Enrollment soaring at Anschutz site

GRADUATE STUDENTS SPREAD OUT AMONG SEVERAL PROGRAMS

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Enrollment in post-baccalaureate programs in the United States is on the rise.

The National Center for Education Statistics says an estimated 3.04 million people enrolled for the fall 2014 semester — a number that has jumped more than 60 percent over the last 25 years.

At the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus, the trend is the same. During the spring 2014 term, the school boasted the highest graduate enrollment numbers in the state with 7,516 students attending.

But the business of earning a graduate degree at the Anschutz Medical Campus is more than the traditional pre-med track. Of the nearly 2,100 graduate students enrolled for the fall 2014 term, less than half are students at CU Denver's School of Medicine.

The remaining 60 percent are enrolled at one of the other five schools — the School of Dental Medicine, the College of Nursing, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, the Skaggs School of Engineering, and the Culinary Institute of America.

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Tessa Crum, co-director of the Epidemiology Program at the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, talks with her students.

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BY DEGREES
Most popular majors at all post-secondary institutions nationwide during the 2011-12 school year.

BACHELOR’S DEGREES
Total: 1,791,046
- Business: 366,815
- Humanities: 295,221
- Social sciences and history: 287,529
- Computer sciences and engineering: 145,924
- Natural sciences and mathematics: 141,304
- Education: 105,785
- Other fields: 148,418

MAJOR’S DEGREES
Total: 754,229
- Business: 191,571
- Humanities: 58,979
- Social sciences and history: 48,723
- Computer sciences and engineering: 66,011
- Natural sciences and mathematics: 25,570
- Education: 178,062
- Other fields: 164,310

DOCTORAL DEGREES
Total: 170,062
- Business: 2,531
- Humanities: 8,733
- Social sciences and history: 10,525
- Computer sciences and engineering: 10,584
- Natural sciences and mathematics: 14,974
- Education: 9,990
- Other fields: 112,755

Other fields include: Agriculture and natural resources; architecture and related services; communication, journalism, and related programs; computer and information sciences; health professions; information sciences; law; law enforcement, firefighting; legal professions and studies; library science; military technology and applied sciences; parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies; precision production; public administration and social services; transportation; and materials moving.

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics

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Public Health in Epidemiology offers a broader application of the ideas for those interested in a practicing public health as opposed to researching it. Students interested in the actual business of medicine, as well as physicians with what Dr. Arlen Meyer calls “an idea they want to get to patients,” have the option of completing Meyer’s online hybrid course called “Building Biotechnology.”

The 15-week, spring semester class on bio-innovation and entrepreneurship focuses on whether business ideas in the medical field—such as regenerative dental products, for example—are feasible. Part of a collaborative effort between the Anschutz Medical Campus and CU Denver’s College of Business known as the Digital Health Consortium, the course also teaches students about biotech law, intellectual property and more.

Meyer, who helped found the consortium five years ago, believes the course should be mandatory for all students in the health sciences and medical fields. “They need the skill set in order to be competitive in the marketplace. We are responding to a growing need in the field,” he said.

Making changes to fit the current needs of the health care industry, as well as the interests of students is something echoed by Dr. Tessa Crume, co-director of the Master of Science in Epidemiology program. “We’ve tried to evolve and diversify our faculty at the School of Public Health and connect with faculty at other schools, so that we can best serve the students,” she said.

Whether it was moving medical and health sciences programs to a bigger campus more or growing a faculty network to accommodate changing student interests, enrollment at the Anschutz Medical Campus continues to grow. “It’s a huge, vibrant place to work with high visibility,” Grunwald said.