coursework in the basic sciences, General Education and specialized areas that prepare graduates for national certification in their fields of study. Department of Health Sciences students must have an aptitude for science and a good working knowledge of chemistry, biology, physiology, math and microbiology.

During the first two years of each undergraduate program, students take prerequisite and General Education courses. Admission into each of the undergraduate programs is a two-step process that includes both admission to Salisbury University and acceptance into the upper-division professional program. Program admission is competitive, and it is highly recommended that students wishing to pursue the degree seek academic advisement early. Information about admission policies can be found within the University’s catalog and on the department website. The last two years comprise the professional core, offering courses in the major with student laboratories accompanied by rotations through clinical facilities. The courses prepare students to practice in laboratory science or respiratory care under the guidance and supervision of professionals during internships in “real-world” environments.

About the Department
The Department of Health Sciences strives to be a leader in the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances the sciences and practice of our integrated health-related disciplines. We build and sustain academic programs that meet current and emergent needs of the health care community.

The Department of Health Sciences is comprised of two undergraduate programs, medical laboratory science and respiratory therapy, and a graduate program in applied health physiology. Each undergraduate program provides

“...there’s nothing better than being given a specimen sample and being able to do a series of tests to figure out a possible diagnosis. I like figuring things out and being able to accomplish something that will help a patient is an incredible feeling.”

— Ellen Williams (Medical Laboratory Science)
now standard protocol: cholesterol testing, drug screening, DNA analysis, microbiological cultures, etc. As the population in the U.S. ages and the capabilities of medical laboratories expand, there is no end in sight for increased demand for medical laboratory services.

The national standard for MLS is a baccalaureate degree that incorporates clinical internships. At SU, after two years of prerequisite courses in basic science areas such as biology and chemistry, upper-level courses are provided in chemical and biological testing related to health and human disease, as well as internships in various hospitals throughout the region. Following completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take national certification examinations which are recognized by medical laboratory employers.

**Being a Respiratory Therapist**

If you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment where your technical and scientific responsibilities will be matched by a real need for human relations skills, the profession of respiratory therapy may be the career you are seeking. Respiratory therapy is a health care specialty that offers a set of unique challenges in the areas of prevention, treatment, management, and rehabilitation of people with diseases of the lungs and cardiovascular system.

As a respiratory care practitioner, you will be involved in a wide variety of life-saving and life-supporting situations. You will work side by side with physicians, nurses and others on the health care team, treating patients ranging in age from newborns to senior citizens. Your expertise will be in demand, and opportunities to expand your knowledge and skills will be great.

In the current job climate, the respiratory care practitioner’s talents are a precious commodity in most medical institutions. In addition, many clinics, nursing homes and home care programs are beginning to realize the potential benefits of having a trained respiratory care practitioner on staff. Coupled with the ever-increasing number of cardiopulmonary disorders diagnosed, these demands ensure that individuals who enter the profession will enjoy good career opportunities.

Students can complete their respiratory therapy coursework in Salisbury on the main campus or at the Universities at Shady Grove, in Rockville, MD.

**Applied Health Physiology**

If you have ever wondered how you could incorporate your passion for studying exercise and human performance as a career, then applied health physiology may be for you. This Master of Science professional degree program is designed to prepare graduate students for employment in a variety of settings that promote health, fitness and wellness (e.g., strength and conditioning, cardiovascular/pulmonary rehabilitation, geriatric centers, youth centers, state and local health departments, and corporate wellness programs). The curriculum emphasizes both theory and practice of theories and ideas related to health and future health.

Applied health physiology students read, study and discuss a wide range of topics and ideas related to health and physiology. Students have actual and simulated experiences in practicing the technical, administrative, and supervisory skills of a health care provider and strength and conditioning specialist. The program curriculum allows graduates to go directly into health care settings, but many graduates also use it as a stepping stone to further education in a doctoral program.

“**My education along with my experiences at SU enabled me to acquire a position at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in the Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program and the Employee Fitness Plus Program. Through these experiences I am now able to follow my passion as a career, not just as a personal interest.**”

— Carol Franz (Applied Health Physiology) Employed as a wellness/fitness specialist, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, MD