

3 Points of the Triangle

Please describe how your Department contributes to the 3 Points of the Triangle:

I. **Liberal Arts Foundation** (200-word limit)

The Healthcare Administration (HCA) program operates on a liberal arts education platform that offers students a wide range of analytical, evaluative, critical, creative thinking, and communicative skills. The HCA program is interdisciplinary in nature, covering core disciplines including biology, business, communication, economics, sociology/anthropology, and psychology. This diversity in areas of study, which spans the natural and social sciences as well as humanities, is foundational to a liberal arts education. Students in the HCA program critically engage in social and health related content and methodological techniques to answer questions. These skills elevate classroom interactions and improve students' socio-cultural awareness, which prepares them for leadership positions in healthcare and social/human service-related fields and allows them to navigate the complexities of the healthcare system.

The HCA program also provides students with the opportunity to complete their degree with at least one complementary concentration in Aging; Data Analytics; Healthcare Personnel Management; or Population, Community and Public Health. Each concentration is again interdisciplinary, allowing students a broad liberal arts experience within their area of interest.

II. **Regionally Responsive** (200-word limit)

The HCA program was developed out of a need for healthcare graduates who could fill the growing demands of the healthcare industry in the region. The HCA program has been producing support to our regional health partners by providing interns and graduate employees. Anecdotally and from research, healthcare providers in the valley are facing immense staffing shortages in clinical and administrative roles. As such, having an HCA program to bridge that gap by providing potential employees is critical to the sustenance of our healthcare system in the region. The HCA faculty is responsive to the program's regional commitment by consistently examining curriculum and revising and making changes to fit regional demands.

Final year students participate in a suite of pre-internship, internship, and capstone courses. In the pre-internship classes, students are able to gain healthcare knowledge from regional healthcare leaders. The internship-based experience places students with a regional healthcare

partner organization, providing students with an opportunity to enhance workplace skills through supervised practical experiences related to their healthcare career objectives.

III. Creativity and Innovation (200-word limit)

The HCA program has been on a course of innovation and creativity from its inception. Through the internship programs, our HCA seniors have had the opportunity to research and explore important issues impacting healthcare providers in the valley. These internships have culminated in students writing and presenting their findings to faculty, fellow students and internship organizations during their capstone course. These student-led capstone projects provide new innovative ways to address some challenges healthcare providers are facing. Additionally, students provide new ideas for programs that can not only improve healthcare operations but also have a bigger impact in the community.

HCA faculty also regularly demonstrate innovation by revising the curriculum to respond to new ideas and needs – for example, by adding the aging studies concentration to respond to regional and national demographic trends. Finally, HCA courses themselves demonstrate creativity and innovation in their content.