



# Salus at Drexel University

## A Brief History

Salus at Drexel University continues a more than century-long legacy beginning in Philadelphia when our founding college, the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), was established.

Today, the University offers professional, graduate and certificate programs to more than 1,200 students, both on-campus and around the globe, with a network of more than 14,000 alumni worldwide.



## 1919

PCO welcomes its first class of 33 students at 1809 Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia.



## 1932

PCO's growth requires a move to a large, 32-acre campus in the Oak Lane section of the city.



## 1983

PCO is the first college to offer graduate degree and certificate programs in Blindness and Low Vision.



## 2000

The PCO School of Audiology is founded by Dr. George S. Osborne.



## 2005

Pennsylvania College of Optometry applies to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for university status.

## 1923

PCO is the first school of optometry in the United States to award a Doctor of Optometry degree.



## 1978

The Eye Institute (TEI) opens.



## 1998

The college moves to an 11.5 acre main campus in the Philadelphia suburb of Elkins Park.



## 2004

The Pennsylvania Ear Institute (PEI) - the clinical practice for the Osborne College of Audiology - opened.





# 2007

The Physician Assistant Studies (PA) degree program is established.



# 2012

The Occupational Therapy (OT) program welcomes its first class.



# 2015

The Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program welcomes its first class and opens its clinical facility, the Speech-Language Institute.



# 2018

TEI celebrates 40 years of service to the Oak Lane community while Salus University celebrates its 10th anniversary as a multidisciplinary institution.



# 2019

Salus University launches a Post-baccalaureate in Health Sciences program.



# 2022

The Orthotics and Prosthetics program officially launches.

# 2008

PCO is granted university status and Salus University is born.



# 2013

The University community welcomes Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE, as its sixth president.



# 2016

The Post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy is established.



# 2019

PCO celebrates its centennial anniversary.



# 2020

The Occupational Therapy Institute (OTI), a student-led clinic, opens to new patients and community partnerships.



# 2023

Salus signs an agreement to merge with Drexel University, launching phase 1 on June 30, 2024.



\*Pending USED and third-party approvals.