

SUMMER HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM

ABOUT SHPEP

Mission

The Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) is a free summer enrichment program focused on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions. SHPEP's goal is to strengthen the academic proficiency and career development of students underrepresented in the health professions and prepare them for a successful application and matriculation to health professions schools. These students include, but are not limited to, individuals who identify as African American/Black, American Indian and Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino, and who are from communities of socioeconomic and educational disadvantage. SHPEP, formerly known as the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), expanded in 2016 to include a broader array of health professions.

Creating a Culture of Health

The Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) is part of an effort by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that works to build a Culture of Health. As the nation's largest philanthropy focused on improving health and health care, RWJF is striving to build a national Culture of Health (visit www.cultureofhealth.org) that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. Aspiring health professionals are poised to be tomorrow's change leaders in helping build a Culture of Health in their communities and the nation. And to bring about meaningful change, health professionals must know how to learn and work together across disciplines. SHPEP exposes students to a range of health professions to help realize this vision.

Program Overview

SHPEP offers students a variety of academic and career experiences:

- Academic enrichment in the basic sciences and quantitative topics.
- Learning and study skills development, including methods of individual and group learning.
- Clinical exposure through small-group rotations in health care settings, simulation experiences, and seminars. This is limited to 5% of program time for all the sites.
- Career development sessions directed toward exploration of the health professions, the admissions process, and the development of an individualized education plan.
- A financial literacy and planning workshop that informs students of financial concepts and strategies.
- A health policy seminar series to expose scholars to a larger view of health care, health systems, and the social determinants of health.
- An introduction to interprofessional education that addresses effective collaboration across health professions.

SHPEP is a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with direction and technical assistance provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

SHPEP Programs on the West Coast

[University of California Los Angeles and Charles R. Drew University](#)

At the UCLA/CDU SHPEP, we are committed to developing future leaders that will change the face of medicine, dentistry and nursing as well as to improve health care delivery, policy and research in underserved communities. Our faculty advisors, caring staff, community members and supportive fellow classmates are part of a vibrant campus community that... [Continue reading](#) →

Program Dates: June 21, 2020 – August 1, 2020

University of Washington

The UW SHPEP will emphasize a culture of health by encouraging scholars to consider from the cellular to the global level factors that influence health. In addition, scholars will be encouraged to explore what their unique role will be in improving the health of communities with curricula exploring self-identity, culture and personal strengths in a... [Continue reading →](#)

Program Dates: June 21, 2020 – August 1, 2020

Western University of Health Sciences

The WesternU Summer Health Professions Education Program offers an innovative approach to academic enrichment in basic sciences through team-based learning. WesternU SHPEP is a rigorously inter-professional program offered in a diverse and vibrant urban environment. Student learning of foundational science, inter-professional teamwork, health disparities, and healthcare policy will be driven by weekly clinical cases. Western... [Continue reading →](#)

Program Dates: June 20, 2020 – July 31, 2020

Application Deadline is 11:59 PM ET, February 5th, 2020.

Eligibility Requirements

All students who meet the Summer Health Professions Education Program eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a high school graduate and currently enrolled as a freshman or sophomore in college.
- Have a minimum overall college GPA of 2.5.
- Be a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, or an individual granted deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Must not have previously participated in the program.

Other factors for consideration include that a student:

- Identifies with a group that is racially/ethnically underrepresented in the health professions;
- Comes from an economically or educationally disadvantaged background; and/or
- Has demonstrated an interest in issues affecting underserved populations.
- Submits a compelling personal statement and a strong letter of recommendation.

Submit Application Materials

Applications will only be reviewed by designated program sites once the National Program Office processes the following materials in accordance with the [admissions guidelines](#):

1. The online SHPEP application, which includes one essay prompt ([Personal Statement Guidelines](#)). An AAMC account is required to access the application. [Register for an AAMC account](#) if you do not already have one.
2. One official transcript from every U.S., U.S. Territorial, or Canadian post-secondary institution attended sent directly by the institution's registrar's office. Please review the [Transcript Requirements](#) section for more information.
3. One letter of recommendation from a qualified reference. Please review the [Recommendation Requirements](#) section for more information.

You can use the optional Application Checklist to ensure that you have completed all of the required steps to apply.