



Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

About CDU

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) is a private, nonprofit, community founded, student-centered University committed to cultivating diverse health professions leaders who are dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, clinical service, and community engagement.

The University, located in the Watts-Willowbrook area of South Los Angeles, was founded in 1966 in the wake of the Watts Uprising with a vision of creating a world without health disparities. CDU offers undergraduate degree, graduate degree, and certificate programs across a range of health and medical professions including nursing, X-ray technology, medicine, biomedical science, public health, computed tomography, physician assistant, and psychology. Since its inception, CDU has helped nearly ten thousand students start or accelerate their careers in the medial and health professions.



CDU is the second-most diverse university nationally in terms of student and faculty diversity. The University has earned designation as a minority-serving institution by the U.S. Office for Civil Rights and is recognized by the Department of Education (DOE) under Title III B as a Historically Black Graduate Institution (HBGI). One of only four Historically Black Medical Colleges, CDU is also a charter Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools member as well as a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

The California Wellness Foundation has estimated that as much as one-third of all minority physicians practicing in Los Angeles County are graduates of CDU or come from CDU's residency training programs. More than 85 percent of CDU's students report that they intend to practice and provide much-needed care in underserved communities following graduation.

The University comprises the three schools of the **College of Medicine (COM)**, the **College of Science and Health (COSH)**, and the **Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON)**.

The mission of the College of Medicine is to provide education, research, and clinical service in the context of community engagement in order to train physician leaders who promote wellness, who provide care with excellence and compassion, and who are committed to transforming the health of diverse and underserved communities.

The College of Science and Health provides an integrated program of learning, research, leadership training, and community service to prepare graduates to pursue their professional goals in biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, and public health.

The Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing seeks to advance the science and art of nursing by conducting nursing research and providing nursing students with high-quality education that emphasizes the health status of underserved communities for the purpose of enabling graduates to provide evidence-based nursing care with dignity, respect, and compassion to all nursing clients.

CDU is also a leader in health disparities research with a focus on education, training, treatment and care in cancer, diabetes, cardiometabolic, COVID, and HIV/AIDS. The overarching goal of CDU's research and health affairs efforts is to create programs aimed at understanding behavioral, ethnic, cultural, and scientific reasons that contribute to health disparities and how it impacts underrepresented and underprivileged populations. CDU has trained and will continue to train highly competitive and award-winning students and trainees, including undergraduate, graduate, medical students, as well as fellows and junior faculty, in performing multi-faceted translational research on health disparities.

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is also committed to community engagement and support. CDU is home to a range of community-facing programs, clinics, and services including the CDU Mobile Health Clinic, Drew CARES, the APLA Health Center, the OASIS clinic, and more. The University also maintains strong relationships with many partners who work with CDU to further our mission and support our communities.

The University is named after Dr. Charles R. Drew, a pioneering African-American physician who overcame long odds and racism in the early and mid-20th century to produce seminal work on blood banking and blood plasma storage and transfusion. He was also a distinguished surgeon and chair of surgery at Howard University. CDU continues to honor his legacy by breaking new ground in health professions education and working to eliminate health disparities in all communities.

Visit www.cdrewu.edu for more information.