One college. One community.

Embracing opportunity.

NIU College of Health and Human Sciences

What you’ll find here is a community of pursuers. People that welcome one another, motivate each other to think beyond the next step, and understand the value of digging deeper. Our students come from all walks of life; and our faculty helps them find a path for getting where they want to go — from health care to hospitality to entrepreneurship. Individual experiences bring people here. And that’s exactly what they get once they’re here. Making sure each student’s education is customizable, connective and community-driven will always be at the heart of everything we do. Where will your path take you?
We believe stepping outside your comfort zone is the first step toward uncovering what you’re made of. That’s why we push you to try new things, take on challenges and lead with a purpose to achieve more than you’ve ever imagined.

Across every school in the College of Health and Human Sciences, your education will take you beyond the classroom and in the field. With state-of-the-art clinics and labs, a student-run restaurant, hands-on internships and student organizations, we provide the experiential learning you need to impact lives on day one of your career.
Experience the value of personalized learning.

Caring for others isn’t just a job — it’s personal. The education here is designed to reflect that. At the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, you’ll work with real patients in the local community at our state-of-the-art wellness center, coordinate research alongside our experienced faculty, and prepare yourself for a future of helping people live happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

The base of well-being.

We offer a Bachelor of Science degree to undergraduate students in Communicative Disorders. In this program, you’ll study the development of speech, language and hearing, and build a foundation for careers in human services, education and health care. These studies will also help you take the next step in your education by preparing you for our graduate programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

Advance while giving back.

Becoming an audiologist or speech-language pathologist and working in hospitals, universities and research institutes starts here. Our graduate programs will immerse you within the profession and make you an expert in the field. Our programs also will help you grow as an individual while giving back to the community.

True-to-life training.

Equipped with a cutting-edge balance and motion analysis system, students work with patients to evaluate and treat impairments in the Physical Therapy Clinic. Alongside experienced, licensed professionals in the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, students conduct research and deliver comprehensive diagnostic assessments and treatment to local residents.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
Communicative Disorders (B.S.)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Audiology (M.A.), Audiology (Au.D.)
Speech-Language Pathology (M.A.)
Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
Child Care. Career Growth.
Along with award-winning child care, the Child Development and Family Center provides students with experiential learning and in-class observation opportunities.

School of Family and Consumer Sciences

Develop skills for life.
As an undergraduate in the Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) program, you’ll learn the essentials of human development and family systems, and the profound effect they have upon each other throughout a person’s life. Your coursework will give you the opportunity to focus in family and individual development, family social services, or child development. Find your future in areas like early childhood education, social services for children and families, and human services such as mental health.

Our graduate program in Applied Human Development and Family Sciences (AHDFS) delivers the clinical training, faculty-mentored research and specializations you need to become a marriage and family therapist, or take on advanced roles in the growing field of elder services. AHDFS alumni have gone on to have successful careers at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center, Rush University Medical Center and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Undergraduate Programs
- Human Development and Family Studies (B.S.)
- Hospitality and Tourism Management (B.S.)
- Fashion Merchandising (B.S.)

Graduate Programs
- Applied Human Development and Family Sciences (M.S.)
  - Marriage and Family Therapy (M.S.)
  - Leadership in Aging Studies (M.S.)

Experience at the highest value.
In the Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) program, your education will match your passion for taking care of others. Through extensive management training at our student-run restaurant, a mentorship program pairing you with a professional in the industry, and internships in Chicago, Milwaukee and beyond, you’ll gain the personal skills and connections needed to create top-line experiences throughout your career. With an HTM degree, you’ll have the opportunity to become an event and meeting planner, work in human resources, or establish a career in the restaurant and commercial food industry.

Impactful learning.
Impacting lives.
A personal touch can go a long way — from helping someone embrace who they are, to elevating experiences, to guiding people throughout their lives. Here at the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, our faculty is dedicated to helping you uncover your personal strengths so you can make a personal impact on others throughout your career.

Inner vision. Deeper focus.
Our Fashion Merchandising program will teach you how to build your inner vision into a vibrant future. Your coursework will not only help you learn the technological tools for bringing your ideas to life — from Photoshop to Illustrator to InDesign — it will give you a deep understanding of the social, psychological and cultural factors that drive the fashion industry. And with our experienced faculty teaching you about the industry — from textile science to merchandising promotion to fashion e-commerce — you’ll graduate with the skills to become a product development designer, retail entrepreneur, merchandise coordinator and more.
Lead the way forward.

This is where registered dieticians and leaders of organizations improving the health and safety of individuals around the world learn. We offer graduate programs in Nutrition and Dietetics, and Public Health. Both nationally accredited. Both providing the hands-on, next-level learning needed to lead hospitals and other health care organizations in the pursuit of a healthier future.

Dietetic leadership.

Our Dietetic Internship puts students alongside professional dieticians and preceptors. In medical clinics, schools and other community sites, students work to develop skills in lifecycle and community nutrition, medical nutrition therapy, and food service management.

School of Health Studies

Whole health.

In the Medical Laboratory Sciences program, your education will take you into the world of scientifically evaluating and analyzing medical samples — critical to health preservation and disease diagnosis, treatment and monitoring. Upon graduation, your degree will pave the way for careers in research labs, environmental testing laboratories, infection control and more.

The Nutrition and Dietetics program focuses on the relationship between nutrition, health maintenance, disease prevention and other health factors. You’ll learn how to treat and combat disease through nutrition for individuals, families and communities. This degree opens the door for a number of careers in community agencies, schools and corporate wellness, and prepares you for our graduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Our Public Health program provides the opportunity to focus your studies in many different areas. Through extensive coursework and practical internships, you’ll gain the invaluable skills needed for helping individuals, communities and populations become healthier and safer. A degree in Public Health gives you the tools needed to pursue careers in general public health, health administration and more, along with our Public Health graduate program.

Undergraduate Programs

| Medical Laboratory Sciences (B.S.) |
| Nutrition, Dietetics and Wellness (B.S.) |
| Public Health (B.S.) |

Graduate Programs

| Nutrition and Dietetics (M.S.) |
| Public Health (M.S.) |

The health care industry offers numerous services to individuals and communities. Here, we cover three of its most important sectors. The School of Health Studies (SHS) consists of three programs: Medical Laboratory Sciences, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Public Health. As an SHS student, you’ll learn from experienced faculty, work in real-life atmospheres and become a leading factor in the health of others.
School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions

The heart of health careers.

Our undergraduate programs in Rehabilitation and Disability Services, and Health Sciences are flexible so you can customize your education and excel in numerous health-related fields. This is where you’ll study the connections between health occupations and outcomes, gain specialized knowledge in disabilities and counseling, and prepare yourself for graduate programs.

You could be looking for a prerequisite foundation for heading into fields like medical laboratory science, physical therapy or nursing. Or you may be aiming to take your career to the next level to become a certified specialist or pursue a health-related leadership position. No matter where you’re looking to go, the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions (SIHP) will help you get there. More than 95 percent of our Rehabilitation Counseling graduates start working within six months of graduation — in careers ranging from job placement specialist to substance abuse counselor to life-care planner.

Turn your ambition into accomplishment.

In the world of health care, there are many paths. No matter which one you choose to take, having a strong educational foundation is key. The SIHP is designed to help you achieve and further your unique goals and interests, give you the opportunity to gain specialized knowledge and skills, and prepare you for numerous rewarding careers in helping others reach their maximum potential.

Food for thought.

Developed by Melani Duffrin, the FoodMASTER program uses food as a tool to teach mathematics and science to all ages. Now in its second decade of work, FoodMASTER is helping the SIHP elevate STEM education.
Purposeful practice.

As an undergraduate in the School of Nursing, you’ll have the opportunity to apply the theory, research and knowledge you learn beyond the classroom. Along with state-of-the-art labs, our Nursing program has more than 230 regional health care partners, giving you the hands-on experience that the real world requires. We also have special study groups and renowned organizations — such as the Student Nurses Organization — helping maximize your education at NIU. After graduation, your skill set will qualify you for careers in direct and indirect patient care; and you'll be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN, where our first-time pass rate exceeds the state and national average.

You can take your studies to the next level with our convenient online graduate programs. Both offer the chance for specializing in particular areas of nursing and the convenience of continuing your education at a full- or part-time pace. Students in our graduate programs have gone on to excel as nurse practitioners, educators and health care leaders at top hospitals and organizations across the country.

Learn to lead.

Nursing is hands-on, fast-paced and stretches across all types of environments. The School of Nursing is no different. Our accomplished faculty will not only teach you, they’ll challenge your critical thinking skills and put you to the test in our three cutting-edge nursing labs. All to make you a leader in delivering the care patients need.
Military Science

Open to all eligible full-time students, our Military Science program is one of the best in the country — focusing on improving personal values and leadership skills. ROTC cadets participate in labs, physical fitness and field training exercises; and have the opportunity to earn scholarships, tuition and housing waivers, and monthly stipends. If you’re interested in serving as a U.S. Army officer or becoming a stronger leader in your life and for your future career, the Military Science program is right for you.

Gerontology

The Gerontology program immerses students in the study of health and aging. Composed of an expert faculty from 12 NIU departments, this program enables students to not only learn about health and aging, but truly understand it through experiential coursework. A minor or certificate in Gerontology will prepare you for careers in aging services, such as nurse case manager, life enrichment coordinator and psychiatric social worker.

Deafness

Our minor in Deafness teaches students American Sign Language (ASL) — an invaluable asset if you’re pursuing a career in special education, speech-language pathology or audiology. Being fluent in ASL will not only empower you to better work with deaf individuals, it will allow you to connect with them on a personal level.

Take your education further.

At the College of Health and Human Sciences, there are numerous opportunities to build on your degree. Whether you’re looking to hone life skills, add a specialty or simply pursue a topic of interest, we have something for you.
Take the first step.

Attend an open house
Immerse yourself in the lives of NIU Huskies at one of our open houses. You’ll take a tour, attend presentations, learn about our programs and connect with other students just like you.

Register for a campus visit
Whether you’re an incoming freshman or looking to transfer, a campus visit can help you decide if NIU is the right fit. You’ll have the chance to talk with current students, hear from professors and tour the campus. We even have Transfers Get Information Fridays.

Schedule a personal tour
Take a tour that’s centered around you and your personal interests. A student ambassador or faculty member will show you around campus, introduce you to the people you need to meet and answer all of the burning questions you have.

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Your path starts here.