

2023-2024 Health Equity Scholars Program

Mission: to prepare students at The Ohio State University with advanced education and skills to guide the generation or implementation of evidence to improve health equity in our community

Vision: to build a cadre of future diversity leaders who will have knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes in diverse populations

Purpose: to provide interprofessional undergraduate and graduate students across Ohio State with an opportunity to expand upon their knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes in diverse populations through a lens of equity and inclusion

Read about the impact of our program in the College of Nursing's [Transformative Solutions in Healthcare](#) thought leadership series (June 2023).

[Apply here by September 4](#)

Opportunity/goals

- Build a unique pathway for students across the university to build their portfolio of skills related to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Deepen faculty research/scholarship in diversity, equity and inclusion
- Expand the university's impact on addressing health equity in our community to improve outcomes

Eligibility criteria for health equity scholars

- Undergraduate and graduate/professional students enrolled at any Ohio State campus (any academic major) are eligible to participate; term of scholars: one year
- Students must form an interprofessional team of two **and** have a commitment from an Ohio State faculty member to serve as mentor for this program to participate
- Demonstrated commitment to principles of diversity, equity and inclusion
- Desire to work on a university-supported health equity project, including dissemination of work to be submitted for local, state, national or international paper, poster or podium presentations
- Participate in learning and skills-building activities aligning with the University Strategic Plan

Administrative details of the Health Equity Scholars (HES) program

- Proposals must be interprofessional/transdisciplinary. Students must be from two different academic programs/colleges. No more than two students may participate in a single project. The faculty mentor must agree to mentor both students for a single, collaborative project. Teams consisting of an undergraduate and graduate/professional student are highly encouraged.
- The HES program will support up to 10 students with an annual \$1,500 stipend, each (\$1,000 personal stipend and \$500 to be used toward project-related costs).
- The HES program will support up to five faculty mentors with an annual stipend of \$3,000 each.
 - A copy of the faculty mentor's CV/resume and a signed letter of support must accompany the students' application.
- Administrative oversight by the College of Nursing Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in collaboration with The Ohio State University and Wexner Medical Center Interprofessional Practice and Education Office
- Scholars' work will align with the [University Strategic Plan](#) and [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).
- Evidence-based practice skills and innovation tactics will be provided by the College of Nursing
- This is an extracurricular opportunity. No class credit will be offered.
- All Ohio State faculty are eligible to participate as mentors. Please review criteria for faculty mentors [by clicking here](#).
- The HES program will begin with an orientation the week of September 25, 2023.
- A public presentation of work at the end of the academic year is a program expectation.
- Students who participate in the Ohio State Health Equity Scholars program are eligible, with their program's permission, to do that in lieu of participating in two of the four Buck-IPE curricular elements (Teams and Teamwork/IP Communication and Anti-Racism in Action as a Personal and Collective Responsibility) and receive credit for completing the Buck-IPE curriculum. For questions about this process, please contact Andrea L. Pfeifle, EdD, PT, FNAP, associate vice chancellor for interprofessional practice and education at andrea.pfeifle@osumc.edu.
- For questions about the application or the HES program, please contact Angela D. Alston, DNP, MPH, APRN-CNP, chief diversity officer in the College of Nursing at alston.22@osu.edu.
 - Support is available to help assist with identifying a faculty mentor. If you require assistance, please reach out to alston.22@osu.edu as soon as possible.

SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH CARESOURCE

The Health Equity Scholars program has an active partnership with CareSource. The nationally-recognized non-profit health plan based in Dayton provides coverage to more than two million members. It has developed several programs that focus on social determinants of health, using a holistic model of care that breaks down barriers of clinical treatment and social qualities that can lead to poorer health outcomes. In working with the CONTEXT team, CareSource will provide

support from its health equity and quality staff, exposure to health equity efforts at the state level and a chance for the team to present its final presentation to CareSource and Ohio Department of Medicaid leadership to further amplify and extend the reach of its work.

Students may submit a special proposal for this partnership opportunity if interested in the following focus areas. The application must discuss why you are interested in working with CareSource as part of the Health Equity Scholars Program, especially in areas of:

- Maternal and infant health
- Chronic medical conditions
- Preventive health and social determinants of health supports
- Behavioral health
- Tobacco cessation

The faculty mentor for the CareSource project is already determined. There is no need to submit information regarding a faculty mentor.

Application instructions

Applications must be submitted by the student using the attached Qualtrics survey by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 4, 2023**. One student is responsible for submitting an application packet on behalf of the team. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be reviewed. Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of their application by September 11, 2023, via email.

How to submit your application

All of the below information is required to submit the application. The application is not able to be saved and must be completed in one setting. You will receive a confirmation email when the survey is submitted.

1. Submit your application directly to the College of Nursing by clicking on [this link](https://go.osu.edu/hesapplication20232024) (go.osu.edu/hesapplication20232024).
2. Provide the name of the submitting student, pronouns, race/ethnicity, Ohio State email address, if you are an undergraduate/graduate student, full or part-time status, college/department, major, Ohio State campus location and expected graduation date.
3. Provide the name of the collaborating student, preferred pronouns, race/ethnicity, Ohio State email address, if they are an undergraduate or graduate student, full or part-time status, college/department, major, Ohio State campus location and expected graduation date.
4. Upload a PDF or word version of the resume or CV for both students.
5. Provide the name of your Ohio State faculty mentor and their Ohio State email address and college/department.
6. Upload a PDF or word version of your Ohio State faculty mentor's CV or resume.
7. Upload a PDF/word version of the signed commitment statement from the faculty mentor. The statement should clearly articulate support of the project and mentoring for both students.

8. Essay (approximately 500 words). It is suggested that you type your response in Word and copy/paste into the survey. Each student is responsible for having a unique essay submitted.
 - a. What inspired you to apply for the Health Equity Scholars program? What do you hope to gain from this program? Please include any relevant health equity/advocacy work that you have participated in and/or are passionate about.
9. Project title and brief project summary (Approximately 2-3 sentences)
10. Upload a preliminary budget for your project (Excel/Word/PDF)
11. Project proposal (approximately 500 words). It is suggested that you type your response in Word and copy/paste into the survey. Please submit one project proposal per application packet.
 - a. All Health Equity Scholars are required to submit the description of a specific project. The project should be an ongoing or potential project that relates to health equity. Scholars will be selected based on a demonstrated commitment to health equity and the potential to lead advocacy activities in the future.
 - b. Please describe how you intend to implement your proposed project and how it will address health equity. Include specific milestones and deliverables.

Please contact Angela D. Alston, DNP, MPH, APRN-CNP, chief diversity officer in the College of Nursing at alston.22@osu.edu with questions.