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Salus, USciences Sign Agreements Providing Additional Pathways to Healthcare Professions and Services

Elkins Park, Pa. – Together, Salus University and University of the Sciences have announced three new partnership agreements that enable USciences students to pursue a clear pathway to Salus University’s Doctor of Audiology or Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree. The Eye Institute of Salus University has also established an on-site optometric clinical site at USciences for their students, faculty and staff.

Salus President Michael H. Mittelman, OD, MPH, and USciences President Paul Katz, MD, finalized the agreements on **Thursday, May 16, 2019**, at a **signing ceremony and ribbon cutting** at University of the Sciences’ University City campus.

“USciences is proud to offer additional promising avenues for our students to pursue their interests and careers in healthcare,” said USciences Provost Peter Miller.

“Expanding our partnership with Salus University will provide our highly motivated students more opportunities to impact patients.”

These three new agreements are in addition to previous agreements to fast track USciences students to Salus University’s Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) to pursue Doctor of Optometry degrees. Through this program and agreement with Salus/PCO, 25 seats are reserved for eligible USciences students who meet the requirements.

Eligible USciences students can also apply to the Doctor of Audiology program (AuD) in Salus University's Osborne College of Audiology (OCA), the first and only stand-alone college of audiology in the country. After completing three years of a prescribed Bachelor of Science degree curriculum, USciences students who complete coursework with acceptable grades and comply with other admissions requirements will be considered for four priority seats to the Salus AuD program.

The two Universities also signed an agreement to allow USciences' students who complete all four years of their bachelor's degree to apply to the AuD program with priority status.

The Salus University Osborne College of Audiology curriculum is a four-year residential program that prepares graduates to diagnose, treat, and manage patients with hearing and balance disorders.

The third agreement between the Greater Philadelphia area institutions allows USciences' students in the pre-physician assistant studies program to enter Salus' Physician Assistant Studies Masters of Medical Science Degree program upon graduation. In order to qualify, USciences applicants will have earned a bachelor's degree in pre-physician assistant studies, maintained a 3.7 GPA and completed the required examinations along with other admissions requirements. Three seats in each class will be reserved for eligible USciences students.

In addition to the agreements, Salus has established an optometric clinical space on USciences' Philadelphia campus to offer comprehensive eye exams, contact lens fitting and dispensing services that are of benefit to USciences' undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff and their families at no cost to the patient. The clinic is comprised of three new, fully-equipped exam rooms, a pre-screening area and a contact lens dispensing area, located in the Physician Assistant Studies Suite in the Integrated Professional Education Complex on the USciences campus.

"We're very excited to be partnering with USciences for this on-campus optometry clinic," said John Gaal, Vice President of Clinical Operations at Salus. "Being able to provide comprehensive vision care, especially contact lens exams and fittings, to the students, faculty and staff at USciences will provide great additional experience for our students."

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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, Public Health, 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.

About University of the Sciences

University of the Sciences has prepared students to be leaders and practitioners in the healthcare and science fields for nearly 200 years. Key to its distinctive education is a tradition of hands-on research and experiential learning that is evident in every graduate who has walked its campus. Since its founding in 1821 as Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the first college of pharmacy in North America, USciences has grown to more than 30 degree-granting programs from bachelor's through doctoral degrees in the health sciences, bench sciences, and healthcare business and policy fields. Discover how USciences students are proven everywhere they go at usciences.edu.