Career Paths and Desired Skills

There are many clinical career pathways within the health professions for UChicago students. Though there are a wide variety of clinical careers to consider, all require a similar set of competencies. Clinical careers require academic skills, including a demonstrated intellectual curiosity, quantitative reasoning, and a knowledge of living systems and of human behavior. There are also interpersonal skills that are highly sought after, such as communication, cultural competence, ethical decision-making, leadership, resilience and adaptability.

**Competency Category**

**THINKING AND REASONING SKILLS**
Professional schools typically require a set of pre-requisite coursework including one year each (lecture and lab) of biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, English and math. Be sure to consult with your academic adviser!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Competencies</th>
<th>Ways to Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Critical thinking</td>
<td>• Academic coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quantitative reasoning</td>
<td>• Independent reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scientific inquiry</td>
<td>• Research experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Written communication</td>
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</table>

**SCIENCE COMPETENCIES**
Though any major is acceptable and valued by the schools of the health professions, it is important that you are able to demonstrate a solid understanding of the scientific concepts you will face in professional school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Competencies</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Knowledge of living systems</td>
<td>• Academic coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Understanding of human behavior, particularly as it relates to factors that influence health and well being</td>
<td>• Research experience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Program/workshop attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Interacting with wide range of individuals</td>
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</table>

**INTERPERSONAL SKILLS**
As clinical careers are teamwork-based helping professions, one must show that they have a desire to be of service to others and an ability to communicate with a wide range of individuals.

<table>
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<th>Key Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Service orientation</td>
<td>• Community service endeavors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Social skills</td>
<td>• Participation in RSOs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cultural competence</td>
<td>• Clinical volunteer experiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teamwork</td>
<td>• Participation in class lectures/discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Oral communication</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**INTRAPERSONAL SKILLS**
The pathway toward a clinical career is a demanding one, requiring strong intrapersonal skills. Schools will want to see evidence of your ability to handle multiple responsibilities, act as the leader of a team, and demonstrate utmost ethics and professionalism.

<table>
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<th>Key Competencies</th>
<th>Ways to Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>• Ethical responsibility to self and others</td>
<td>• Longitudinal involvement in your activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reliability and dependability</td>
<td>• Work/Internship experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resilience and adaptability</td>
<td>• Mentoring or holding positions of leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Capacity for improvement</td>
<td>• Seeking and accepting feedback and coaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAVIGATING UCHICAGO

CAREERS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS

UCIHP is designed to assist you from your very first year all the way through to your application, providing:

EXPLORE
- 1:1 coaching from advisers with 40+ years of experience
- Workshops and webinars which pertain to your career exploration and preparation

ENGAGE
- Treks to health professions programs in Chicagoland and beyond
- Physician Shadowing Program
- Cohort-based internships allowing for independent research projects and career development

PREPARE
- Information sessions provided by medical school admissions deans
- Structured Health and Medicine Committee process, guiding you through
- Health and Medicine Committee letter in support of your application

APPLY
If you plan to matriculate directly into a professional school program, you will need to begin your application process during your third year in the College. Many students also will take 1-2 (or more!) years in-between college and matriculation to medical school. It is important to remember that the application process takes approximately 18 months. For the purposes of clarity, we'll outline the timeline using the direct-entry model:

**FALL 3RD YEAR**
Begin UCIHP HMC Process

**SPRING 3RD YEAR**
Sit for MCAT

**JUNE 3RD YEAR**
National common application opens

**SUMMER PRE 4TH YEAR**
Complete Secondary Applications

**FALL THRU WINTER 4TH YEAR**
Interview

**APRIL 4TH YEAR**
Make final decision of where to attend

REPRESENTATIVE SCHOOLS
These employers actively recruit UChicago students!

Work with Career Advancement to stay current on recruiting timelines

**Top 20**
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Harvard Medical School
Stanford University School of Medicine

**Illinois**
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine
Rush University Medical School

**Nationwide**
University of Michigan Medical School
Emory University School of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

**Noah Hellermann (AB ’17)**
- UCIHP Potter Fellow in Community and Social Medicine
- Co-coordinator, Peer Health Exchange
- Gap year conducting research at NYU Langone Health
- Matriculated to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Ade Ayoola (AB ’18)**
- Clinical Excellence Scholar
- Health Policy Scholar
- Global Health Internship Recipient
- Knight-Hennessy Scholar
- Matriculated to Stanford University School of Medicine

UChicago Career Advancement
careeradvancement.uchicago.edu