The basic mission of the graduate programs in the School of Education and Health Sciences (SEHS) is to prepare competent and compassionate professionals in several fields. Specifically, the mission is to prepare teachers and education leaders, exercise scientists, human service specialists, and health science professionals. The School is further committed to preparing scholar-practitioners at the Ph.D. level in the area of educational leadership, both P-12 and Higher Education. The SEHS programs leading to graduate degrees are designed primarily to meet the following purposes:

1. to develop advanced proficiency in early, middle and secondary school teachers who have completed recognized baccalaureate teacher education programs;
2. to enable individuals to qualify for licensure as principals and superintendents;
3. to prepare school counselors; school psychologists who will be working in state, county, local school systems; and counselors who will work in community and other agency settings to be highly competent and exemplary in their chosen profession;
4. to develop personnel for student services in higher education;
5. to prepare educational research specialists;
6. to enable students with nonprofessional education baccalaureate degrees and above-average academic records to gain teacher licensure; and
7. to prepare professionals in the Health Science fields of Exercise Science, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant.

In implementing these graduate programs, faculty members are committed to help students:

- understand the knowledge base that integrates their field of interest;
- apply their knowledge base to practice;
- value the relationship of theory to practice;
- reflect mindfully upon professional practice;
- value community and collaboration;
- appreciate the moral dimensions of their work; and
- commit themselves to improving the quality of life within schools and the larger community.

In working to address the mission, faculty and staff members in all departments endeavor to:

- create a supportive environment for learning;
- respond to individual students’ program needs;
- draw upon the knowledge base of their field in providing quality instruction;
- maintain high academic standards;
- provide students the opportunity to choose a research or a practice emphasis in their academic programs;
- contribute to the knowledge base of their field;
- assist the community in translating the knowledge base of their field to everyday practice;
- serve as responsible social critics;
- demonstrate collaborative teaching and inquiry behaviors; and
- engage in professional activity focused on the improvement of school and community life.

Most graduate programs lead to the Master of Science in Education degree. Other programs lead to the Master of Physician Assistant Practice, Doctorate of Physical Therapy, Educational Specialist, and the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership.

The University of Dayton maintains an off-campus center for graduate study in Education and Health Sciences (Columbus). Several programs are taught online as well as in face-to-face settings. All programs and courses are closely supervised by the Dean of Education and Health Sciences and the Associate Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs. Most of these courses are taught by the faculty member teaching the same course on the main campus.