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Drexel launches pathology program

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By Kathy Robertson

Drexel University started a new master of science program Monday for pathology assistants at the Sacramento campus.

The two-year program combines academic studies with a year of practical work in the field. It will prepare students for jobs in pathology laboratories, medical research centers, hospitals and medical examiner offices. Technically a midlevel provider, pathology assistants must work under the direction of a licensed pathologist.

The program is offered at Drexel's College of Medicine in Philadelphia but is not available elsewhere in the Sacramento region. The existing pathology workforce is aging and demand is expected to grow as more patients enter the health care system under health reform.

"We have a very well-known program in Philadelphia, but it took a while to figure out clinical laboratory locations in Sacramento," Drexel Sacramento director and associate vice provost Sandy Kirschenmann said. Kaiser Permanente and the UC Davis Health System will provide hospital-based opportunities for Drexel students to get experience.

The program kicked off Monday with five students but is expected to grow over time.

Courses are appropriate for recent college graduates with a degree in biological or allied health science, with exposure to anatomy, physiology and microbiology. Medical techs and other allied health professionals are urged to apply.

For more information, go to [Drexel's Sacramento website](#).

Kathy Robertson covers health care, law and lobbying, labor, workplace issues and immigration for the Sacramento Business Journal.