The mission of the College of Health at Lehigh University is to understand, preserve, and improve the health and well-being of populations and communities through excellence and innovation in education, research, and service. This mission includes constant innovation to connect all of our activities to make the greatest impact on improving population health outcomes.

The goals of the College of Health focus on three areas: education; research and scholarship; and service and partnerships. The pursuit of these goals creates an integrated and continuous cycle of learning, research, and impact for the faculty, students, and external partners of the College. Through this approach we constantly innovate and link our activities together to make the greatest impact on population health outcomes.

Education
Leveraging the university’s interdisciplinary strengths and global perspectives, the College offers a rigorous classroom and online curriculum, as well as out-of-the-classroom experiences, to equip students with the skills they need to take advantage of the myriad of opportunities after graduation.

Research
Through creative inquiry and the design and adoption of health technology, the College is advancing research in population health. State-of-the-art resources such as data visualization, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality labs are available to faculty, students, and partners as they conduct cutting-edge research and projects.

Service
Improving the lives of communities (locally and globally) is at the heart of the College of Health’s efforts in preparing the next generation of population health leaders. It is through service learning that theoretical concepts not only come to life but also have an impact on the health of millions around the world.

If not you who? If not now, when?
As of today, the globe and the human race in it are faced with unprecedented challenges. We, as Population Health practitioners, have the choice to 1) do nothing; 2) contribute to worsening the issues; or 3) become an agent of improvement.

The College of Health welcomes its first cohort of students in the Fall of 2020 and becomes Lehigh’s 5th college and the nation’s first institution to offer an undergraduate degree and certificate programs in population health with a focus on health innovation and technology. The launch of the new College of Health comes at an exciting time during which leaders in health care, academia, government, and industry are thinking more broadly about the concept of “health.” The program combines courses in population health with foundation courses in mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences and computer science. Students gain knowledge and skills through coursework, experiential learning opportunities, research projects and engagement with traditional and nontraditional partners in pursuit of a healthier world. Certificate programs in Population Health (16-17 credits) and Global Population Health (14-16 credits) complement undergraduate studies and prepare students to learn and apply introductory-level Population Health concepts and methodology.

Many students who pursue a BS in Population Health or certificate programs in the College of Health plan to continue graduate-level work in a health-related discipline. Pre-health students at Lehigh have the opportunity to major in any area, provided they also complete the prerequisite coursework set forth by the medical, dental, or other professional program in which they are interested. Students interested in attending medical school or other health related school should contact the The Center for Career & Professional Development (https://careercenter.lehigh.edu/) and ask to be enrolled in the Health Professions Advisory Committee Course Site.

Graduate AND EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATION Programs
Beginning in the Fall of 2021, the College of Health will offer graduate programs including a Master of Science in Population Health (MSc), Master of Public Health (MPH), Doctor of Philosophy in Population Health (PhD) and a suite of undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. Executive education programs will be tailored to the needs of working professionals. In addition to onsite programs, graduate students and professionals can take courses and complete certificates and degrees online and through distance education programs.

careers in population Health
As population health is a convergent science, career pathways within this field are extremely abundant and wide-ranging. Alumni from the College of Health may pursue careers in the private sector, nonprofit organizations, or local, state, federal and international governmental institutions, or go on to obtain graduate-level research or clinical training. They may work in fields including epidemiology, medicine, data science, biostatistics, global health, health economics, health policy, community health, health promotion, and health technology and innovation.

For students who are interested in attending a professional graduate school to pursue a career in healthcare, such as Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy, the College of Health has mapped out the undergraduate program to ensure that students who are enrolled in the BS in Population Health are able to complete the pre-health requirements along with the BS in Population Health requirements within four years. Furthermore, students who pursue advanced clinical
degrees after graduation will be well-equipped with the education, experience and skills to address specific population health challenges that exist within health care systems.