

# Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

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## Message from the President: Dr. Richard W. Thomas



Health professions education attracts individuals motivated by challenge and unafraid of change. The military system attracts people who embrace challenge and navigate a variety of organizational structures with ease. Individuals who are attracted to health professions and careers in the military also tend to share a deep, abiding commitment to mission and meaning. It is an exciting task to blend these cultures successfully and it is something that I believe we do especially well at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). Our mission is to educate the future leaders of this enterprise.

Our students, faculty and staff – whether they are military service members, U.S. Public Health Service personnel, or civilians – understand that they are not simply part of an “academic health center” but also engaged in a mission of service to the nation and the world.

The University’s mission statement professes our dedication to ‘learning to care for those in harm’s way.’ The USU campus is co-located with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and these words are clearly illustrated for all of us every day as we work and study alongside those wounded warriors of our nation – some from the past 12 years and some from as far back as World War II. They offer a powerful reminder of the sacred mission we have undertaken.

Military and public health education and research have been and will continue to be of enormous direct benefit to the U.S. military and to civilian populations worldwide. We also educate health professionals whose knowledge, sense of mission and experience distinguish them as leaders among those with whom they practice.

Our students learn in a joint service environment—one that emphasizes and capitalizes on the strengths of each service. Throughout their education, they discover what it means to be a military or Public Health Service officer and how to interact with the other Services. Through training exercises and daily interactions with our enlisted men and women in the USU Brigade, our students learn to become better officers.

Our faculty members serve as educators, clinicians and scientists. From developing vaccines for lethal viruses to conducting fundamental research in radiation biology, they advance the boundaries of science.

Faculty and students take part in special research relationships afforded by our interactions with other federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and the Naval Medical Research Command. Our accomplished alumni serve our country around the world. These men and women practice the clinical

skills that we teach and advance medical knowledge and capabilities through their research. They continue a tradition of excellence in military and public health medicine. Increasingly, we also provide world leadership in health education for our allies as other nations send students and faculty to learn from us and collaborate with us in education and research. These collaborations hold great promise as our nation expands the role of health as an important instrument of diplomacy.

USU has many similarities with other academic health centers in the U.S. – but it has a number of attributes that make it truly unique place to learn and work.

Richard W. Thomas, M.D., D.D.S.

## Limitations

Discussions in this catalog of statutes, regulations, and policies are informational only and do not confer any rights or benefits on applicants, students, or graduates. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences reserves the right to effect regulatory and policy changes at any time. Every effort will be made to provide those affected by changes with advance notice. Changes in curriculum or in graduation requirements will take into account disadvantage to students and will not be made retroactively unless they can be accommodated within the remaining time before graduation.

Changes in statutes and in the separate policies of each of the uniformed services may affect the rights and obligations of students and graduates. The Catalog attempts to provide a general summary of the uniformed services' policies that affect students and graduates and that are in effect at the time of publication.

An individual service policy may differ from the *Catalog* summary, in which case the service policy governs. Individual student contracts may vary from service to service and year to year and should be read carefully before they are signed.



*United States Capitol: The 1972 Congressional act that established the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences directed that it be near the Nation's seat of government in the District of Columbia.*

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