Special Programs

There are a number of academic year and summer enrichment programs for disadvantaged students in and outside of North Carolina. Experiences include academic enrichment, research and internships. Participation in these programs is highly recommended. The principle ones on the UNC campus are:

**The Science Enrichment Program (SEP)**

SEP is an eight-week, honors level, science enrichment program for minority and economically disadvantaged college students (primarily rising sophomores and rising juniors) who want to enter schools of allied health, chiropractic, dentistry, medicine, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, podiatry, public health, and veterinary medicine. Students receive more than 150 contact hours in physics, organic chemistry, human physiology, and quantitative skills/biostatistics. Courses in reading speed development and comprehension, effective admissions test taking strategies, and interview and study skills are woven into the curriculum, along with site visits to area health care and biomedical research facilities.

Contact the [NC Health Careers Access Program](https://careers.unc.edu) [1] or call 919-966-2264.

**The Medical Education Development (MED) Program**

The Medical Education Development (MED) Program is an intensive educational experience and challenging opportunity to gain insight into the realities of attending medical or dental school.

The MED Program was established in 1974 and is designed to increase opportunities in the health professions for individuals who demonstrate educational promise and commitment to a health career but who have lacked the opportunity in the past in moving toward their professional goals. The MED Program is sponsored by the University of North Carolina Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, Health Careers Opportunities Programs (Division of Disadvantaged Assistance, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources Administration) and the State of North Carolina. The program offers a structured summer curriculum at the level of professional education to increase the ability of advanced pre-professional candidates, especially those who are disadvantaged, to compete successfully for admission to health professional schools.

Since 1974, over 2,800 students who have attended the MED summer program decided to apply to health profession schools. 88% gained admission, with 80% matriculating into medical or dental school, and the remainder entering other health profession schools.

This program is usually done after the junior or senior year. [http://www.med.unc.edu/medprogram](http://www.med.unc.edu/medprogram) [2]

**The ECU Summer Program for Future Doctors (SPFD)**

This program provides a great opportunity for students to experience the academic rigors and demands of the medical school curriculum. In addition, students who are accepted into this program will work on improving their learning and study skills; will gain shadowing experiences; will participate in health related community service opportunities; and will work on how to approach the MCAT. To learn more about this great program
(goals, application information, deadlines, requirements, specific benefits), click on the link here: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/bsomadmissions/summer.cfm [3]

**UNC Summer Public Health Fellowship Program**

A great summer program for anyone interested in exploring public health opportunities and careers. Click on the following link: [http://sph.unc.edu/global-health/ggg-internships-and-funding/] [4]

**Summer Health Professions Education Program**

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. [http://www.shpep.org/][5]

We strongly recommend that you take advantage of these excellent opportunities.

Source URL: https://careers.unc.edu/students/pre-professional-pre-graduate-advising/pre-health/special-programs

Links: