MINDS MOVING THE WORLD.

PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

SMU | DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

GIVING BACK.

ZACHARY FRISKE, A DEDMAN COLLEGE SCHOLAR IN THE PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM, HELPED ESTABLISH MUSTANG EMS AS A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY WHILE PROVIDING FUTURE MEDICAL STUDENTS WITH A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. THE GROUP STAFFS FIRST-AID TENTS AT SMU EVENTS, CONDUCTS CPR TRAINING FOR THE SMU COMMUNITY AND MONITORS THE CAMPUSWIDE DEFIBRILLATION SYSTEM. TO ZAC, THIS IS THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF LEARNING AND GIVING.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE

The Pre-Health Program is a preparation program that outlines a set of SMU courses that are commonly required for admission to graduate-level professional programs. It is not a major, a minor or a concentration. It is a path to ensure that students are ready and eligible for admission into the health professional school of their choice.

OUR STUDENTS ARE PREPARING FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDY IN:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Optometry
- Podiatry
- Veterinary Medicine
- Physician Assistant programs

RESEARCH TURNS INTO OPPORTUNITY.

KIMBERLY MENDOZA, AN SMU ALUMNA AND A CURRENT MEDICAL STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH, GALVESTON, PURSUED A DOUBLE MAJOR IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CHEMISTRY WHILE IN THE PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM. DURING HER TIME AT SMU SHE STUDIED AT SMU-IN-TAOS AND CONDUCTED AN UNBRIDLED PROJECT IN GUATEMALA, WHERE SHE RESEARCHED HEALTH-RELATED TRADITIONS, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES IN THE INDIGENOUS MAYAN COMMUNITY.

PRE-HEALTH RESOURCES

From access to physicians to panel-led practice interviews, the Pre-Health Program offers students a variety of resources.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Pre-Health students actively consult with Caleb Marsh, the director of the Office of Pre-Health Advising. He supports students preparing to apply to health professional schools and works with their academic advisers to ensure that they are prepared for graduation.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Students take courses in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics as prerequisites for admission to any health professional school.

OPPORTUNITY

Pre-Health student groups like the Health Pre-Professional Honor Society and club Alpha Epsilon Delta, the Pre-Dental Society, Mustang EMS and the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students provide hands-on experience and unlimited exposure to physicians, care groups and faculty panels. Students also benefit from internships and volunteer experiences in the health care setting as well as the annual Spring Health Professions Fair, which provides exclusive access to administrators from schools across the country.

ASSISTANCE

SMU offers application workshops for students preparing to apply to schools and year-round access to Caleb Marsh, the director of the Office of Pre-Health Advising. The Health Professions Recommendation Committee performs panel-led interviews that give students the opportunity to practice interview skills and receive feedback from the committee on both their interviews and applications.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center offers experienced tutors in chemistry, biology and mathematics.
- Faculty members hold help sessions, providing the opportunity for students to ask questions outside class lectures.
- At the Pre-Health Advising Office study lounges students can study, relax and meet other students in comfortable surroundings.

SMU PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL

SMU Pre-Health students' acceptance rates to medical schools typically are 10 – 15% above the national average. SMU Pre-Health students have been accepted at premier schools across the nation, including:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Boston University College of Medicine
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- Harvard Medical School
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- New York Medical College
- Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
- Saint Louis University School of Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
- Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- Washington University School of Medicine
- Yale School of Medicine

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

SMU provides an invaluable educational experience with smaller class sizes, opportunities to interact with faculty and plenty of occasions to participate in unique research projects at local and global levels.

DIVERSE CURRICULUM

SMU students preparing to enter health professions pursue majors across the curriculum. Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences boasts 16 departments with a wide variety of majors – from Biological Sciences to World Languages and Literatures. Advisers encourage students to choose the field that interests them the most while also pursuing their Pre-Health studies.

RESEARCH

- Centers and Institutes: Innovative organizations such as the Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery (CD4) allow students to assist in a variety of research projects, including cancer research and the treatment and control of Type 2 Diabetes.
- Field Courses: New Mexico's landscape, archaeological sites and cultural diversity provide a living laboratory for SMU-in-Taos courses, which range from biology to geology.
- International Partnerships: SMU capitalizes on a close relationship with the George W. Bush Institute, whose global health initiative brings organizations, businesses and government agencies together to make health systems function efficiently. Through this partnership, students have actively participated in global health care teams in Zambia. The University also offers study abroad programs, such as SMU Copenhagen, that provide valuable work experiences.

FUNDING

Opportunities such as the Richter Fellowship allow students to conduct independent research that is international or multicultural in scope.

A WHALE OF A FIND.

WORKING WITH FOSSILS AS OLD AS TIME, ANDREW LIN, A FORMER HAMILTON SCHOLAR AND CURRENT UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL STUDENT, BENEFITED FROM RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES WHILE IN THE PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM. HE COMPARED THE ANATOMY OF SMU'S 17-MILLION-YEAR-OLD BEAKED WHALE SPECIMEN WITH FOSSILS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

HELPING STUDENTS CHART THEIR PATHS.

CALEB MARSH, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PRE-HEALTH ADVISING, IS AN EXPERT ON THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR MAJOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS. HE LEVERAGES HIS EXPERIENCE IN ADVISING AND COUNSELING A WIDE ARRAY OF UNDERGRADUATE POPULATIONS AS HE WORKS WITH PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SMU'S PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM? In addition to the Pre-Health-specific resources, SMU has cultivated an engaged learning environment with smaller class sizes that allow students to easily access knowledgeable faculty and engage in innovative research opportunities. The hands-on experience and valuable faculty-student relationships created at SMU help ensure students' success within the health care industry.

DO YOU HELP STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN POST-GRADUATE STUDIES OUTSIDE GENERAL MEDICINE? The Office of Pre-Health Advising provides information, mentoring and guidance for students who are interested in any of the following areas of health care: dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, physician assistant programs and medicine. SMU students have successfully gone on to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the University of Houston College of Optometry and the University of Texas Southwestern School of Physical Therapy, among many others across the state and country.

DOES THE PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM OFFER OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT WILL HELP STUDENTS ACQUIRE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE? Yes. SMU is a private school participant in the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP), which provides services to support and encourage qualified students pursuing a medical education. SMU also has an articulation agreement with UT Southwestern for those interested in the physical therapy profession, as well as plenty of opportunities on campus with student groups such as Mustang EMS.

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TO LEARN MORE OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VISIT A CLASS

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