



For Immediate Release
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Salus University Offers Pennsylvania College Students Pathways to Top Jobs



Elkins Park, Pa. — Salus University recently signed articulation agreements that will benefit Pennsylvania college students who want to pursue several in-demand healthcare professions. The partnerships give qualified undergraduate students special consideration for admission, including reserved seats, under the new agreements with Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania, and Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

Offering a direct pathway for admission into the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus, under the agreement with Misericordia, students can complete a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree in four years.

Along with the flexibility of a variety of settings in which to practice, the optometry profession had a median annual pay of more than \$115,000 in 2019 as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In addition to a six-figure income, however, the highlight of the agreement is the unique learning and clinical experiences offered at PCO, according to **Melissa Trego, OD '04, Resident '09, PhD**, dean of PCO/Salus.

“Whether it be for the return on investment, earning potential, early clinical exposure, feedback from alumni and employers or learning collaborations, PCO/Salus prepares students to be the type of clinicians who are ready for anything,” Dr. Trego said. “When students choose to be educated at PCO/Salus, they are choosing a program that will expose them to a diversification of patient conditions – early and often.”

Salus has also finalized a series of articulation agreements with Chestnut Hill College (CHC), allowing students who meet the admissions requirements to earn advanced degrees from Salus University’s Occupational Therapy (OT), Physician Assistant (PA) Studies or Blindness and Low Vision Studies (BLVS) programs in two years. Additional degree pathways offered under the agreements between Salus and CHC include a four-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree or Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree.

The partnership comes at a time when federal labor projections show six of the top 15 occupations with the most job growth through 2029 will be in healthcare professions. In fact, the BLS predicts a 31 percent increase in demand for physician assistant (PA) jobs between 2019 and 2029 with the average annual wage reported at \$112,000 in 2019.

“The partnership with Chestnut Hill College will help students enter into a career in any of these fields, offering job stability as well as flexibility and satisfaction, all while helping to improve the lives of others,” Monica Scirrotto, MS, director of Admissions at Salus, said. “In today’s uncertain times, employment in healthcare is expected to continue to grow much faster than average with increasing salaries. It is an opportune time to establish these new agreements, which will enable students to achieve their academic and professional goals.”

Salus partners with colleges and universities on a local, regional and national scale to offer specialized opportunities to students who want to accelerate their academic careers in health science.

For more information on the agreements or any of the University’s academic partnerships, contact the Office of Admissions at 215.780.1305 or visit www.salus.edu/admissions.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.