



Health-Related RSOs and Community Service Opportunities

While a strong academic background is essential for application to professional schools, students preparing for a career in health and medicine are also encouraged to not only cultivate research and clinical skills, but to also participate in their community. Hands-on experiences better inform your decision to pursue a career in health and medicine, and they also demonstrate that you have an in-depth understanding of your career choice. You have chosen to enter professions dedicated to service, and there are numerous opportunities to serve on campus and throughout Chicagoland. An array of community organizations and Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) welcome student involvement at UChicago.

The following are examples, but by no means a comprehensive listing of opportunities found to be of great value by UChicago students.

UChicago Community Service Center

<http://ucsc.uchicago.edu/>

UChicago Center for Leadership and Involvement

<https://leadership.uchicago.edu/>

Health-related RSOs

<https://blueprint.uchicago.edu/organizations>

Health-related RSO descriptions

Active Minds

The national purpose of Active Minds is to empower university students to speak openly about mental health to educate others and encourage help-seeking behavior. The purpose of Active Minds on the University of Chicago campus is to connect students with the appropriate resources to better manage the rigors of the University, create a safe and welcoming space on campus to discuss mental health, inform students of the prevalence of mental health issues nationally, and provide a forum for those passionate about these issues to make a community impact.

Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP)

The purpose of the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) program is to reduce the use of commonly abused drugs by middle school students on Chicago's South Side. ASAP accomplishes this by educating students on the anatomy and physiology of the target organs particularly affected by drug use: the brain, the liver, the heart, and the lungs. Through the presentation of the basic pharmacology of commonly-abused drugs and the visual presentation of real human organs, both healthy and diseased, the ASAP group works to persuade students that their decisions about drugs will have a tangible impact on their immediate and future health. Furthermore, recognizing that the actions of peers have a large impact on teenage drug abuse, the ASAP group holds an open discussion about peer pressure at the conclusion of each organ presentation.

Alpha Phi Omega (Gamma Sigma chapter)

APO, a national coeducational service organization, provides service to the community by working with a variety of different organizations, providing leadership to the campus by organizing campus activities and cleanups and by providing friendship to the members of the organization through game nights, parties, and mentorship programs.

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

Organization purpose:

- 1) Improving quality of health care in the US and worldwide
- 2) Acting as a resource for social and moral interests in medical education
- 3) Protecting the interests of medical students and residents.

The American Red Cross of the University of Chicago (ARCUC)

The American Red Cross of University of Chicago (ARCUC) is a collegiate club of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago (ARCGC) chapter. As the first American Red Cross collegiate club of Illinois, the organization seeks to take a strong leadership role in recruiting support for the Red Cross and surrounding communities. Consequently, this is a club dedicated to supporting the cause of the American Red Cross in helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

Bridgeport Free Clinic

The mission of the Bridgeport Free Clinic (BFC) is to provide drop-in medical care for the uninsured community of Bridgeport, where 35% of the population is Asian and, of the 22% uninsured in the community area, the largest proportion (28%) is of Asian descent. The clinic focuses on basic care for conditions that affect that population more commonly, including hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, Hepatitis B, liver disease, and smoking. In addition, the clinic aims to help enroll patients in insurance through in-house navigators for the Affordable Care Act and refer to primary care doctors in the community for long-term care. Interpretive services in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish are available for all clinic patients.

CHAMP: Chicago Adolescent Mentorship Program

CHAMP seeks to establish an ongoing relationship between the UChicago and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club (HPNC), a local community center. CHAMP is currently collaborating with the HPNC by offering one-on-one tutoring to area elementary and middle school students Mondays through Thursdays as well as art classes twice a week. CHAMP also has the aim of increasing dialogue among the university community regarding the relationship between the university and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Chicago HOPES

Chicago HOPES is a community service RSO that focuses on increasing publicity, volunteering, and resources for the various children in homeless shelters that Chicago HOPES serves. By providing educational support and cultural enrichment activities for the city's K-12 homeless children, the organization hopes to create a positive, welcoming environment, and motivate and provide students with the academic support necessary to break the cycle of homelessness.

Colleges Against Cancer (CAC)

American Cancer Society Colleges Against Cancer is a nationwide collaboration of college students, faculty, and staff dedicated to eliminating cancer by volunteering for, initiating and supporting programs of the American Cancer Society in college communities. Examples of such programs include, but are not limited to: Relay for Life, Daffodil Days, survivorship programs, advocacy measures, and more.

Comer Tutors

Comer Tutors organizes and trains tutors who will provide academic services to inpatients at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. During their stay at the hospital, school-age patients have limited or no access to academic resources for weeks and months at a time. Through tutoring, the organization aims to keep patients at pace with their assigned schoolwork so that they can continue to achieve academically when they return to school.

[Community Health Initiative](#)

An organization to help facilitate student assistance for physicians and medical students providing medical access and medical service to residents of the Maria Shelter, a woman's shelter in Englewood, and patients at the Community Health Clinic.

[Diabetes Prevention Management](#)

This organization provides community-based glucose and blood pressure screenings. Community based screenings with community-based diabetes and health related education programming are provided to expand the knowledge base of the community as well as to empower individuals to take charge of their own health.

[Emergency Medical Services \(UCEMS\)](#)

The University of Chicago Emergency Medical Service is a student organization at the University of Chicago. It is composed of three main components: training, community service, and standby medical response. Training is the branch responsible for the student-run and student-taught American Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder course we offer every quarter at the University of Chicago, in addition to various CPR/First Aid classes offered to the campus and community. The training branch is composed of all certified instructors and instructor aides and is led by the Director of Training. Community Service is responsible for reaching out to the campus and community and arranging other First Aid, CPR, and safety training classes. Community Service is led by the Community Service Officer. University of Chicago EMS is staffed and lead by trained student first responders. Unit membership is limited to those who have passed the requisite practical and written exams, while UCEMS membership is not. In addition to training, community service, and the unit, there are other supporting components of the UCEMS such as quality improvement, membership, finances, public information, and logistics that work with training, community service, and the unit.

[Friends of the Washington Park Youth Program](#)

UChicago students are partnered with the city-wide Chicago Youth Programs to offer tutoring and mentoring programs for youth from Washington Park, adjacent to UChicago's campus.

[Food Recovery Network](#)

Food Recovery Network is a service organization dedicated to addressing environmental justice and food insecurity by recovering leftover food on campus for local shelters and community centers. We recover from the UChicago dining halls, Pret, and campus events multiple times a week. Once a week, we also meet to discuss food and environmental-justice related topics! Check out our Free Food Watch Facebook page for posts about free food on campus leftover from events or information on food assistance for UChicago students. Our activities have changed a bit this year, but we hope to continue recoveries in Winter or Spring 2021.

[Food Run Project](#)

Homeless Food Run was founded in 2002 as a new way to serve Chicago's homeless and working poor. HFR firmly believes that one must experience the homeless face-to-face to truly understand and help the growing problem of homelessness in Chicago. We see value in personal interaction with Chicago's poor, restoring dignity to an often-marginalized group. Our goal is two-fold: one, to provide food, clothing, and resources to Chicago's homeless and working poor; and two, to instill a concern for the poor in the lives of college students. By providing opportunities for community service every week in a relaxed, fun environment, HFR has become a UChicago mainstay. By encouraging interaction and respect, HFR members have forged enriching friendships with Chicago's homeless and working poor. Enough talk. It's time to experience HFR first-hand.

[Globe Med](#)

Globe Med aims to strengthen the movement for global health equity by empowering students and communities to work together to improve the health of the impoverished around the world. Globe Med aims to meet this challenge by engaging and training students to work with grassroots organizations across the world to improve the health of the impoverished. By partnering students and communities to combat poverty and poor health, Globe Med improves the lives of thousands of impoverished people across the world today and shape tomorrow's leaders across all professions who will share a deep commitment to health equity and social justice.

[Habitat for Humanity](#)

The UChicago chapter of Habitat for Humanity raises awareness for housing issues and provides opportunities for students to contribute directly to the affordable housing cause. It organizes build trips to housing affiliates every weekend and organizes larger scale domestic and international trips which take place over student breaks (winter, spring, summer).

[MEDLIFE](#)

The MEDLIFE chapter at the University of Chicago is comprised of 5 separate committees: Education, Events Coordination, Publicity, Clinics Coordination, and Community Service. Each member of our chapter takes an active role in a specific committee in addition to attending chapter meetings and participating in chapter activities which include local community service trips, fundraising for MEDLIFE Mobile Clinics, and speaker panels that talk about important global and local health policies.

[NEURO Club](#)

NEURO is committed to expanding public knowledge about the brain sciences in an understandable and applicable manner in both the campus and surrounding communities. At the University of Chicago, NEURO aims to connect undergraduate students with University resources to keep them current regarding advancements in neuroscience and get them involved in the field. Just as importantly, NEURO focuses on extending its resources (through involvement with a variety of organizations and events) into the greater Chicago area to expose students and community members to neuroscience and raise awareness of how important it is to their lives.

[On a Mission for Nutrition](#)

This organization develops and implements an after-school nutrition programs to improve the nutrition knowledge of children and adolescents in South Side communities and to empower them to make healthy choices.

[Peer Health Exchange](#)

Peer Health Exchange (PHE) gives teenagers the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions. PHE accomplishes this by training college student volunteers to teach a comprehensive, fact-based health education curriculum in Chicago Public Schools.

[Phoenix Tutoring](#)

Phoenix Tutoring is a free tutoring service that works with K-12 Chicago Public School students. Formerly known as Calvert House Tutoring, the organization is led completely by UChicago students of all years. We specifically match students and tutors based on the students' needs and the tutors' preferred subjects.

[Phoenix Undergraduate Biological Sciences Organization](#)

Phoenix is the undergraduate biology organization at the University of Chicago. Because it is affiliated with the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division (BSCD), it can provide extensive resources and fun experiences for undergraduates who are or may potentially become concentrators in Biology or bio-related fields. Phoenix presents quarterly events that allow undergraduates to network with and seek advice from its selected group of peer mentors, graduate students, professors, and laboratory principal investigators (PIs).

[Pre-Dental Students Association \(PDSA\)](#)

The mission of the University of Chicago's Pre-Dental Students Association is to promote student awareness and exposure to the field of dentistry, provide students with the information and resources to find opportunities such as jobs, internships, and community service work in the field of dentistry, socially connect students who have a potential interest in dentistry with dental students/alumni, and dental school admission council, and provide aid to students in their endeavors to successfully gain admission into dental school by informing/advising them about prerequisites, the dental admissions test (DAT), the application process, and various dental schools.

[Pre-Medical Students Association \(PMSA\)](#)

The University of Chicago Pre-Medical Student Association (PMSA) aims to provide academic, extracurricular, social, and support resources to students interested in pursuing medicine and the health professions. Its goal is to develop well-rounded physicians in aspects outside of academics, and to provide opportunities for pre-health students to connect with medical students, doctors, and other health and non-profit organizations.

[Remedy](#)

Remedy provides supplies collected from the University of Chicago Hospital System to organizations that deliver such supplies to several developing countries, wherever they are most needed, it promotes the work of University of Chicago students as medical aid volunteers in developing countries through discussions and fundraising events, and it organizes a large donation project for the benefit of medical personnel in a specific country.

[Science 4 Kids](#)

We utilize NextGeneration standards to craft interactive lessons and activities in order to make science and health accessible and fun to students in the Hyde park and South Side communities. Oftentimes, we work with underprivileged local elementary and middle schools that lack STEM teachers and materials for experiments. We also work with diverse learners.

[Society for Scientists of Color](#)

The purpose of the Society for Scientists of Color (SSoC) at the University of Chicago shall be to promote and cultivate an environment in which students of color have the resources to succeed as scientists, as well as to provide a sense of community and belonging between Scientists of Color. The goals of SSoC shall be to promote and ensure the continued growth of accessibility and opportunity for students of color interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

[Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in STEM](#)

The mission of SACNAS is to support inclusivity, professional advancement, and educational opportunity for STEM students from underrepresented groups. Our mission to empower and provide the tools for all scientists to succeed in their respective fields, whether it be in academia or in industry. We provide personal and professional networking and development events to the STEM community by leveraging our professional and personal networks, in addition to the national SACNAS network, allowing us to serve, support and lead our vibrant minority STEM student community on campus at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

[South Side Free Music Program](#)

The South Side Free Music Program is an all-volunteer organization providing free music education in schools and community centers in south side Chicago. The program's lessons teach both an instrument and music theory, taking time to show students that these lessons can help them understand themselves.

[South Side Science Scholars](#)

Believing that human life may be enriched through the growth and dissemination of knowledge, this group is committed to developing, creating, and delivering a sustainable afterschool science curriculum to under-served Chicago grade schools, particularly those of the South Side. It aspires to positively impact children's scientific thinking, elements of health education, communication skills, and overall school preparedness.

[South Side Scribblers](#)

South Side Scribblers has been teaching creative writing in Hyde Park since 1994. This is a community service organization within the University of Chicago's University Community Service Center. The program mission is to get kids excited about being creative, excited about writing, and excited about creative writing! Volunteers instruct creative writing activities to groups of students ranging from 2nd grade to 6th grade in local Hyde Park elementary schools after school programs.

[Splash! Chicago](#)

Splash! Chicago is dedicated to offering experiential learning opportunities to students at the University of Chicago, in the form of educational encounters with high school students from the Chicagoland area. Splash! Chicago works towards the creation of an annual event, as well as additional events throughout the year. These events are motivated by the desire for students to teach students, so that the bridge of friendship can be created between the students at the University of Chicago and the students of Chicago.

[Strive Tutoring](#)

Strive Tutoring connects University of Chicago volunteers with local students in need of extra academic help. Tutors can make a tremendous impact by providing free one-on-one tutoring, developing enrichment activities, and forging relationships with young scholars.

[Student Global Health Alliance](#)

Our mission is to fight for health equity through 1) partnerships with NGOs, 2) local initiatives, and 3) peer education. We work with our partner organizations--DIN Malawi (Malawi) and Options for Youth (Chicago)--in a variety of capacities to help them support their bottom-line populations in the areas that help the most. We are a global and public health focused RSO that operates as a series of five teams all coordinated together, jointly working to serve our partners in a sustainable, ethical way. GHA pairs implementation with research. As a member of GHA, you will be educated on a variety of critical topics from the development and health spheres so that you may build a greater understanding of areas such as bioethics, charity complexes, health status, the social determinants of health, historical interventionist development failures, post-colonial dynamics, structures of power in the developing world, and much more. Then, armed with this knowledge, you will match with one of our five teams. Equipped with an early understanding of how to approach partnership and development work in a sustainable, ethical manner, you'll then begin to work with our partners to serve their needs in any number of amazing, fulfilling, inspiring ways.

[Student National Medical Association – Minority Association of Premedical Students](#)

The purpose of the University of Chicago Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS) is to provide students of color a variety of information resources necessary for the pursuit of a career in medicine and health related occupations. MAPS seeks not only to provide relevant information to the premedical student, but to also promote participation in community service activities in the under-served communities of Chicago. MAPS works closely with the Pre-Medical Students Organization (PMSA) as well as CIH, the SNMA Medical School Chapter at The Pritzker School of Medicine, and campus organizations that represent students of color. Through this network, MAPS hopes to provide students at the University of Chicago with information pertinent to the pursuit of a career in the health professions.

United Against Inequities in Disease

United Against Inequities in Disease (UAID) is committed to eliminating health inequalities in Chicago's south side. With the help of dedicated UChicago students, like-minded organizations, and the local community, UAID strives to make our country's healthcare system more accessible and comprehensible to those who need it most. Each year, our chapter focuses on a new health issue. We begin with an assessment of our community through data collection, meetings with local organizations, and interviews with individuals. Armed with this information, we then develop a targeted, long-term action plan and present it as a proposal to our UAID faculty advisor. Once it has been refined and approved, we will then implement this action plan, relying on our student members to actualize these goals. Finally, we compile our findings and present the results of our work in a publishable report.

University of Chicago First Responder Corps (UCFRC)

The primary mission of the UCFRC is to improve the health of the University of Chicago community by training students as emergency medical responders and serving as a professional emergency medical services agency providing professional emergency medical care to the community. The secondary mission is to enhance emergency preparedness and public health by educating the community.

Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE)

WYSE is a national mentoring organization which works to empower young women with the information and resources they need to make healthy, informed decisions and become leaders in their communities. The UChicago branch works at Madero Middle School in Little Village.

Woodlawn After School Kids Program

WASKP provides volunteer tutors to the Woodlawn neighborhood Monday-Friday afternoons. The goal is to provide a safe environment for kids to study after school as well as to assist with homework and promote educational growth.