

Saint Xavier University
2025 Community Health Care Report

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Saint Xavier University

CONTACT: Charlene Bermele, Dean, College of Nursing, Health Sciences and Business

ADDRESS: 3700 West 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60655

PHONE/E-MAIL: (773) 298-3009; bermele@sxu.edu

MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION: Saint Xavier University, a Catholic institution inspired by the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy, educates persons to search for truth, to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to serve wisely and compassionately in support of human dignity and the common good.

- 1. Identify the high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations in the community(ies) that you serve and describe specifically the actions you have taken, based on relevant assessment data, to increase their accessibility to health services.**

Saint Xavier University is a federally-designated Hispanic Serving Institution. Nearly 70 percent of students are the first in their family to attend college and nearly 60 percent are Pell-eligible. Roughly 99 percent of SXU students receive some form of financial aid. This includes students enrolled in SXU's Nursing program, which empowers students to engage in hands-on, immersive healthcare experiences that result in the confidence to thrive in diverse healthcare environments.

SXU is a crucial resource in the Chicago metropolitan region. The majority of graduates remain in the state, providing a strong and prepared workforce that contributes to the economic health of the region. SXU is one of the largest providers of nurses of any school in Illinois. In a typical year, more African American and Hispanic nurses earn bachelor's degrees at SXU than most private nonprofit universities in Illinois.

The Chicago community areas in which the top five feeder high schools to SXU are located are predominantly Hispanic and feature low postsecondary educational attainment (Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning 2024). These trends reflect the overall achievement gap in the state of Illinois, where only 56 percent of Hispanic students complete their degree in four years.

- 2. Describe specifically the strategies you have used to gather input from high risk, underserved and/or disadvantaged population and their leaders as a basis for program or service development.**

SXU students provide feedback annually regarding instruction and support via surveys. SXU participates in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which provides colleges and universities with an assessment of how students engage with educational programs and practices. Results help to inform program and service development, especially as they pertain to student success.

3. Describe specific partnerships with other providers and community-based organizations to promote continuity of health care for high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations.

SXU's Nursing program secures student work placements with area healthcare providers for practicums and direct healthcare training. Partners in this endeavor include Advocate Christ Medical Center, Stroger Hospital (Cook County Health and Hospital System), Mount Sinai Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, Loyola University Hospital, The University of Chicago Medical Center, and La Rabida Children's Hospital. SXU also features an on-campus Health Center that provides healthcare services for SXU students, faculty, staff, and area community members.

4. Provide two examples of how you have used the community-oriented approach to program development specified in the attached principles to develop a program of service for high risk/underserved and/or disadvantaged populations specified in the guidelines. Include in each description components of the current program and the following quantitative information for the most recent year available:

Example 1: In 2019, SXU was awarded a Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions grant from the US Department of Education, through which it established the Comprehensive, Aligned Supports for Attainment (CASA) initiative. CASA established model academic advising and career exploration programs for Latinx and low-income students across academic disciplines. Activities include early alert and intervention monitoring, enhanced tutoring and academic assistance, intentional summer bridge and sophomore engagement programs, and a personal and career development course sequence. SXU has since built on CASA to establish the Office of Family and Community Engagement, which works directly with community members to foster educational experiences.

Example 2: In recent years, SXU centralized its student success initiatives under the Center for Learning and Student Support, which provides a variety of resources and services aimed at assisting students on their paths to graduation, including helping students develop strategies and skills they can use in their classes and their future careers. Students now have clear, direct, and centralized access to advising, tutors, and other academic supports.

5. Number of clients served

SXU has a student body of 3,500.

6. Total amount budgeted by your organization for the program

In 2025, SXU had a break-even operating budget of \$67 million. SXU requests \$37,975 from the Washington Square Health Foundation to fund a Student Success Coach for its Nursing program.

7. Percent that program budget is of total agency budget

The amount requested by the Washington Square Health Foundation would constitute 0.05 percent of the University's operating budget.

8. Percent of program budget that is directly reimbursed by third party payers

0

9. Percent of program budget that is covered by public/private grants

SXU's request to the Washington Square Health Foundation would be 100 percent grant-funded. SXU will match this request with a \$37,975 investment. Roughly 4.6 percent of SXU's budget is funded through public/private grants.