

Dean of Health Sciences

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE
SPRINGFIELD, MA



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School of Health Sciences
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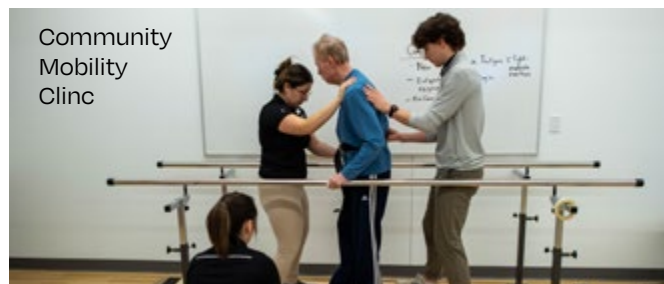
SPRINGFIELD
COLLEGE


Springfield College invites applications for its next Dean for the School of Health Sciences.

The School of Health Sciences at Springfield College is home to five academic departments, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, Public Health & Health Professions, and Social Work, that collectively advance Springfield College's mission and respond to regional and national health needs of our communities.

Across these departments, the School offers seven undergraduate majors, one online undergraduate certificate, four master's programs, and two doctoral programs. The School currently enrolls approximately 580 undergraduate students, 13 certificate students, 322 master's students, and 99 doctoral students, and is supported by 41 full-time faculty, the Assistant Dean for Interprofessional Educational, adjunct faculty and professional staff.

The School of Health Sciences plays a critical role in advancing institutional enrollment, mission fulfillment, faculty and staff development, and community impact. Its programs are closely aligned with clinical practice, community partnerships, accreditation standards, and evolving workforce demands, positioning the School as a strategic asset to Springfield College and the region.



This is an opportunity for an innovative leader to bolster the strong foundations of the School of Health Sciences and advance the College's mission. Springfield College seeks an accomplished and visionary Dean of Health Sciences to guide the School through its next phase of growth and impact, while fostering faculty and staff excellence within a deeply student-centered academic environment.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative leader of the school. The Dean's primary responsibility is to cultivate an environment that supports excellence in teaching, advising, scholarly, creative, and/or professional activity, and service within and beyond the college, while educating students holistically for leadership in service to others. This work is carried out in close alignment with the College's Strategic Direction and Academic Action Plan.



Organizational Overview

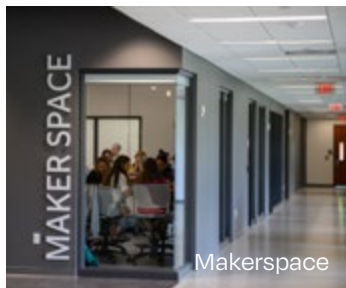
Springfield College is situated in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Springfield is located on the eastern bank of the Connecticut River near its confluence with the Westfield, Chicopee, and Mill Rivers. With an estimated population of 153,606, Springfield is the third-largest city in Massachusetts and a major cultural, educational, and health care hub in New England. The Springfield metropolitan area is home to nearly 693,000 residents.

Founded in 1885, Springfield College is a private, coeducational institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs grounded in its distinctive Humanics Philosophy—the education of the whole person in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to humanity. This mission shapes the college's academic programs, community engagement, and commitment to preparing graduates to lead with purpose in a complex and evolving world. The institution holds the Carnegie classification of a Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate - Doctorate Small institution. The College currently enrolls just under 2,000 undergraduate students and just over 1,000 graduate students across the three schools and the online campus. The College's mission was recently reaffirmed by the Board of Trustees as they charted a course for the next ten years with the College's Strategic Direction. Additional information about Springfield College may be found at springfield.edu.

Springfield College is comprised of three schools, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Health Sciences, and the School of Physical Education, Performance, and Sports Leadership. In 2025, an Academic Action Plan was created that directly aligns with the College's Strategic Direction. With implementation beginning in Fall 2025, the Academic Action Plan provides a strategic path for the next five years.



Brown Cooper Health Sciences Center



Makerspace

The College opened the Brown Cooper Health Sciences Center in October 2024. The Brown Cooper Health Sciences Center is a purpose-built, 86,000-square-foot facility that elevates Springfield College's health sciences education through immersive, technology-rich learning environments. Designed to unite most of the health science programs under one roof, the Center fosters interprofessional education, collaboration, and innovation across disciplines. Inside its four floors are state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, including high-fidelity simulation suites with live standardized participants, pediatrics and assessment labs, and a functional living suite for rehabilitation practice. The Brown Cooper Health Sciences Center also features interdisciplinary telehealth resources, a makerspace for designing health technologies, and spaces for community engagement and continuing education. These environments support hands-on practice, team-based learning, research activity, and community partnerships that prepare students for contemporary health care roles. With abundant student work and lounge areas, sustainable design features, and advanced infrastructure, the Brown Cooper Health Sciences Center positions the School as a leading choice for aspiring health professionals.



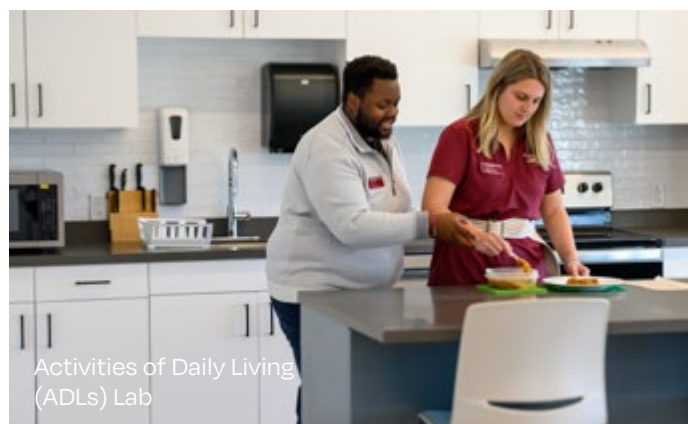
Robotti Simulation Center

The Dean for the School of Health Sciences holds a strategically significant leadership role at a pivotal moment for the institution. The position is essential to maintaining and strengthening enrollment, ensuring financial sustainability, preparing students for a dynamic and evolving health care workforce, ensuring compliance with multiple programmatic accreditations, and advancing interprofessional education and collaboration across disciplines.

Departments

The School of Health Sciences consists of the following departments and academic programs:

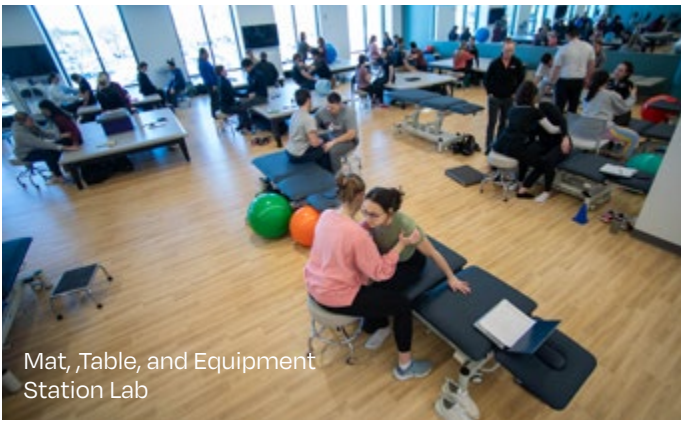
- **Public Health and Health Professions**
 - o B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders
 - o B.S. in Health Science
 - o B.S. in Public Health
 - o U.C. in Speech Language Pathology (online)
- **Occupational Therapy**
 - o B.S. Health Science/Pre-Occupational Therapy
 - o M.S. Occupational Therapy (entry-level)
 - o Occupational Therapy Doctorate (entry-level)
- **Physical Therapy**
 - o B.S. Health Science/Pre-Physical Therapy
 - o Doctorate of Physical Therapy
- **Physician Assistant Studies**
 - o B.S. in Health Science/Pre-Physician Assistant
 - o M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies
- **Social Work**
 - o B.S.W. in Social Work
 - o M.S.W. in Social Work (online and on-ground)
 - o M.S.W. in Social Work/J.D.



Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) Lab

The School of Health Sciences also holds several programmatic accreditations across the five departments.

- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association
- Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
- Council on Social Work Education



Position Summary

In 2024-2025, Springfield College and the Division of Academic Affairs developed new strategic plans and are beginning implementation. The next Dean for the School of Health Sciences will play a key role in advancing these priorities within the school, aligning academic programs, enrollment strategies, and partnerships with the College's and the Division of Academic Affairs' long-term vision over the next three to five years.

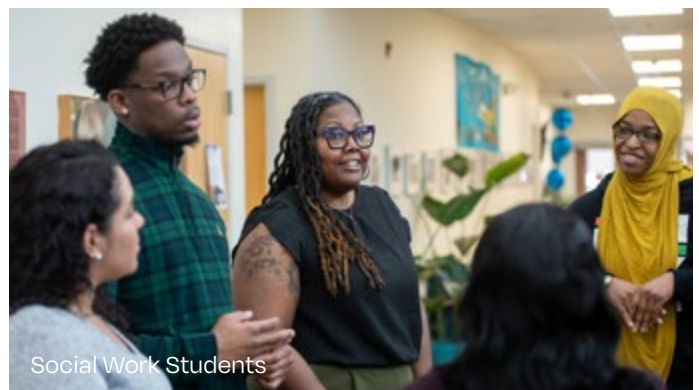
The successful candidate will be a collaborative, transparent, and values-driven leader with experience leading complex, interdisciplinary academic units. They will be a strong communicator across faculty, staff, students, and administrators, comfortable navigating change, ambiguity, and competing priorities. A demonstrated commitment to inclusive excellence and community engagement, along with strong data literacy and sound fiscal judgment, is essential.

Key Responsibilities

- Provides vision and leadership for all health sciences programs, ensuring academic quality, curricular coherence, and ongoing innovation.
- Develops, advocates for, and provides oversight for the school budget. Allocates and re-allocates resources to enhance and support the mission of the school and its academic units.
- Makes personnel recommendations related to hiring, evaluation, sabbaticals, retention and advancement of faculty, staff and student workers; establishes search committees and ensures inclusive search processes, promotes awareness and compliance with all institutional policies.
- Supervises the Assistant Dean for Interprofessional Education, one administrative coordinator, and five department chairs.
- Reviews and makes recommendations on curriculum proposals; leads new proposal development; ensures adequate and appropriate course offerings;

implements academic priorities and best practices for student success; evaluates the effectiveness of programs that support students, adjudicates student problems that cannot be resolved at a lower level.

- Communicates frequently and effectively with school constituencies and supports shared governance.
- Makes recommendations on institutional and program marketing and represents their school and programs to the media and institutional advancement. Represents their school and the college through service at the community, state and/or national level
- Advances the strategic vision of the school in alignment with the mission of Springfield College and school.
- Regularly collaborates with fellow Deans and faculty and staff across the College to enhance interdisciplinary opportunities
- Supports accreditation and licensure compliance across multiple health disciplines.
- Mentors, supports, and develops leadership talent (assistant dean, chairs, school committees).
- Provides training and professional development where necessary.
- Collaborates with the Provost and Vice President of Institutional Advancement to identify and advance fundraising opportunities to support school initiatives.
- Supports the clinical and internship components of school academic programs through contract review, site relationship development and collaboration with the clinical education committee.



Required Qualifications

Candidates must possess:

- An earned terminal degree with an opportunity to be tenured in an academic department represented in the School of Health Sciences and a record of academic and administrative accomplishment commensurate with the rank of full professor.

- 3-5 years of experience in progressive academic leadership.
- Experience with programmatic accreditations.
- Demonstrated success in faculty development and shared governance.
- Evidence of excellence in teaching, scholarly, creative and/or professional activity, and service.



Pediatrics Lab

Preferred Qualifications

Ideal candidates will possess experience in:

- Enrollment-sensitive program management
- Growing interprofessional education or clinical partnerships.
- Institutional transformation or strategic planning.

Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- a letter of interest detailing how their experience aligns with the position
- a curriculum vitae
- a list of five references, their contact information (email addresses and phone numbers), and a brief explanation of their relationship with the candidate. References will not be checked until confirmed with the applicant.

Springfield College is committed to an inclusive and equitable search process. Review of applications will begin on **March 30, 2026**, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2026.

Please direct any inquiries about the position to Chelsea Fisk, recruiting, onboarding, and retention specialist, at cfisk@springfield.edu.