Colorado is a health and wellness hub, luring athletes and health-minded citizens with its sunny weather, outdoor recreation opportunities and culture of fitness. The health and wellness sector is among the fastest growing industries in metropolitan Denver and the state.

**QUICK FACTS Health Care Education**

Metropolitan State University of Denver | Transforming Health Care Education

Colorado needs highly skilled health care workers to meet growing market demands. To help meet this demand, MSU Denver is developing innovative programs to increase the number of nurses with four-year degrees, adding Bachelor of Science in Nursing capacity to address Colorado’s aging nursing workforce, and offering pathways to careers in medicine, dietetics, health care management, mental health and more.

**Colorado’s Health and Wellness Economy**

Colorado is a health and wellness hub, luring athletes and health-minded citizens with its sunny weather, outdoor recreation opportunities and culture of fitness. The health and wellness sector is among the fastest growing industries in metropolitan Denver and the state.

- In metro Denver health and wellness logged 3.1 percent job growth in 2012 versus a national rate of 1.8 percent.
- Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper’s “Colorado Blueprint” economic development strategy targets health and wellness among 14 industries driving the state economy.
- A recent report by the Colorado Health Institute, in partnership with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, reveals that the health and wellness industry accounts for more than $40 billion in annual economic activity, makes up 15.3 percent of the gross state product and employs more than 360,000 workers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

MSU Denver boasts a 93 percent pass rate for its accelerated nursing program graduates who take the National Council Licensure Exam. The national rate is 88 percent.

MSU Denver offers a hybrid online/on-the-ground course, “Introduction to Perioperative Nursing,” to help prepare operating room nurses. It includes 132 hours of supervised O.R. experience.

“As I’ve been out in the community, I’ve learned that the name ‘Metro’ carries a lot of weight. MSU Denver has a great reputation. Hospitals like to hire MSU Denver students.”

David Hernandez (B.S.N. ’13)

Emergency nurse at the Rocky Mountain Regional Level I Trauma Center at Denver Health
Educatings the Workforce of Tomorrow

MSU Denver has a wide array of programs to meet the needs of health and wellness employers across the spectrum.

- Since 1972, MSU Denver has been a leader in the growing field of health care management. Today more than 300 students are studying the business side of health care—a varied career path that is expected to grow 23 percent by 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.

- MSU Denver has the largest undergraduate nutrition program in the state with more than 700 students. In addition to offering rigorous training for future dietitians, it provides a Spanish language and Mexican cultural immersion program to prepare students to become culturally competent practitioners in Colorado’s Latino communities.

- MSU Denver’s health care management program is the only undergraduate program in Colorado certified by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

- In 2006 MSU Denver was among the first colleges in the country to offer a bachelor’s of science degree in Integrative Therapeutic Practices. The program prepares students who are interested in medical school, chiropractic school, alternative health care, and osteopathic schools.

- More than 5,200 students are majoring in health-and-wellness-related areas, including 1,600 students majoring in biology and chemistry who may go on to become teachers or enter medical school, dental school, veterinary medical school and graduate programs in the allied health fields.

MSU Denver offers the following health- and wellness-related programs:

- Addiction Studies (concentration)
- Adult Fitness and Exercise Science (concentration)
- Athletic Training (major)
- Biology (major, minor)
- Center for Medical Laboratory Science (post-baccalaureate certificate)
- Chemistry (major, minor)
- Health Care Management (major, minor)
- Human Nutrition-Dietetics (major)
- Human Performance and Sport (major, minor)
- Integrative Therapeutic Practices (major, minor)
- Mental Health Counseling (concentration)
- Nursing (major)
- Nutrition (minor)
- Outdoor Recreation Leadership (certificate)
- K-12 Physical Education (licensure)
- Psychology (major, minor)
- Pre-Healthcare (minor)
- Recreation Professions (major)
- Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (major, minor)
- Therapeutic Recreation Services (concentration)

Nursing at MSU Denver

Colorado needs more nurses to meet market demand and to fill jobs that will come open as thousands of Colorado nurses age 55 and over retire. MSU Denver offers prospective nursing students four pathways to a bachelor of science in nursing.

**Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Completion Option (BRNCO)**

Students who have a current Colorado RN license can earn their BSN degrees while working at the same time.

**Accelerated Nursing Option**

Students who already have a bachelor’s degree can earn a BSN after 17 months of intensive study and clinical experience.

**Traditional Nursing Option**

Launched in January 2014, this program offers a classic four-year pathway to a bachelor of science in nursing.

**Nursing Dual Enrollment Pathway**

This new program helps expedite bachelor’s degree completion for Arapahoe Community College and Front Range Community College nursing students by allowing them to dual-enroll at MSU Denver in BSN required courses.

To learn more or collaborate with MSU Denver on health care education, contact Nursing Department Chairs Linda Stroup, at lstroup@msudenver.edu or Nancy Sayre, assistant chair of Health Professions at nsayre@msudenver.edu.

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