

## **Department of Cardiopulmonary Science**

### **Strategic Plan (2026-2030)**

**Updated and Adopted August 12, 2026**

#### **Vision Statement**

To be a nationally recognized leader in cardiopulmonary education, inspiring and preparing the next generation of respiratory therapists and cardiovascular sonographers to transform healthcare through excellence in clinical practice, innovation, leadership, advocacy, and compassionate patient-centered care.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Department of Cardiopulmonary Science is committed to graduating knowledgeable, compassionate, and critically thinking healthcare professionals who are prepared to become tomorrow's leaders in healthcare. Through a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes understanding over memorization, we integrate time-honored and innovative teaching methods, including advanced simulation technologies, to promote educational excellence and lifelong learning. By providing diverse clinical experiences across a variety of healthcare settings, we ensure that graduates are confident, competent, and prepared to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Louisiana and beyond. The department is dedicated to expanding access to high-quality education while addressing regional and national workforce demands in respiratory therapy and cardiovascular sonography.

#### **Core Values: Competency, Integrity, Compassion, Knowledge, and Advocacy**

- We are committed to developing highly skilled healthcare professionals who demonstrate clinical excellence, critical thinking, effective communication, and evidence-based decision-making in the delivery of patient care.
- We uphold the highest ethical and professional standards, fostering honesty, accountability, fairness, and respect in all academic, clinical, and professional endeavors.
- We value empathy, dignity, and respect for all individuals, promoting patient-centered care and a commitment to improving the health and well-being of diverse populations.
- We embrace lifelong learning, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of excellence through innovative education, scholarship, and the application of current evidence-based practices.
- We empower students and graduates to serve as advocates for patients, communities, and the cardiopulmonary professions, promoting health equity, professional advancement, and access to quality healthcare.

**"Where Future Respiratory Therapists and Cardiovascular Sonographers Become Leaders."**

## Goal 1: Student Success and Competency

- *Develop competent, workforce-ready graduates*

### Objectives

- Maintain continuing accreditations and continuous quality improvement processes.
- Maintain student outcome measures that exceed accreditation standards
- Maintain credentialing examination pass rates that exceed national benchmarks.
- Maintain strong graduate employment rates
- Enhance student critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and evidence-based decision-making skills
- Utilize emerging educational technologies to enhance learning outcomes, especially use of educational virtual reality to create immersive and realistic learning environments

### Key Metrics

-  Accreditation Excellence
-  Credentialing Pass Rates
-  Job Placement

## Goal 2: Clinical Excellence and Workforce Development

- *Prepare graduates to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Louisiana through innovative education and diverse clinical experiences.*

### Objectives

- Expand and strengthen clinical partnerships
- Align curriculum with emerging trends and technologies in respiratory care, cardiac sonography, and vascular sonography.
- Expand simulation-based learning and interprofessional educational opportunities.
- Increase graduate readiness for employment in specialty practice settings.
- Promote cultural competence and patient-centered care practices.
- Support workforce development initiatives that address regional and national shortages in cardiopulmonary healthcare professions.

### Key Metrics

-  Clinical Affiliation Partnerships – Number, Diversity, Accessibility
-  Advisory Boards

### Goal 3: Scholarship and Professional Development/Engagement

- *Foster a culture of scholarly inquiry, lifelong learning, and professional engagement among students and faculty.*

#### Objectives

- Promote membership and active participation in state and national professional organizations.
- Increase student participation in scholarly activities and professional conferences.
- Foster leadership skills through professional development opportunities.
- Support continuing education and professional credential advancement.
- Encourage faculty and student presentations at state, regional, and national meetings.

#### Key Metrics

★ Active professional memberships and leadership roles

📄 Earned Advanced Credentialing

👤 Professional Presentations

### Goal 4: Research and Evidence-Based Practice

- *Advance the cardiopulmonary sciences through research, innovation, and evidence-based practice.*

#### Objectives

- Integrate research methods and evidence-based practice throughout the curriculum.
- Increase student involvement in research and quality improvement projects.
- Promote faculty research, scholarship, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Partner with healthcare organizations to address clinical and community health challenges through research initiatives.
- Utilize outcomes data to continuously improve educational programs and patient care practices.
- Expand opportunities for students to present and publish scholarly work.

#### Key Metrics

🔬 Research & Scholarship Endeavors

💰 Grants

## Goal 5: Access and Inclusion

- *Provide accessible, high-quality educational opportunities that support student achievement and community impact.*

### Objectives

- Promote accessibility and opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds.
- Expand access to cardiopulmonary science education through innovative instructional delivery methods.
- Establishment of transfer pathways

### Key Metrics

-  Student Diversity
-  Transfer Pathways
-  Offsite Instruction

## Goal 6: Enrollment and Retention

- *Recruit, retain, and graduate highly qualified students who are prepared for success in the cardiopulmonary professions.*

### Objectives

- Sustain annual student enrollments at capacity
- Strengthen recruitment efforts through outreach to high schools, colleges, healthcare organizations, and community partners.
- Improve retention, progression, and graduation rates across all program tracks through enhanced student advising, mentoring, and promoting academic support services.
- Monitor student success data to identify and address barriers to completion.
- Foster a supportive learning environment that promotes student engagement and well-being.

### Key Metrics

-  Enrollment Growth
-  Student Retention
-  Graduation Success

## Goal 7: Advocacy

- *Develop graduates who serve as advocates for patients, communities, and the cardiopulmonary professions.*

### Objectives

- Educate students on healthcare policy, regulatory issues, and professional responsibilities.
- Strengthening student engagement in community service learning, health promotion, and patient education initiatives.
- Support advocacy efforts that advance healthcare access, health equity, and the respiratory therapy and cardiovascular sonography professions.
- Cultivate a culture of ethical practice, service, and professional accountability.

### Key Metric

 Community Engagement

## Goal 8: Employment and Workforce Impact

- *Prepare graduates for successful employment and leadership roles that address healthcare workforce needs in Louisiana and beyond.*

### Objectives

- Achieve graduate employment rates that meet workforce need within Louisiana.
- Strengthen partnerships with healthcare employers to support workforce development and placement opportunities.
- Ensure graduates possess the knowledge, skills, and competencies sought by employers.
- Gather and utilize employer feedback to enhance curriculum and program effectiveness.
- Promote career readiness through professional development, interview preparation, and networking opportunities.
- Prepare graduates to adapt to emerging technologies, evolving healthcare systems, and future workforce demands.

### Key Metrics

 Employer Satisfaction Surveys

 Graduate Satisfaction Surveys

 Advisory Boards