

2019

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Annual Report 2018-2019

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Florida International University

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ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

NO LIMITS



Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**TRUTH
FREEDOM
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
EXCELLENCE
COMPASSION
CARING
INNOVATION
INTEGRITY
COLLABORATION
CULTURAL
COMPETENCE**

OUR MISSION

To prepare diverse healthcare professionals who are providers and leaders in the delivery of high-quality, accessible, culturally competent and compassionate care within a highly technological and global environment. To teach, conduct research and practice in service to the community through interprofessional collaboration. To create, promote, expand and validate scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice through interdisciplinary research.

OUR VISION

To be globally recognized as a higher education destination organization that is innovative, inquiry-driven and technologically advanced; drawing diverse top-class faculty, students, staff and others for positive transformation of society with a focus on the healthcare needs of underserved populations.

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MESSAGE

from the Dean



Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni and Supporters:

The concept of limits is something we can relate to at some point in our personal or professional lives. They may be self-imposed or imposed upon us. They can be unanticipated stumbling blocks or complications we see coming from a mile away. But limits should not define what we can accomplish.

This year's annual report theme is "No Limits." These two small words can hold an immensity of power. Ingrained in our nature as educators, students and practitioners is a need to motivate ourselves and others to push past perceived limitations, whether it's in the classroom, clinic, out in the community or even at home.

From a professor's personal battle against an instructor shortage, to a push for student-driven education, to the creation of a support system for overwhelmed caregivers; we have showcased a few examples of the people and programs in our College that will not yield in the face of challenges to improve outcomes in healthcare practice, education and research for the benefit of the people we serve.

In truth, the dichotomy of healthcare is both limitless and limiting. It is infinite in nature because of a never-ending pursuit for progress and innovation, but subject to constraints addressing safety, policy, resources or other reasons.

As we navigate healthcare's contradictions in our quest to transform restrictions into possibilities, let "No Limits" serve as a rallying cry to defy conventions and aspire for new and better ways of teaching, learning and serving as society's healthcare providers and advocates.

There should be no limits to our sources of inspiration, forward-thinking and perseverance to find the means toward the most invaluable of ends – the delivery of quality healthcare for all.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ora L. Strickland".

Ora L. Strickland, PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

FIU Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

About the COLLEGE

Fueled by intellect and driven by innovation and caring, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences has earned a national reputation for academic excellence propelled by a philosophy embracing diversity, technology, evidence-based practice and research to prepare leaders across various healthcare disciplines.

More than 16,000 alumni are practicing in the fields of nursing, athletic training, communication sciences and disorders, health services administration, occupational therapy and physical therapy. They are embodying the College's ideals for culturally competent and compassionate care and interprofessional collaboration.

INSIDE THE COLLEGE

Total Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 2,351

Degrees Awarded (total): 986

Doctorally Prepared Faculty: 93%

Full-Time Faculty: 94

Disciplines:

- Nursing
- Athletic Training
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Health Services Administration
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy

Student Body Diversity:



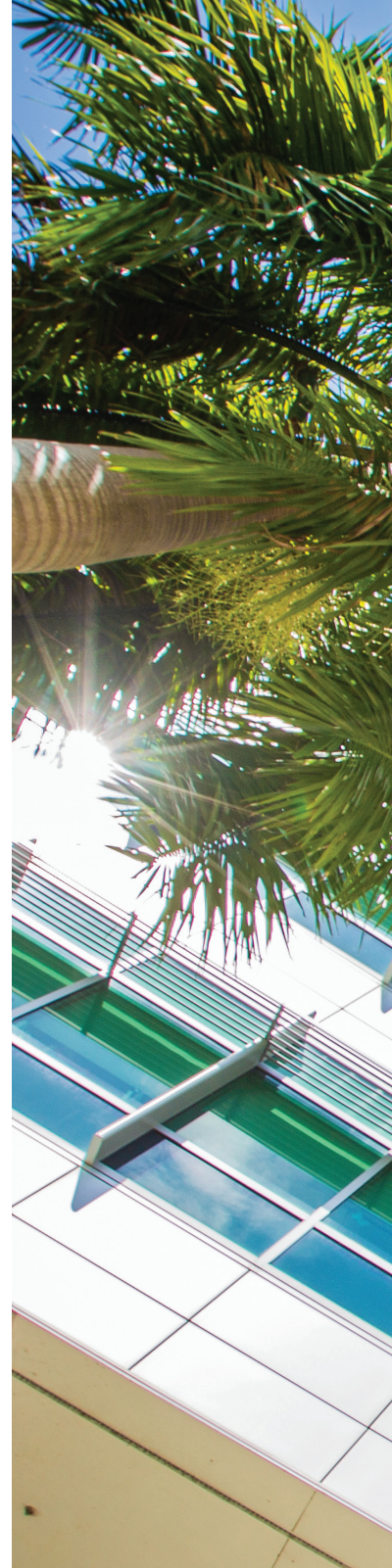
- 76% Female
- 24% Male



- 54% Hispanic
- 19% Black Non-Hispanic
- 16% White Non-Hispanic
- 5% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 6% Other



Average Age 30.2



ABOUT FIU

As Miami's first and only public research university offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, Florida International University is worlds ahead in its service to the academic and local community. FIU is designated as a top-tier research institution holding the R1 Carnegie classification for Highest Research Activity and has 35 programs in the top 100 in the nation among public universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.



225,000+

alumni worldwide



\$196M

total research expenditures



58,000

average annual enrollment



200+

bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs



35

top 100 programs among public universities

Time for a
CHANGE

Caitlin Kelliher



Undergraduate track offers transformative avenue to nursing

It is well known that nursing can transform lives. But what about the lives that transform for nursing? That’s exactly what students in FIU’s Accelerated Option Bachelor of Science in Nursing (AO BSN) program are doing as they leave old careers behind to join the nursing workforce.

Dean Ora L. Strickland considered how this undergraduate nursing track introduces the rewards of the profession to people who hold a bachelor’s degree in a different field, some not even remotely related to healthcare.

“The shortage is too great to restrict nursing education prospects to people who have an affinity for healthcare right out of high school,” said Dean Strickland. “Many come to discover later in life or through some life-altering event that nursing is what they were meant to do all along. They just need the right motivation to rebuff preconceived notions and make that change.”

To that end, Helene Fuld Health Trust and Florman Family Foundation, Inc., have made substantial gifts to fund scholarships and other long-term financial objectives to support students enrolled in the College’s accelerated second-degree baccalaureate programs, such as FIU Nursing’s AO BSN.

Students like Caitlin Kelliher.

Caitlin, a scuba instructor by trade, felt a call to critical care nursing after she became a patient in the intensive care unit.

“The nurses who tended to me had a profound impact on my physical and mental health. My experience as a patient was life-changing in many ways, notably as an awakening for a career change.”

She saw striking similarities in the way nurses cared for her and how she cared for her scuba students.

“My job was to calm the anxiety of that first dive through effective communication – describing the experience, the risks, and how to mitigate for each risk. My nurses eased my fears as I prepared for each new procedure in this same manner. That’s when I realized a nursing career was something I had to pursue.”

Caitlin was lying in her hospital bed researching nursing schools when she discovered FIU’s three-semester AO BSN program. She realized that although the program would be intense, her new dream could become an immediate reality.

“For the first time in weeks since my ordeal, I was excited about what my future held and because of the endless possibilities and opportunities for growth within the nursing field.” Which, for Caitlin, includes continuing her nursing studies into a career as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

INSIDE UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

Chair: Maria Olenick, PhD, FNP, RN, FAAN

Assistant Chair: Tatayana Maltseva, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Program(s):

- Generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Accelerated Option (AO) BSN
- RN-to-BSN Online
- Foreign-Educated Physician to BSN/MSN
- Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 452

Number of Graduates: 271

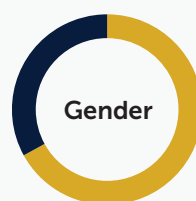
Graduation Rate: 97%

First-Time NCLEX (RN Licensure) Pass Rate: 89%

Full-Time Faculty: 22

Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Florida State Board of Nursing

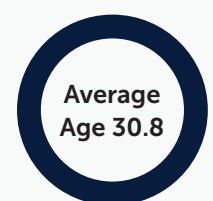
Student Body Diversity:




- 67% Female
- 33% Male



- 56% Hispanic
- 19% Black Non-Hispanic
- 13% White Non-Hispanic
- 10% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2% Other





Dr. Vanessa Gordon

STIRRING

Things Up

Professor concocts solutions to preserve learning opportunities

When life gives you lemons... you know the rest. So does FIU Graduate Nursing Director of Clinical Education Vanessa Gordon, DNP, APRN, who has stirred up strategic and cooperative solutions to keep graduate nursing instruction on course at FIU.

Many health facilities are requiring compensation for their nurse practitioners (NPs) to serve as clinical preceptors, placing more financial burden on nursing programs and jeopardizing the availability of valuable instructors.

"The emergent role of the NP as a primary care provider suffers a setback without enough preceptors to groom the next generation," Dr. Gordon observed. "This reimbursement model has been a hindrance, but it's also spurred us to look at new recruitment tactics and identify partners willing to invest in nurse practitioner education for the greater good."

One such partner is IMC Health Medical Centers. More than 50 FIU NP students have completed their clinical residency rotations in women's, pediatric and

geriatric health under the guidance of the medical center's nurse practitioners and physicians. In return, FIU Graduate Nursing is exercising its expertise developing patient-care curricula to spearhead improvement projects identified by IMC.

According to Dr. Gordon, support for this collaboration stems from the leadership of Mayda Antun, M.D., and Pablo Alonso, M.D., IMC's chief medical officer and medical director, respectively. "We greatly value being an integral part of the student's learning process and familiarizing them with the unique clinical experiences of the medical home model to serve different patient groups," said Dr. Alonso.

The proliferation of walk-in urgent care centers is also driving demand for NPs, prompting an alliance with MDNow, Florida's largest urgent care provider.

Select FIU NP students will spend one semester at an MDNow South Florida facility gaining clinical hours under a physician preceptor. Dr. Gordon shared that Chief Medical Officer Jeffrey Collins, M.D., recognized the FIU partnership as a conduit to seed a future NP



INSIDE GRADUATE NURSING

Chair: Yhovana Gordon, EdD, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC | Graduate Nursing

Interim Chair: Derrick Glymph, DNAP, CRNA, APRN | Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program(s):

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNP-NA)
- BSN-to-DNP, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) & Post-Master's Certificates:
 - Advanced Adult-Gerontology NP
 - Advanced Child NP
 - Advanced Family NP
 - Advanced Psychiatric-Mental Health NP
- Nurse Educator Post-Master's Certificate
- Dual MSN Degree/Nurse Educator Certificate

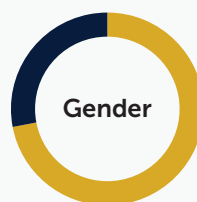
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 414

Number of Graduates: 211 | **Graduation Rate:** 93%

Full-Time Faculty: 27

Accreditation(s): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA); Florida State Board of Nursing

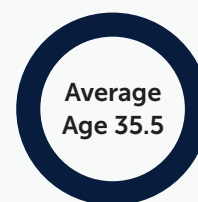
Student Body Diversity:



● 72% Female
● 28% Male



● 45% Hispanic
● 23% Black Non-Hispanic
● 20% White Non-Hispanic
● 8% Asian/Pacific Islander
● 4% Other



hiring pipeline and expand the delivery of urgent primary care services. "The fast-paced environment of urgent care requires a broad clinical knowledge base and skill set. FIU NP students can hit the ground running from this experience and become a huge asset in the many communities we serve," remarked Dr. Collins.

FIU Graduate Nursing is also mounting an incentivized recruitment campaign for NPs with a Master of Science in Nursing degree to advance their careers by paying it forward. In return for time given as a preceptor, they will receive credit hours toward an FIU Doctor of Nursing Practice or Ph.D. in Nursing degree.

Dr. Gordon admits restrictions that limit nursing education opportunities are nothing new, but shouldn't diminish the resolve for progress. "The key is to create solutions that galvanize organizations and individuals to invest their time, talents and resources to overcome these restraints and preserve the future of advanced nursing practice."

INSIDE PHD NURSING

Director: Tami Thomas, PhD, RN, CPNP, FAANP, FAAN

Program(s):

- PhD in Nursing
- BSN-to-PhD

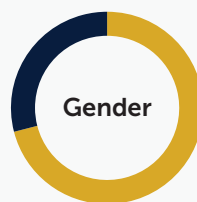
Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 14

Number of Graduates: 2

Faculty/Dissertation Advisor Status: 17

Accreditation(s): Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

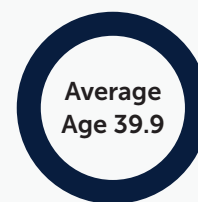
Student Body Diversity:



● 71% Female
● 29% Male



● 58% Black Non-Hispanic
● 21% White Non-Hispanic
● 21% Asian/Pacific Islander





Michelle Odai, Ph.D.

Self-

EDUCATED

AT students chart their own course

“Don’t wait for opportunity. Create it.” It sounds like the tagline of a motivational poster, but that doesn’t make it any less true. In fact, it’s the basis for FIU Athletic Training’s student-driven approach for its Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS-AT) and Doctor of Athletic Training (DAT) programs.

Founding program director and incoming department chair Michelle Odai, Ph.D., spearheaded this self-directed learning opportunity by creating the Individualized Professional Development Plan (IPDP) for the MS-AT curriculum. Dr. Odai commented, “the degree may be the same for each graduate, but their professional aspirations are singular, which is what the IPDP emphasizes.”

The IPDP is built into each student’s plan of study to record the professional development units needed to graduate. Students work with a faculty mentor to take stock in their interests beyond the degree and reflect on the career path they want to follow (e.g., obtaining a specialized certification, networking with an AT in a specific employment setting). They chart their own course to obtain the development units that align with that goal and meet with their faculty mentor twice a semester to make sure they’re still on track.

“The IPDP is part vision board, part benchmark for our students. It’s a tangible means to hold them accountable to achieve their academic and professional objectives,” said Dr. Odai.

The master’s IPDP has evolved into the Individualized Clinical Residency Plan (ICRP) for FIU’s Doctor of Athletic

Training degree program. As one of only six in the country, FIU’s DAT has two differentiating elements in its program of study: (1) a focus on entrepreneurship and academic leadership, and (2) a student-developed curriculum based on their focus of interest.

Dr. Odai cited the influence of the millennial generation on the ICRP. “The ‘millennial mindset’ is a way of thinking that builds being socially conscious into all aspects of life. Millennials pay attention to where businesses invest their money and how they contribute to society.”

In Dr. Odai’s estimation, the focus on entrepreneurship appeals to this group of advanced practice healthcare practitioners, many of whom have expressed desires to run their own practice or add value to the profession outside of the AT arena. “Our DAT not only empowers students with business acumen to run their own operation, but also helps them crystalize their expectations as a practitioner. It’s our job as educators to support their journey and help answer the question – how do they want to influence positive change in this profession that will benefit society?”

Ultimately, Dr. Odai and fellow FIU AT faculty are encouraging students to pursue the AT education and practice they envision for themselves. “We want our students to be active participants to transform athletic training education, with no limits to what they want to accomplish.”

INSIDE ATHLETIC TRAINING

Chair: Shawn Felton, EdD, LAT, ATC | Doctoral program

Director: Michelle Odai, PhD, LAT, ATC | Master’s program

Program(s):

- Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS-AT)
- Doctor of Athletic Training (DAT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 32 (MS-AT); 7 (DAT)

Number of Graduates:

17 (MS-AT); DAT inaugural class graduating December 2020

Graduation Rate: 81% (MS-AT)

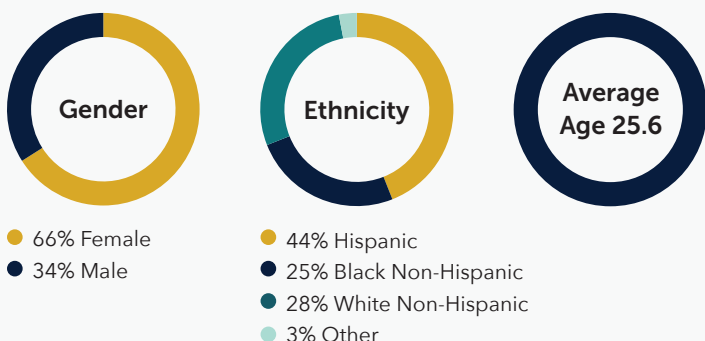
Ultimate Licensure Pass Rate: 82% (MS-AT)

Full-Time Faculty: 7

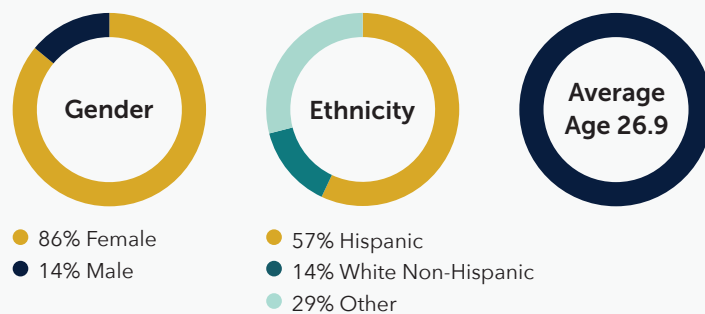
Accreditation(s):

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)

MS-AT Program | Student Body Diversity:



DAT Program | Student Body Diversity:



Road (block)

WARRIOR



Dr. Jean Mead

Educator's indomitable spirit speaks volumes

"You were wonderful, but we offered the job to the college graduate." These were the words FIU Communication Sciences & Disorders' (CSD) Jean Mead heard as a 35-year-old single mother of two after a job interview. It would be the last time she let something block her path to fulfillment.

After writing her state senator for scholarship assistance, she enrolled in Marshall University to get a degree in Spanish language education. One semester shy of graduation, she met with the local school board about a teaching position.

"What they needed was a speech-language pathologist," she recalled. "I changed my major to fit the job and ended up changing my life's outlook."

Two years later, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology (SLP), took the school board job, and obtained a master's degree in the discipline. An opening in Marshall's speech-language department brought her back to campus as a professor, where she discovered the joys of academia and elevated her credentials with a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in leadership studies from West Virginia University.

A positive affirmation Dr. Mead made 20 years ago to "live in a fabulous location and work with people I love and respect," eventually led her to Miami and FIU to share her spirited attitude with master's SLP students as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Clinical Education.

According to Dr. Mead, the SLP student's last semester is hectic preparing for their final clinical, graduation and the licensing exam. But one cohort was especially high strung and hit a mental block.

She summoned her days teaching yoga on a Louisiana TV station and developed a meditation program to test with her students one semester. "We'd spend the first 40 minutes of our weekly hourly meetings solely on meditation exercises. By the last 20 minutes, the students were much more relaxed and responsive to tackle their assignments."

Students were skeptical at first, but Dr. Mead noted their demeanors changed over those eight weeks. "They were even using meditation to prepare themselves and their clients for clinical sessions."

She hopes to incorporate meditation into the syllabus based on the success of that pilot semester. But the larger message she wants students to grasp is that hitting the proverbial wall shouldn't be a roadblock to their aspirations. It can be an inspiration to find another way around.

In addition to yoga instructor, Dr. Mead has a brown belt in karate and runs half-marathons, which she first started doing to commemorate her birthday on 12-12-2012.

"Whether it's out of necessity or curiosity; to prove the critics wrong or prove something to yourself; find your motivation to get past life's stumbling blocks and you'll see that nothing is unattainable."

INSIDE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

Chair: Monica Hough, PhD, CCC-SLP

Program(s):

- Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP)
- Graduate Certificate in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Student Enrollment (in and out of state):

93 (degree program); 171 (graduate certificate program)

Number of Graduates: 44

Graduation Rate: 98%

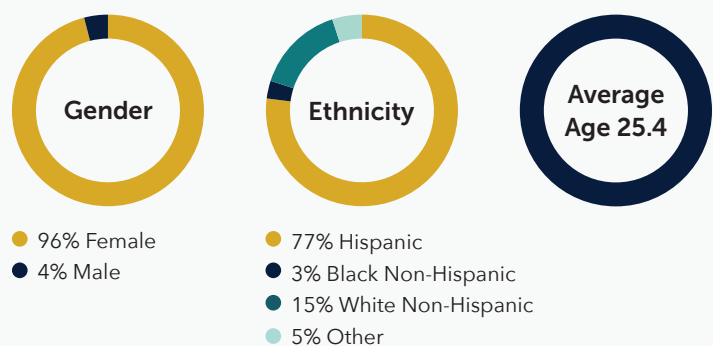
First-Time Board Certification Pass Rate: 93.2%

Overall Annual Pass Rate: 100%

Full-Time Faculty: 6

Accreditation(s): Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Student Body Diversity:





In it for the
LONG-TERM

Gina Lancia, BHSA '16, MSHA '18

HSA graduate aspires for patient advocacy

For Gina Lancia, graduate of FIU's Health Services Administration bachelor's and master's degree programs, it's hard to argue that long-term resident care isn't in her blood.

She recalls much of her childhood spending time at the nursing homes where her mom worked as an administrator, socializing and bonding with the residents. "I knew early on that I wanted to work with patients."

Her professional outlook was influenced by her mother's long-spanning career in health administration, including 20 years as a director of operations for eight assisted living facilities (ALFs) in Miami serving individuals with psychiatric-mental health conditions. "I wanted to follow in her footsteps and take over the business once she retired."

Aside from a three-year enlistment in the U.S. Army after high school, Gina spent a decade working for the ALFs, starting out as a receptionist at age 15 and eventually working her way up to a licensed administrator for two facilities. "A bachelor's degree in health services administration was the logical next step for me." She applied to the FIU Health Services Administration program through her iPad and the rest was history.

"The opportunities in health services administration really are limitless. It's not as narrow as 'paper pushing.' You are in the thick of things working with patients, healthcare

professionals and insurance companies; utilizing new technologies; administering policies. You are a valuable and critical focal point in the healthcare process."

It's with that zeal for the profession that Gina aspires to advocate for patients, especially those with mental health considerations. Her time working at the ALFs opened her eyes to people who were struggling with their mental health and inability to advocate for their own well-being.

"I saw so many patients who were my age or younger, or who were 'living normal lives' until a triggering event led to their conditions. I realized that each of us could be 'one bad day away' from being in their shoes, which is why we must move past the stigmas and stereotypes to improve services in this area of healthcare."

From public speaking and communications courses to a deep dive into the dynamics of healthcare policies and laws, Gina feels FIU has prepared her to assume the role of patient advocate. When asked about her "dream job," Gina envisions endless opportunities.

"I see myself as a director of a hospital psychiatric floor, managing a mental healthcare facility, or even entering the public sector lobbying for mental healthcare reform. Resident care is my passion, and I will make it my life's work to make sure every patient under my care is treated with respect and compassion."

INSIDE HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Salvatore A. Barbera, DHA, MS, FACHE

Assistant Chair: Chanadra Young-Whiting, EdD, MPH/HSA

Program(s):

- Bachelor of Health Services Administration (BHSA)
- Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA)
- Minor in Health Services Administration

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 824 (BHSA); 148 (MHSA)

Number of Graduates: 280 (BHSA); 14 (MHSA)

Full-Time Faculty: 8

Accreditation(s):

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

BHSA Program | Student Body Diversity:



- 82% Female
- 18% Male

- 62% Hispanic
- 25% Black Non-Hispanic
- 6% White Non-Hispanic
- 3% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4% Other

MHSA Program | Student Body Diversity:



- 78% Female
- 22% Male

- 51% Hispanic
- 30% Black Non-Hispanic
- 4% White Non-Hispanic
- 6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 9% Other

A Show of

SUPPORT

Dr. Alma Abdel-Moty



Dr. Hector Huerta

OT faculty help empower and reenergize caregivers

Caring for a person with a progressive memory disorder such as Alzheimer's or dementia can be physically and emotionally daunting. Oftentimes it pushes caregivers to feel they've reached their limits. This is why the College has joined forces with the Brain Center neurology group to support them with the right outlook and tools to provide patient care without sacrificing their own self-care.

"Brain Center staff witnessed the strain on caregivers, especially family members who didn't have a healthcare background," said Helen Cornely, Ed.D., the College's associate dean of administration. The Center's CEO Jeffrey Horstmyer, M.D., approached Dr. Cornely to partner on developing and delivering a curriculum to help caregivers perform their duties while managing their personal circumstances.

FIU Occupational Therapy (OT) clinical faculty and licensed therapists Alma Abdel-Moty, Dr.OT, Hector Huerta, ODT, and FIU Physical Therapy (PT) clinical education director Teresa Muñecas, DPT, spearheaded the program's roll-out in spring 2018. With the collaboration of other OT and PT faculty, nearly 60 participants have benefited from the *Managing Alzheimer's and Dementia for the Caregiver* workshops.

The workshops combine OT and PT approaches for caregivers to better interact with their loved ones, including behavior management techniques for when the patient becomes difficult; healthier nutrition; suitable recreational activities; proper mobility and transfer techniques; medication and home safety; and routines to aid with activities of daily living (e.g., laying out their clothes, brushing their hair).

Empathy also plays an instructional role through the Dementia Live™ Experience. This experiential learning program simulates cognitive and sensory impairment to immerse participants into a life with dementia.

According to Dr. Abdel-Moty, the caregivers spend only a few minutes walking a mile in their loved one's shoes, "but it's a revelatory experience that results in deeper understanding and elevates their level of compassion for those living with the disease."

Dr. Huerta added that the OT mantra to *live life to its fullest* applies equally for the caregiver who has dedicated their life providing complete care to someone else.

"Each workshop session is unique because of the interactive nature of the group therapy. It was essential they had a safe space to address their struggles, share the emotional burden, and practice self-care techniques to help them hold on to aspects of their life outside the caregiver role."

He shared the reaction of one participant, who after just a second session with the caregiver support group, felt it positively changed her perspective toward the future.

Dr. Huerta noted these workshops are not a one-time remedy, but an ongoing means to provide encouragement, education and resources for caregivers to alleviate some of the enormity of their responsibility.

"They no longer feel alone in their struggle because we won't let them."

INSIDE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Interim Chair: Lynne Richard, PhD, OT/L

Program(s): Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS-OT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 160

Number of Graduates: 55

Graduation Rate: 98%

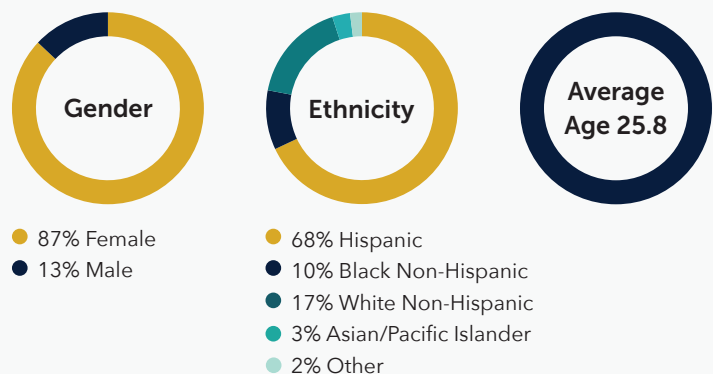
Ultimate Licensure Pass Rate: 100%

Full-Time Faculty: 9

Accreditation(s):

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

Student Body Diversity:





Veteran and Military
Affairs

Sheila Clemens, Ph.D.

This

HONORABLE CHARGE

FIU PT's duty to veterans



Fernanda Civitella, DPT '19 (R)

Military "PT" refers to "physical training" – an exercise regimen of strength, endurance and movement to get fit for a mission. But in pushing their bodies to the limits, members of the U.S. Armed Forces may encounter a lifetime of physical challenges as veterans. This is where the "PT" of "physical therapy" makes a difference, and why an FIU professor, instructor and recent graduate are on a mission to do just that.

Assistant Professor Sheila Clemens, Ph.D., is on a multi-institutional,

interprofessional research team working with amputees, including Vietnam veterans, to direct the progress of their rehabilitation from the palm of her hand, literally. She is studying the efficacy of mobile devices to help lower-limb amputees improve proprioception – sense of self-movement and body positioning – and ambulation with their fitted prosthetic.

As the team's physical therapist, Dr. Clemens provided input to computer engineers developing a proprietary tablet app to analyze real-time biometric signals from the limb and prosthetic during mobility, posture and gait assessments. "I can immediately pinpoint areas for improvement and tailor rehab techniques 'on the fly.'" Additionally, therapists can monitor progress remotely, while patients can self-monitor and practice in-home routines through the app when getting to a therapy session is difficult.

From the palm of someone's hand, to hands-on experiences, adjunct faculty and U.S. Army veteran Max Riveros, DPT, is bringing PT screening services

from the Miami VA Healthcare System (Miami VA) to student veterans on FIU's campus.

FIU Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students, with guidance from Dr. Riveros, will evaluate the veteran's typical movements, gait and posture among other factors that could have been altered from years of combat, deployment and rigorous training. The experience should help DPT students understand the nuances of working with this patient group to present more effective recovery treatments.

Dr. Riveros believes the direct outreach to on-campus veterans can help overcome the "tough it out" mentality that keeps many veterans dealing with chronic pain from receiving the care they deserve. "They've given everything so we can lead better lives. We want to give something back so they can do the same."

This desire to improve veterans' health extends to FIU DPT graduate Fernanda Civitella. She is a research assistant to FIU PT Associate Professor Edgar Vieira, Ph.D., at the Miami VA Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center studying fall prevention and treatment in the older veteran population.

She credits marrying a U.S. Air Force airman for kick-starting her interest in veterans' care, but fully embraced her passion for it while at the Miami VA. "Working with VA patients showed me how selfless veterans are to sacrifice their own well-being for the protection of others."

Fernanda reflected that her desire to study PT and help people power through injury to maintain their physical independence has enhanced her appreciation for veterans. "It is immeasurably rewarding for me to give back by helping them regain and maintain a better quality of life through practice of this wonderful profession."

INSIDE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Chair: Mark D. Rossi, PhD, PT, CSCS

Program(s): Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Student Enrollment (in and out of state): 187

Number of Graduates: 54

Graduation Rate: 100%

First-Time Licensure Pass Rate: 89%

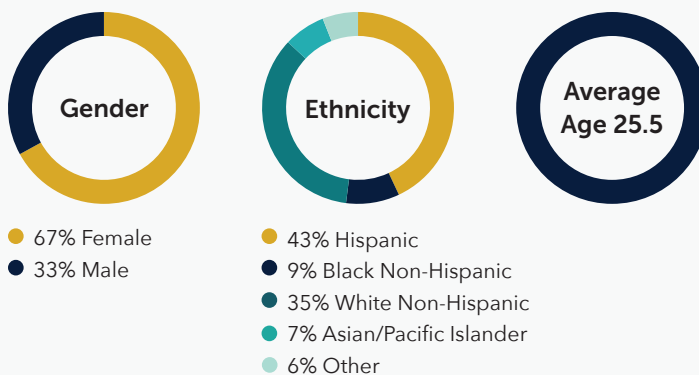
Ultimate Licensure Pass Rate: 93%

Full-Time Faculty: 9

Accreditation(s):

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Student Body Diversity:



To the **NTH** **DEGREE**

The power of higher education to influence positive change and address the needs of society should know no bounds. Following are some accomplishments by Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences faculty and programs making a difference in and out of the classroom.



Helping Sexual Assault Survivors in Florida

Associate Dean of Research Tami Thomas, Ph.D., FAAN, continues her crusade to develop community-based solutions for underserved populations. In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the College and FIU's Global Forensic and Justice Center will collaborate on a training program to nearly double Florida's number of certified sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) to aid survivors in rural and underserved communities. Dr. Thomas secured a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to launch the Advanced Nursing Education-Regionally Underserved Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program.

SANE-certified nurses conduct forensic medical examinations and help properly secure evidence from survivors of sexual assault, which can lead to higher prosecution rates. They also provide survivors with physical and mental healthcare to help deal with the trauma.

Over the next three years, FIU Nursing will recruit and train upward of 30 eligible licensed registered nurses and certified advanced practice registered nurses to serve as SANE-certified nurses at community clinics and hospitals in Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties. The FIU Global Forensic and Justice Center will extend the impact of the program through continuing education courses to keep SANE-certified nurses informed on the latest forensic science and technological advancements.



On a Mission to Improve Veterans' Mental Health

The need to provide U.S. military veterans with greater access to mental and behavioral health services is at an all-time high. Roughly three-quarters of a million military personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from mental health conditions in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression or traumatic brain injury. Yet, less than half of returning veterans receive mental health treatment.

To address this problem, the U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Academic Affiliations is funding a collaboration between the Miami VA Healthcare System (Miami VA) and College to launch Florida's only Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Residency program under the VA's Nurse Residency Expansion Initiative.

Up to four actively licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners will be recruited from South Florida annually to receive clinical training in the delivery of psychiatric-mental and behavioral healthcare to patients at the Miami VA. FIU graduate nursing faculty will oversee recruitment and didactic education, while Miami VA practitioners will serve as preceptors for the residents during their year-long clinical tenure.



A Hero to Caregivers

Graduate Nursing Associate Professor Ellen Brown, Ed.D., FAAN, has been named a Wallace Gilroy Endowed Faculty Scholar – a two-year appointment that will help support her research and work specializing on caregiving in the aging population.

Dr. Brown's focus on improving the health and well-being of persons with dementia and their caregivers has been well-established. She was recognized with the American Academy of Nursing's Raise the Voice Edge Runner distinction for creating the *Training in the Assessment of Depression* program to identify and treat depression of older adults in home healthcare settings. She also played a significant role developing the *CareHeroes* app, which was designed to improve dementia care coordination, support family caregivers and increase utilization of community-based resources.

Dr. Brown will employ a recent grant from HRSA's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to lead an interdisciplinary team to test the impact of the *CareHeroes* app with patients receiving memory clinic services at two partnering sites – Miami Jewish Health and the University of Alabama.



A Gold STAR in Simulation Education

The College's Simulation Teaching and Research (STAR) Center is the only facility in South Florida to be fully accredited in teaching/education by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Accreditation. The accreditation spans five years and recognizes the STAR Center's program structure and facilities internationally.

The 16,000-square-foot center recreates fully operational clinic and hospital settings complete with a 15-bed critical care unit, primary care offices, prep-scrubbing stations, operating rooms equipped with surgical instruments, and high-fidelity human patient simulators. Its technological teaching arsenal includes the Anatomage virtual dissection table, augmented/mixed reality learning lenses, and Double Robotics telepresence robot, among many others.

The STAR Center conducts more than 48,100 clinical simulation hours annually for more than 525 students across the College, ranging from first responder and acute care delivery, to surgical procedures and rehabilitation protocols.

FORCES OF GOOD

Investment in our College through philanthropic gifts from various organizations and individuals reflects a shared visionary commitment to the success of our students, faculty and programs. The value of such support is immeasurable beyond dollars and cents, and buoys the College's accomplishments in education, research and practice.



Helene Fuld Health Trust and **Florman Family Foundation, Inc.,**

have contributed significantly to fund scholarships for students enrolled in one of the College's accelerated second-degree baccalaureate programs. These include the Accelerated Option Bachelor of Science in Nursing (AO BSN) and the Foreign-Educated Physician to Nurse (FEP) programs.

The AO BSN is a fast-track, three-semester undergraduate nursing program uniquely designed for people who want to pursue a nursing career but hold a bachelor's degree in another field. The FEP is an award-winning degree program that transforms foreign-educated physicians not practicing in the U.S. into nurses and nurse practitioners through an accelerated curriculum that credits their prior medical experience.

Helene Fuld Health Trust, the country's largest charitable trust devoted exclusively to supporting student nurses and nursing education, and Florman Family Foundation, Inc., which focuses support on higher education and human services, made the gifts to FIU Nursing for its innovation addressing the nursing shortage through nursing education opportunities directed at non-traditional candidate pools.

Florman Family Foundation, Inc. scholarship recipients will further bolster the region's nursing workforce with a pledge to work in South Florida three years after graduation.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

awarded a substantial grant to FIU Nursing for scholarships for female students with outstanding academic achievement enrolled in the undergraduate nursing programs. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting women's causes and devotes resources to



FIU Occupational Therapy

scholarship programs for deserving female students with unmet financial need in schools and colleges across nine southeastern states.

Carolyn L. Tarloff established the Carolyn L. Tarloff Occupational Therapy Research Endowment to promote research led by FIU Occupational Therapy faculty members working as a principal or co-principal investigator on projects building research evidence that supports the practice of the discipline.

Yousef and Annette Abdel-Moty, the son and daughter-in law of FIU Occupational Therapy Clinical Professor & Academic Fieldwork

Coordinator Alma Abdel-Moty, Dr.OT, OTR/L, established a scholarship program in her name to aid FIU Occupational Therapy students who complete their Level I fieldwork experiences abroad.

Pinecrest Physical Therapy founder Ron Yacoub, MSPT, ATC, CSCS, has pledged two years of paid tuition to sponsor a student in the FIU Doctor of Athletic Training program. Mr. Yacoub has been a long-time supporter of the College, with his network of South Florida rehabilitation centers serving as clinical training sites for FIU Physical Therapy and Athletic Training students.

NEXT HORIZON

The Campaign for FIU

The mission of FIU's ambitious Next Horizon \$750,000,000 fundraising campaign is to elevate the university to greater levels of excellence in teaching, research, entrepreneurship and public policy.

Among the campaign's objectives is to increase student scholarships and lessen the financial burden of higher education, giving every student the opportunity to transform their lives and future.

The graduates and educators of FIU are making a real difference in today's world, and helping shape tomorrow's, because of their academic experiences on this campus. From the day we opened our doors as Miami's only public university, FIU students, faculty and alumni have been a mainstay of forward-thinking solutions and an engine of progress for Miami and beyond.

Let's reach the Next Horizon together to enhance educational experiences, optimize 21st century teaching, accelerate research, and escalate discovery to enterprise so we can advance vibrant and healthy communities everywhere.

WE ARE FUELED BY INTELLECT; DRIVEN BY INNOVATION AND CARING



Leadership and faculty of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

The faculty and staff of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences have contributed greatly to the many important strides in program excellence this past academic year. Through their dedication we can provide students with high-quality academic health programs that address the culturally diverse healthcare needs of South Florida and the nation. These professionals embody the mission, vision and values of the College in everything they do and with every student they support.



Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Staff



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