

CENTER FOR POPULATION HEALTH AND EQUITY

Kansas City University



ABOUT THE CENTER FOR POPULATION HEALTH AND EQUITY

In 2024, Kansas City University (KCU) founded the Center for Population Health and Equity (CPHE), designed to educate students and engage communities in identifying and addressing the social and structural drivers that contribute to health inequities.

The Center engages across four pillars: **Education, Research, Service and Community Outreach**, each critical to the training and development of KCU's future health professionals who will graduate from KCU poised to provide comprehensive patient care locally and across the country.

The CPHE is active on both of the University's two campuses, located in Kansas City and Joplin, Missouri, where significant disparities persist and prevent underserved populations from attaining their full health potential. The CPHE reinforces a commitment to the overall mission of the University: *improving the well-being of the communities we serve.*

Within this structure, service learning principles anchor core initiatives with student volunteer opportunities and experiential learning within the Kansas City and Joplin communities. The goal is to improve health care delivery and transform communities through policy and systemic change.

THE CPHE MISSION

The CPHE builds momentum around understanding and addressing the social factors that impact health within and outside of the traditional health care setting, in partnership with local organizations, to better prepare students to practice osteopathic medicine, clinical psychology and dentistry while *improving the well-being of the communities we serve.*



CPHE INITIATIVES

CPHE initiatives provide opportunities for KCU students across all degree programs to work with community organizations, apply academic knowledge and develop critical thinking skills.

SCORE 1 FOR HEALTH

KCU's flagship preventive health outreach program has served elementary schools in Kansas City and Joplin for more than three decades, providing critical health screenings to more than 11,000 children each year.

STUDENT HEALTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

A cooperative effort between KCU and community organizations designed to remove barriers to care, promote health and identify critical resources for individuals and families by pairing them with KCU students to advance shared goals and help navigate health systems.

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

An initiative designed to address the growing demand for affordable, accessible mental health services and psychological testing among younger students. KCU's clinical psychology doctoral students are placed at public elementary schools to provide psychological assessment administration, scoring, interpretation and report writing under the supervision of school psychologists.

CPHE RESEARCH LAB

A nexus to support student, faculty, staff and community research efforts with an emphasis on the fields of population health, public health, health equity and health policy, including development of the Health of the Heartland Report. In a collaboration with external partners, the report will include case studies on issues impacting the health of urban and rural populations.



ABOUT KCU

Kansas City University was founded in 1916 as one of the nation's five original osteopathic medical schools. Today, KCU is a fully accredited, private, not-for-profit health sciences university strategically located on two campus locations – Kansas City and Joplin, Missouri – to address the growing health needs of both urban and rural populations.

KCU's Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Biosciences and Dental Medicine offer graduate degree programs in osteopathic medicine, clinical psychology, biomedical sciences, dental medicine as well as multiple dual-degree opportunities.

To learn more about KCU, our colleges and academic programs, visit kansascity.edu.

THE KCU MISSION

Kansas City University is a community of professionals committed to excellence in education, research, patient care and community service while:

Improving the well-being of the communities we serve.

THE KCU VISION

Changing health care for good.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
- Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD)
- Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MS)

DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAMS

- DO/MA in Bioethics
- DO/MBA in Health Care Leadership; *in partnership with Rockhurst University*
- DO/MPH in Public Health; *in partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center*
- DMD/MBA in Health Care Leadership; *in partnership with Rockhurst University*
- DMD/MPH in Public Health; *in partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center*