UF PHHP

State of the College

September 4, 2025

Bottom Line

- The college is strong.
- We have systematically worked and grown across all missions.
- We have much to be proud of and are well positioned for future growth and success.

We set broad goals

- **Celebrate and grow** our educational offerings.
- Help research **thrive.**
- **Reward and celebrate** excellence.
- Leverage the college's strengths to **help all.**

Celebrate and grow our undergraduate educational offerings

- Removal of limited access (Fall 2025)
- Update undergraduate curriculum to be a full 4-year curriculum
  - Health Professions
  - Applied Brain Science
  - Rehabilitation
- Grow undergraduate student support
- Grow undergraduate teaching faculty

Celebrate and grow our undergraduate educational offerings

- Increase ways to draw undergraduate students into college programs.
  - Minors:

New:
- Health Professions
- Applied Brain Science
- Rehabilitation
- Health Administration

Existing:
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Deaf and Hearing Sciences
- Public Health

  - Certificates:

New:
ASL/Deaf Culture

Existing:
Artificial Intelligence in Public Health and Healthcare

In Progress:
Biostatistics

College Summary

Undergraduate Outcomes

- High graduation rates
  - 2025- 98.53%
  - 2024- 97.84%
- Increased enrollment
  - 2025- 1,775 students
  - 2024- 1,623 students
- Increased undergraduate student credit hours
  - 20,371 in CY24 up from 19,451 in CY23

Graduate and Professional students

- Liscensure pass rates:
  - OTD- 100%
  - PT- 98.7%
  - CHP- 100%
  - SLHS- 95% (SLP), 91% (AuD)
- Job placement:
  - MHA- 100%
  - OTD- 100%
  - PT- 100%
  - CHP- 100% (internship match)
  - SLHS- 100% (CSD), 91% (AuD)
- Numbers of graduates
  - DPT- 71
  - OTD- 53
  - MHA- 19
  - CHP- 17
- OTD program
  - #9 nationally, #3 among public
- MHA #1 in Florida

Student Success & Wellness

- Expanded student support
  - Research engagement
  - Experiential learning
  - Career/postgraduate prep

- UPTurn Wellness Program
  - Free, multi-session coaching by CHP doctoral students
    - Strong student adoption
    - Positive outcomes

Accreditation

- 5 accreditation site visits in the last year
  - Renewed:
    - Speech-Language Pathology (12/24)
    - Audiology (12/24)
    - DPT (4/25)
  - Pending Notification:
    - PhD Clinical Psychology
    - Clinical Psychology Internship (APA)

Excellence in teaching quality

- Faculty members with student course evaluation scores of 4.8 or higher
    - Fall 2024 / Spring 2025
    - 77 faculty members scored 4.8 or higher
    - 33 faculty members scored 4.8 or higher in multiple courses in a semester
    - 26 faculty members scored 4.8 or higher in both semesters
- Faculty support for PHHP days
    - Faculty mentoring student presenters- 102
    - Faculty helping with the event- 37

Research

- **Expenditures:** $44.6M FY25 (vs. $48.6M FY24)
- **Grants received:** $46.1M FY25 (vs. $46.5M FY24)
- **Grants submitted:**
  - Led by PHHP faculty: 270
  - Involved in **574** unique proposals worth over **$307 million**

Research

- **Blue Ridge Ranking**
  - 11th among public schools of public health
    - Ahead of Berkeley & UCLA
- **Research Innovation Fund**
  - 3 awards ($57,893) in FY25
  - 11 faculty supported to date
    - 5 secured major grants

Leverage combined strengths

AI

- AI integration into curriculum and grant proposals
  - New Graduate Certificate in Public Health AI (Spring 2026)
- AI workgroup of 8 core faculty
  - 364 subscribers
  - Tools expanded for recruiting and research
  - DAISY conference
    - 2025 event:
      - **Date**: October 24, 2025, 12-4pm
      - **Keynote Speaker**: Dr. Junshui Ma, Associate VP for AI and Head of Biometrics Research, Merck
        - Experts Panel and UF Rising Star Talk
      - **Location:** McKnight Brain Institute Room- LG 101A and Zoom

Leverage combined strengths

Strategic Initiatives

- Presidential priorities:
  - 2024:
    - Agriculture and landscape worker health and safety
    - AI applications for pediatric neuro-medicine
  - 2025:
    - Global food safety
    - Aging in place pilots (6)
    - Neuroscience-Biostatistics/Epidemiology faculty recruitment

Celebrating Faculty Excellence

- David Sackett Trial of the Year from Society for Clinical Trials led by **John Kairalla**
- Early Career Biostatistician Award from AACR/ASCO -- **Tuo Lin**
- President of ASA -- **Ji-Hyun Lee**
- Fellow of the American college of Medical Informatics -- **Mattia Prosperi**
- NIEHS Paper of the Year-- **Ashley Malin**
- ASHA Editors Award -- **Charles Ellis & Molly Jacobs**
- UF Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars -- **Mark Bishop**
- APTA Lucy Blair Service Award -- **Kim Dunleavy**
- APTA Eugine Michaels New Investigator Award -- **Federico Pozzi**
- American Physiological Society Julius Comroe Distinguished Lectureship -- **David Fuller**

College Summary

Promotion and Tenure

Dr. Steve Foti

Clinical Associate Professor

Biostatistics

Dr. Karen Hegland

Professor

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Dr. John Kairalla

Research Professor

Biostatistics

College Summary

Promotion and Tenure

Dr. Yulia Strekalova

Associate Professor with tenure

HSRMP

Dr. Krishna Vaddiparti

Clinical Associate Professor

Epidemiology

Dr. Ashby Walker

Associate Professor with tenure

HSRMP

Promotion and Tenure

Dr. Catherine Price

Professor

Clinical & Health Psychology

Dr. Federico Pozzi

Associate Professor with tenure

Physical Therapy

Dr. Rebecca Willcocks

Research Associate Professor

Physical Therapy

New Faculty

Abigail Waters

Clinical Assistant Professor

Clinical and Health Psychology

Daniel Acosta Gandur

Clinical Assistant Professor

Environmental and Global Health

Yuhan Mou

Clinical Assistant Professor

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

Caroline Waddell

Assistant Professor

Environmental & Global Health

Zhigang (Shay) Xie

Assistant Professor

Health Services Research, Management & Policy

Breanna Howell

Clinical Assistant Professor

Occupational Therapy

Chien-Te (Vince) Wu

Associate Professor

Occupational Therapy

Jose Reyes III

Clinical Assistant Professor

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Sharon Medina

Clinical Assistant Professor

Occupational Therapy

Abigail Shonrock

Clinical Assistant Professor

Clinical & Health Psychology

New Staff

Biostatistics

Timothy Jones, Accounting Specialist

Leyna Xoi, Data Management Analyst II

Clinical & Health Psychology

Vincent Wiggins, Fiscal Assistant II

Denise Wesley, Clinical Services Representative II

Shania Tarver, Clinical Programs Coordinator I

Alyssa Pavek, Research Coordinator I

Blair Lawson, Academic Program Specialist II

Kevin Iversen, Research Coordinator I

Physical Therapy

Amber Kelly, Fiscal Assistant II

Edward Serocki, Clinical Research Assistant

Oneema Kamal, Research Technician

Alexa Harris, Research Technician

New Staff

College Administration

Erin Jester, Writer

Lisa McNeil, Academic Program Specialist I

Jessica McCranie Peters, Administrative Assistant II

Delonda Henderson, Administrative Specialist I

Janet Ali, Human Resources Generalist II

Guiomar Sapi, Fiscal Assistant II

Lauren McDonald, Academic Advisor I

Charinya Mongkhonsri, Academic Program Specialist I

Environmental & Global Health

Julienne NeSmith, Research Coordinator II

Katie Murphy James, Administrative Assistant III

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Sara Russ, Academic Program Specialist I

Mariah Beard, Administrative Assistant III

New Staff

Epidemiology

Bia Myung Whipp, Data Management Analyst I

Evan Nipper, Administrative Assistant II

Kendra Theis, Administrative Assistant II

Suman Pogul, Data Management Analyst I

Herb Brooks, Marketing & Communications Specialist II

Health Services Research, Management & Policy

Alexander Minnick, Academic Assistant II

Megan Kelly, Fiscal Assistant II

Wes Marsh, Program Manager

Occupational Therapy

Sharon Nelson, Administrative Specialist II

Anita Cottrell, Administrative Assistant II

Communication & Infrastructure

- Website consolidation: 22+ merged into college website
  - Increased visibility
  - Consistent branding and language
  - Improved navigation
  - Sunsetting out of date materials

- Creation of faculty and staff resource site
  - Forms
  - Resources/policies

What's ahead for PHHP

We are in a strong position

Growing student cohorts:

- Undergrad
- MPH
- MHA
- OTD
- DPT
- Certificates and minors

We are planning on more education-related growth

- Planned or in progress:
  - MHA for executives
  - Expansion of EGH course offerings
  - Combined degrees
  - Exploring masters in counseling
  - UF+QM star ratings for all online courses
  - Using the Undergraduate experience as a platform for recruiting top students into college graduate programs.

NIH and federal changes are stressful

- Greatest impact to date:
  - Loss of funding from USAID, DTRA, etc.
  - 2 NIH grants (PHHP prime) received termination notices. 1 successfully appealed, 1 terminated because funding mechanism was sunsetted
  - Several grants (non-PHHP prime) restored. Replacement funding secured, etc.
- Some proposals have been rejected before review
  - PAs sunsetted
- Many proposals were scored and are waiting in queue for funding decisions
- Resources created to respond to NIH questions/inquiries with annual review
  - Template for appeal
  - Responses reviewed by Deans Virnig & Fuller strategic and complete
  - Strategy for aligning/realigning grants with administration emphasis

We will continue to do work that furthers science and our professions and promotes health.

- Diversify funding
  - Not just NIH–
    - DOD, PCORI, State of Florida, contracts, etc.
    - International funding opportunities
      - EU Horizon, Gates, etc.
- Reframe projects so they aren't flagged as being counter to administration priorities.
- Continue development of research supports.

Prepare for the next UF campaign

- College goals will reflect ongoing strategies around promoting mission-related work
- Departments will have individual goals but will also have identified areas for cross-college and cross-university collaboration
- We will fit into a larger UF vision
  - This will include some aspect of AI
  - Possibly robotics

Leverage our collective strengths

- Collaborative efforts:
  - Child health and development, Autism
  - Aging, healthy aging, aging in place
  - Neuroscience, mild cognitive impairment
  - AI, healthcare related data, combining data sources
  - Low enrollment, high value courses/offerings that benefit multiple groups of students

Leverage our collective strengths

- Strengthen our centers
  - 9 college centers
  - Each center underwent structured internal review
  - Able to anticipate FLOGE focus
  - Support “centerness”
    - Focus
    - Effectiveness
    - Reach

Operational efficiency to leverage our collective strengths

- Shared resources
- Planned cross-department backups
- Balancing similar work with unit-specific needs
- CEPH 3-year self-study period just started
- In response to growing pressures
  - Growing requirements and earlier deadlines put pressure on existing systems
  - Changes in central processes

Continue to grow our faculty

- Neuro/Epi-Biostats hires
- OT chair search
- RDDC
- Clinical care for child psychology
- Food safety
- Primary teaching faculty
- Expect one or more chair searches
- We will continue to grow to meet strategic needs
  - Where the field is going
  - Maintain capacity

There are unknowns

- Remote/hybrid work
- IDC rates and federal budget

Why didn't I mention money (much)?

- Personal philosophy
  - Money isn't a goal but a way to support goals
  - It isn't the money but what we do with it
  - Let's not let the **$$** distract us
    - This is not to say that money is unlimited though
- Focus is not needed
  - We are financially strong
  - All departments are in an equal or stronger position than they were a year ago
  - Everyone is pursuing strategies to promote mission-focused growth

Going forward

Stay the course

Focus on proactive vs. reactive approaches to managing all aspects of the college and its work

Celebrate our successes, support each other

Try to ignore the noise but listen to what others are saying so we can strategically respond