inequalities are not

inevitable, and we stand in solidarity with low-resource and marginalized communities. In the U.S. and the world, no profession has had greater impact on improving the health of populations than public health. Thus, the SPH will lead HSC's efforts to address health disparities in North Texas.

JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY.

