Students who are interested in the sciences and desire to make a difference in human lives will find that health care fields offer excellent opportunities for meaningful careers. The Nutritional Sciences ALLIED HEALTH program is the gateway for admission to professional schools related to health care, in preparation for careers such as pharmacist, physician’s assistant, physical therapist, occupational therapist, radiology technician, nursing and other related careers. Prerequisite courses required for admission to these professional schools are included in the Allied Health program requirements. While some health-related professional schools do not require a bachelor’s degree for admission, students are strongly encouraged to earn a baccalaureate degree to maximize their future career opportunities.

Apparel Design & Production

The fast-paced, exciting and ever-changing global apparel industry requires a constant flow of ideas and expertise within industries that design and manufacture various sewn products. The APPAREL DESIGN AND PRODUCTION program facilitates development of skills related to information analysis, project management and work force as well as leadership qualities and decision-making expertise. Students complete a professional internship as part of the program. Benefits include good starting salaries, rapid advancement, travel, diverse employment opportunities and a variety of interesting tasks each day.

Child & Family Services

The CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES program prepares students for careers that involve services and leadership to children, youth, adults and families. The coursework focuses on individual development, family dynamics and interaction, policy and law, family life education and professional skills. Students develop critical thinking skills, assessment and analytical skills and knowledge of human behavior across the lifespan. A professional internship experience prepares students to compete in the job market effectively. Graduates have increasing career opportunities in urban areas and professional positions in government agencies focused on at-risk groups. Many students attend graduate school (in human development and family science, therapy/counseling, social work, law school, medical school or allied health).

Community Nutrition

The COMMUNITY NUTRITION program offers a broad view of the growing and changing field of nutrition and wellness. Elective courses allow students to choose courses related to personal career interests. Chemical and biological sciences and food and nutrition courses provide a strong foundation for understanding and developing solutions to community food, nutrition and wellness problems. Some students choose elective courses for international nutrition work. Others major in food and community-based employment opportunities that allow them to make positive impacts through a Cooperative Extension Service, schools or public health organizations.

Dietetics

The field of DIETETICS involves an exciting blend of scientific knowledge and people skills. Registered Dietitians (RDs) apply their knowledge of nutrition, foods, management, counseling and chemical and biological sciences in a wide variety of settings. They work in hospitals, food service operations, community agencies, senior centers, food companies, schools, consulting roles and related careers. RDs often secure entry-level salaries in the $35,000 - $50,000 range. The job market for RDs is projected to grow in the coming years.

Early Childhood Education

Students in EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) learn to meet the educational and developmental needs of young children. A career in ECE provides opportunities to touch the lives of hundreds of children. Upon completion of the Teacher Preparation Program, graduates are certified to teach prekindergarten through third grade in Oklahoma. The facilities include a model teaching classroom and the Cleo L. Craig Child Development Laboratory, an inclusive program for children ages 2 months through 5 years. Students complete a professional internship (student teaching) and additional field experiences during the program.

Family and Consumer Sciences Education

The FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES field of study combines aspects of both social and natural sciences in one academic field. Courses in the program cover consumer sciences, nutritional sciences, parenting, personal finance, resource management, human (including child) development, family science, housing and interior design, textiles, apparel design and production, hospitality management and related subjects. Two primary career opportunities are teaching Family and Consumer Sciences in secondary schools and serving as county extension educators with the Cooperative Extension Service. Students complete a professional internship as preparation for employment either in secondary teaching or with the Cooperative Extension Service.

Hotel and Restaurant Administration

The School of HOTEL AND RESTAURANT ADMINISTRATION has been known for 75 years as a program of distinction in preparing students for an array of careers in the hospitality industry, a dynamic field offering diverse career opportunities. Students learn through meaningful instruction, quality laboratories, leadership opportunities, major hospitality events, supervised industry work experiences and professional internships. The school operates a fine dining and a quick-service restaurant and has an experiential lab in an 81-room on-campus hotel. Learning is hands-on and provides a management-focused bridge between the classroom and professional experience in the hospitality industry.

Human Nutrition/Pre-Medical Sciences

Nutrition plays an essential role in human health. The HUMAN NUTRITION/pre-mediscience is a science-oriented program that prepares students to enter professional programs in the medical field or to research emerging nutrition questions while pursuing advanced degrees. The curriculum also provides opportunities to develop the critical thinking and people skills needed to be successful in challenging fields. Laboratory courses provide hands-on opportunity to apply classroom theory and develop analytical skills. Students take prerequisite courses required for admission to health-related professional schools in preparation for careers in dentistry, medicine and optometry.

Interior Design

Students interested in how spaces inside commercial buildings and residences are planned and how that planning affects human behavior found INTERIOR DESIGN to be a perfect fit. Students learn how to identify and address functional requirements in a variety of building types, including residences, hotels, restaurants, retail stores, galleries and showrooms, offices and other spaces. Courses focus on physical dimensions, which include space requirements, human factors, and codes and regulations. Other courses address the psychological dimension affected by design elements such as color, scale, proportion and balance. Technical skills include rendering as well as the most up-to-date computer technology enabling students to present design solutions to real clients and to complete a professional internship with practicing professionals.

Merchandising

The apparel, interiors and textiles industries contribute to more than $3 trillion in global revenue annually and provide millions of unique and exciting employment opportunities. Successful merchandising professionals gain an appreciation for the multicultural world and the delicate balance of the soft goods industry makes to the global economy. The MERCHANDISING program prepares students for careers in buying, forecasting, sales analysis and management in retail environments. It provides an understanding of the consumer’s perspective and the importance of design, price, and quality for the successful merchandising of goods in retail and wholesale industries.

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