

FASHP Statement on Ensuring Academic Freedom and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Associations and Schools of Health Professions

As members of the health professions education community, we stand in full support of academic freedom as a critical element of successful higher education. Health professions education is the bedrock of American healthcare and supports millions of students from all backgrounds who go on to care for diverse patient populations and protect public health. Creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive academic health community is essential to patient care and a core competency of health professions education.

We are committed to the principles of academic freedom, as well as creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for students and patients. In order to achieve the best education across campuses nationwide, it is critical to allow colleges and universities the ability to develop all the required student competencies necessary to support healthy communities throughout the nation. Creating space for innovative curriculum on complex issues is fundamental to the mission of educational institutions of health professions. The study of our nation's diverse populations is vital for the advancement of medicine, public health, and economic prosperity.

Open dialogue in higher education reduces bias and promotes trust between students and healthcare professions educators, and healthcare providers and patients. Enabling health professions educators to provide necessary academic content, that covers the full diversity of the patients future healthcare providers will serve, strengthens breakthrough advancements in healthcare and allows our nation to continue its leadership in the field. Those trained in health professions are equipped to develop breakthroughs, which in turn generates economic growth to benefit our entire society.

The Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP) comprises 19 associations representing a health professions education community that includes 7,429 programs, institutions, hospitals, and health systems, and more than 1.3 million students, faculty, clinicians, administrators, residents, and researchers.

Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

American Council of Academic Physical Therapy

American Dental Education Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Psychological Association

Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges

Association of American Medical Colleges

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Chiropractic Colleges

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of University Programs in Health Administration

Council on Social Work Education

PA Education Association