

MISSION STATEMENT

To produce, in a humanistic tradition, health care professionals and biomedical knowledge that will enhance and extend the quality of life in our communities.

HISTORY OF WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Western University of Health Sciences embarked on a special mission when it opened its doors in 1977 as the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific: educating tomorrow's health care professionals with a combination of scientific excellence and a humanistic, compassionate approach to patient care.

From an inaugural class of 36 students in 1978, enrollment in the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific grew to more than 400 by 1986. That same year, the addition of the Master of Science in Health Professions Education program paved the way for what would become the College of Allied Health Professions. Meanwhile, the University continued acquiring former Pomona Mall buildings, remodeling them for educational use.

The institution kept growing over the next decade, with enrollment jumping dramatically in 1996, when the addition of a College of Pharmacy necessitated a name change to Western University of Health Sciences.

1998 was another landmark year for WesternU, as the College of Graduate Nursing was founded in March, and the College of Veterinary Medicine – the first veterinary college in Southern California – was established just five months later.

The first foundation-up construction at WesternU was the Veterinary Clinical Center, which opened in August 2008. One year later, the University welcomed inaugural classes in three new colleges — Dental Medicine, Optometry, and Podiatric Medicine. In conjunction with this remarkable academic expansion, the University further enlarged the physical campus, erecting a 180,000 square-foot Health Education Center, a Patient Care Center, and a 600-car parking garage. A ninth school, the Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences, welcomed its inaugural class in January 2010.

Were not all this growth sufficient, the University ventured north in 2011, opening the WesternU-Oregon campus with 400 students at an additional site of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Lebanon. The University is actively planning further expansion in Lebanon as a key part of the overall WesternU Strategic Plan, "Achieving Aspirations".

2016 also was an important milestone in WesternU history, as the University welcomed just the second president in its history. Upon the retirement of Founding President Philip Pumerantz in 2015, after a national search the University Board of Trustees appointed Daniel R. Wilson, MD, PhD, as president. Dr. Wilson, an internationally distinguished psychiatrist, anthropologist and, academic administrator, took office in July 2016.

Today, WesternU is home to more than 3,800 students in 21 programs, as well as 1,200 employees, and is one of the most thriving enterprises in the Pomona and Inland Valleys of Southern California and the mid-Willamette Valley of Oregon.