

Limestone University



Expanding the Health Professions

Limestone University restructured its academic units to support a commitment to the Health Professions. The College of Education and Health Professions offers on-campus and online degrees through a Department of Behavioral Science, a Department of Education and Kinesiology, a Department of Social Work, and a Department of Nursing and Health Sciences. The Nursing and Health Sciences Department includes degrees in Athletic Training, Health Sciences, Healthcare Administration, and Nursing. The science core courses for Health Professions are offered by the Department of Science and Mathematics under the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. These include opportunities to study Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

The University partnered with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) to provide Limestone students the opportunity to receive a Guaranteed Admissions Interview, as well as take part in an Early Admission Program to VCOM's doctoral-level osteopathic medical college's campus in Spartanburg. This partnership intends to prepare community-focused physicians to meet the needs of rural populations facing physician shortages. Limestone is implementing a similar agreement to provide preferred admission to a Doctor of Pharmacy degree program.

Limestone recently added a Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and will complement this degree with a traditional pre-licensure nursing program allowing students to complete Limestone's Nursing curriculum during their four years at Limestone.

This fall Limestone University will offer a Master of Science in Health Informatics degree. This program will provide students a multidisciplinary curriculum intended to support research-based and experimental learning that will lead to new and growing healthcare professions. The degree combines science and healthcare into several career fields committed to improving the healthcare industry and delivering quality care to patients, no matter the population.

Transforming Campus to Support the Health Professions

To ensure Limestone graduates are prepared to meet the demands of a dynamic healthcare environment, students must have access to clinical experiences and classrooms furnished with specialized equipment. Relocating the current library to the University's new library and student center makes way for builders to coordinate the renovation of the A. J. Eastwood building to support the Health Professions. When renovated, this 13,000 square foot facility will provide the labs, technology, and classrooms necessary to prepare Limestone graduates to enter the healthcare workforce.

Although the University is partnering with Cherokee Medical Center in Gaffney, S.C., to utilize their facilities and create simulation labs within the local hospital, Limestone students will need on-campus access to classrooms and laboratories. Construction consultants have developed plans to retrofit the Eastwood building to accommodate a state-of-the-art Simulation and Learning Center that will house the University's nursing and Master of Science programs. Main floor renovations will construct doctor's offices and home simulator rooms labs, control rooms, and a student lounge. Second floor renovations will generate classrooms, offices, and conference rooms. Ground floor renovations will create a central location for Limestone's testing center. The estimated cost for this basic renovation is \$2.6 million.

Embracing the Challenge

This is a critical moment for education – a time when technology is opening new worlds of knowledge, when faculty are collaborating more with students and with one another, when educators and employers recognize the value of building a continuum between work in the classroom and work in the real world. To meet the growing expectations of today's students and faculty, Limestone's infrastructure must support its increasing academic offerings. With this renovation project, the University builds on its traditions with accessibility and sustainability top of mind: To recruit and retain talented students by providing the resources they need to succeed in their career fields.