

Biography

Amy Harkins is Chair and Professor of the Department of Clinical Health Sciences in the Doisy College of Health Sciences at Saint Louis University (SLU). She joined Saint Louis University as Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine with a secondary appointment in Parks College of Engineering, Aviation, and Technology at SLU. As a primary investigator, Amy Harkins' research focused on how neurons communicate and improved nerve regeneration, using biomaterials to engineer physical scaffolds and microenvironments. Prior to her academic appointments, Amy Harkins received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Chicago.

In 2015, she became Interim Chair of the Department of Health Sciences and Informatics, and then Chair of the Department of Clinical Health Sciences that was formed through a merger of three clinically relevant departments in 2017. In 2019, the Department of Physician Assistant Education merged with the Department of Clinical Health Sciences. The Department of Clinical Health Sciences houses 9 academic programs, 6 of which are accredited. There are 6 full-time staff, 21 full-time faculty, 25 part-time faculty, and over 700 students in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Amy Harkins is highly involved in all aspects of leading a large and complex department. Her primary role as Chair is to oversee curricular programming and continuing accreditation, academic advancement of students, professional development of faculty and staff, and to create as well as provide all resources required for academic endeavors. She has engaged alumni with each academic program, garnered donors to support new and existing programming and scholarships, and is actively launching a hybrid (online/in-person) academic program for rural and underserved populations. She develops and maintains relationships with external stakeholders including those of clinical and community partners to advance critical educational programming. Since becoming Chair, Amy Harkins has focused on reducing barriers, cost, and time to degree as a primary focus for all students.