

Health Sciences LEAP

Make a successful "leap" from high school to college and find your place at the University of Utah!

About the Program

Health Sciences LEAP is a four-year pipeline program designed to assist students interested in careers in medicine, pharmacy or health, who come from populations traditionally underrepresented in the health professions.

Students selected for the program must have a demonstrated interest in science and health science careers. The University of Utah Health Sciences is committed to the recruitment of diverse students knowing that diversity adds to the academic, research and civic responsibilities of the institution and the community.

We therefore seek out students from varied backgrounds including, but not limited to, racial and ethnic minority students or those who meet definitions of **economic, social, or educational disadvantage**.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2015.

Note: For students who will be majoring in Nursing, there is a new Pre-Nursing LEAP. For more information and application, please go to:
<http://nursing.utah.edu/programs/pre-nursing-leap.php>.

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Student comes from a family whose annual income falls below the thresholds published in the Federal Register, DHHS. Please attach federal most recent income tax forms.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

Student comes from an environment that has inhibited (but not prevented) her/him from obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities required to enroll in and successfully complete an undergraduate course of study that could lead to a career in health sciences. This includes, but may not necessarily be limited to students who are in foster care, who will be first generation college students, who are limited by their community setting (rural, inner city or reservation), or who are being reared by a single or a divorced parent.

EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED

Student is not succeeding or is underachieving in school due to a limited proficiency in English; standardized test scores at her/his school are markedly below other institutions in the area; a financially poor school district; parents or other adults in the household are not high school graduates or have limited English proficiency; or student performance on standardized tests is below national norms.

Program Facts

- Prepares students for health professions majors & graduate programs
- Health professional shadowing, laboratory research & service learning
- Get acquainted with faculty from the Health Sciences
- Small student group cohort
- Peer advisor & professor accessibility
- Support network of parents, professors, counselors & advisors
- Assistance with financial aid, scholarships, university procedures & housing
- Priority registration for classes
- No additional cost
- Must be accepted to and attend the U
- Compatible with the Honors Program

Contact

For more information, please contact Zeta Tsagaris at 801.587.9917 or zoe.tsagaris@hsc.utah.edu.

Health Sciences LEAP Curriculum

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Throughout the four year program, students are supported by personal and academic advising, peer mentors, library skills courses, study skills courses, and yearly celebrations of their accomplishments. Below are the goals and objectives of HS LEAP by year:

First Year HS LEAP

During the first year of Health Sciences Leap, students take two courses, one in the Fall semester and one in the Spring semester, thereby fulfilling their general education humanities requirement and the diversity requirement.

Second Year HS LEAP

The second year begins with a course in "Health Professions Exploration." Students shadow health professionals in their preferred fields for two hours per week. Additionally students write about and discuss their experiences in light of reading they have done and lectures they have heard on cultural competency, complementary and alternative medicine, professionalism, collegiality, collaboration and medical ethics. Spring semester, students take a course in "Research and Lab Skills," which prepares them to work in research laboratories during their third year.

Third Year HS LEAP

Third year Health Sciences Leap consists of two semesters of "Research Seminar for Advanced Leap Students." Students are placed in labs as research assistants for seven months, working either ten or five hours a week in a paid position. Students reflect on their work in the two seminars, which require them to give oral and poster presentations of their research to their classmates, other Health Sciences Leap students, and the University as a whole in the context of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. They also visit each other's research labs and learn to write their research in a form appropriate to a medical or scientific journal.

Fourth Year HS LEAP

The final year of the program students research, design, implement, and evaluate an extended service project in cooperation with the University of Utah's Bennion Center, the Huntsman Cancer Institute's Special Populations Office, or the University/ Neighborhood Partners. Service learning through community partnerships requires regular meetings as a class and with their service partners. Working alone or in pairs, at least 100 hours must be contributed to their community partnerships. The course emphasis is on higher education's responsibility to community, and establishing viable partnerships with symbiotic rewards.