SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Shaping health, changing lives

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Our School encompasses a number of multidisciplinary professional and clinical health areas and is committed to addressing the emerging issues in public, social and community health.

We are one of three large schools in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and offer award winning undergraduate and postgraduate programs in audiology, disability and community inclusion, gerontology, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, optometry, palliative and supportive services, physiotherapy, public health, rehabilitation, aged and extended care, speech pathology and social health sciences.

Our international research profile brings together multidisciplinary teams of staff and research students to contribute to real world health outcomes. Research from these groups resulted in ‘world class’ and ‘above world class’ research quality ratings across several areas in the 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) audit.

Our School is built upon significant industry partnerships, community engagement, interprofessional experiences and meaningful research. Progressive developments include a rural health department, a state-of-the-art optometry clinic and interprofessional centres and clinics.

This is an exciting time in the School of Health Sciences as we continue to cultivate innovative teaching, learning and research practices.

Professor John Coveney
School Dean
AREAS OF STUDY

Our degrees incorporate significant fieldwork and clinical placement opportunities through strong alignment with professional organisations and community partners.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES
- Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education
- Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education (Rehabilitation Counselling)
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology

DOUBLE DEGREES
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Special Education)/Disability Studies
- Bachelor of Education (Middle and Secondary Schooling)/Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Education (Middle and Secondary/Special Education)/Disability Studies

- Bachelor of Education (Primary R - 7 and Special Education)/Disability Studies
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Health Sciences/Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Practice
- Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science)/Master of Optometry*
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Principles of Occupational Therapy)/Master of Occupational Therapy*
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Principles of Physiotherapy)/Master of Physiotherapy*

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE AREAS
- Applied Gerontology
- Audiology
- Clinical Rehabilitation
- Disability Policy and Planning
- Health and International Development
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy*
- Physiotherapy
- Palliative Care/Aged Care
- Primary Health Care in Developing Countries
- Public Health
- Speech Pathology

RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREES
We offer an extensive range of research degree programs by discipline and research areas.

FLINDERS.EDU.AU/SOHS/COURSES

*Not available to international students in 2015
of our fields of research were rated as at or above world average in the 2012 excellence in australia research ratings

#1 Most research active per academic staff head of any optometry school in australia

2nd largest research publications output at flinders in 2013

$9 million in annual research income in 2013**
The School of Health Sciences is actively involved in local, national and international research collaborations including the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), a flagship research institute for South Australia that will significantly increase the nation’s capacity for leading scientific research.

Research within our School focuses on four major research themes:
1. Health and Life Transitions
2. Clinical Evidence to Clinical Practice
3. Enhancing Community Inclusion
4. Shaping Health through Technology

PALLIATIVE CARE AND ADVANCE CARE PLANNING FOR AGED CARE

Flinders University, through CareSearch, is involved in a $15 million program (Decision Assist) to support general practitioners and staff working in residential and home care aged services by building their knowledge and skills in palliative care and advance care planning practices. Associate Professor Jennifer Tieman, Director of CareSearch, is a member of the Decision Assist Expert Project Group and is leading the Flinders component of the work focusing on guidance and technological innovation. A major review of clinical guidance on symptoms and care issues has been completed and made accessible online.

Technology initiatives and telehealth resources have also been compiled to assist those working in residential aged care and home care. The CareSearch team has recently released a mobile application, PallIAGED, which helps GPs to manage older patients requiring a palliative approach to care.

As Director of CareSearch, Associate Professor Jennifer Tieman applies her comprehensive knowledge and practice about palliative care and advance care planning to drive improvements to aged care services.

CareSearch is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

CARESEARCH.COM.AU

TRUST IN THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Head of Public Health and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Professor Paul Ward is leading a body of multidisciplinary research investigating childhood vaccines, food, health and trust internationally.

The research builds on Professor Ward’s interest in understanding trust in health services and his expertise in socio-spatial inequalities and the provision of health and social care.

A 2014 study co-authored by Professor Ward, ‘A qualitative study of cardiovascular disease (CVD) management and dietary changes: problems of ‘too much’ and ‘contradictory’ information’ revealed that many participants stopped following dietary recommendations from both healthcare professionals and external sources, including television and the Internet, because they found it difficult to know which information was accurate.

Professor Ward and his team of public health services researchers are continuing their empirical interrogations of sociological theories of trust. The research aims to further explore how the concept of trust plays out within society, in an attempt to contribute to improved healthcare systems and society at large.

FLINDERS.EDU.AU/PUBLICHEALTH

Our rich and diverse research programs respond to emerging issues in public, social and community health, clinical practice and quality of life for a range of population groups.
50 Courses on Offer

#1 The only provider of Audiology, Speech Pathology and Optometry programs in South Australia

80% of our graduates are employed within four months*

2642 students
TEACHING & LEARNING

We are dedicated to exploring new models of teaching and learning through a multidisciplinary approach and collaborative clinical training initiatives with industry and government.

ViTA is Australia’s first purpose-built teaching and restorative aged care facility and is delivered by Flinders University with the support of the Commonwealth Government of Australia in partnership with the ACH Group and SA Health at Daw Park in Adelaide, South Australia.

The $46 million state-of-the-art rehabilitation, teaching and research facility is the first of its kind in Australia that links health, aged care, education and research to enable older people to access restorative care and provide interprofessional educational opportunities for Flinders University students.

The Flinders University Clinical Teaching and Education Centre (CTEC) at ViTA provides a teaching space with simulation laboratories, robotic based therapies, audio-visual networking, as well as additional teaching spaces throughout the facility adjacent to resident and patient rooms.

CTEC facilitates training for medical, nursing and allied health students in the care of older people, and opportunities for authentic interprofessional training embedded in high performing teams.

Students experience real-world professional practice through interaction and clinical placements with patients and residents.

Teaching is also delivered through online modules and linked to a range of regional sites, including Darwin, Renmark and Mount Gambier, with the potential for future international linkages.

CTEC SNAPSHOT
• Innovative health, teaching and research based on rehabilitation and restorative care models.
• Simulation training and development to prepare students to support an ageing population.
• Interprofessional education across a wide variety of disciplines, including dietetics, geriatrics, health sciences, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, palliative care, physiotherapy, psychology, social work and speech pathology.
• State-of-the-art, dedicated teaching facilities that include lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and simulation laboratories.
• Robotic-based therapies and integrated learning in a clinical health setting.
• Online module delivery and linkages to metropolitan community service.
• Rural program education and training through a ‘hub and spoke’ approach.

We are dedicated to exploring new models of teaching and learning through a multidisciplinary approach and collaborative clinical training initiatives with industry and government.
Speech pathologists collaborated with us in 2014 to provide placements for 26 weeks of clinical placements undertaken by students during physiotherapy studies. The number of years we have been delivering nutrition and dietetics programs is 38, on average. 500 clinical examinations undertaken by students during optometry studies (on average).
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We improve healthcare through close alignment with professional health organisations and community groups and a progressive approach to implementing new types of service delivery.

Flinders Vision is a state-of-the-art $4.5 million optometry teaching clinic located on campus. It enables optometry students to see real patients and provides optometry services to the South Australian community.

The new facility is reflective of our commitment to exploring new and innovative approaches to eye care to reduce pressure on the public hospital system, and to meet the strong demand for optometrists in rural and remote areas.

The commercial shop front of Flinders Vision provides general optometry services and specialised care pathways for paediatric, diabetes and glaucoma patients. The clinic provides high quality eye care to patients who traditionally access public hospital ophthalmology services but can be effectively treated in community-based settings with new capacities in eye health management through primary screening, diagnosis and referral of people with eye diseases.

Emphasis is placed on providing eye care for disadvantaged South Australians, particularly those in aged care, rural and remote regions, and Indigenous people. The purpose-built facility strengthens clinical training initiatives allowing fourth and final year optometry students to undertake consultations under supervision with clinic patients.

A strong rural and remote focus provides optometry students with opportunities to undertake clinical placements in regional and remote settings. Our students and graduates play a significant role in improving eye health in the communities they visit. 40% of our 2014 optometry graduates are now contributing to regional communities through rural practice.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
COMMUNITY CLINICS

- Flinders Vision Clinic
- Auditory Processing Disorder Clinic
- Flinders University Hearing Services
- Speech and Language Fluency Disorders Clinic
- Community Re-entry Program
- Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS)
Flinders University is ranked in the top 400 universities globally.

4th LARGEST SCHOOL AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

6200 eye examinations performed in Nepal in 2014

285 international students
We are recognised for our world-class teaching and multidisciplinary research on a global stage.

Internationalisation of health education and research creates exciting opportunities for collaboration with health professionals and educators around the world. The School of Health Sciences has developed strong links with a number of international universities, ministries, hospitals and industry bodies in Asia, North America and Europe.

Approximately 285 international students undertake courses in the School of Health Sciences in study areas such as disability, health sciences, nutrition and dietetics, palliative care, public health and speech pathology. Our international student community includes a number of students supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through Australia Awards Scholarships from countries such as Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, Laos, Solomon Islands, Philippines, Fiji and Indonesia.

The School encourages visiting scholars and supports staff and students to undertake exchanges as well as teaching and research collaborations.

Cotutelle agreements have been established to promote and strengthen research collaborations between Flinders University and other countries. The cotutelle PhD program offers exciting dual parchment programs based on collaborations between the School of Health Sciences and an international university to support health research of mutual interest.

CASE STUDY: GIVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT, FROM FLINDERS TO NEPAL

Jason Booth, Head Optometrist at Flinders Vision, travelled to Nepal with optometry students and staff in 2014 as part of a Rotary Australia World Community Service mission to detect and treat vision impairments among remote Nepalese communities.

The Flinders team contributed significantly to the aid program, seeing an average of 50 people each a day. More than 6,200 Nepalese people were examined in total, with 6,000 pairs of glasses distributed and 330 cataract operations sponsored.

The Optometry and Vision Science discipline is now aiming to offer all future students an overseas aid placement as part of their studies.

*2014 international student data sourced from the International Centre