

2016



President's Report to the Board of Regents



Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.
President

August 2016

YOUR LIFE
— *our purpose* —

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER





Thanks for all of the thoughts and prayers during my absence from the May board meeting.

- Tedd

Quiz of the day...

Did you know that Lubbock, Texas is responsible for one of modern medicine's greatest inventions?

From October 2015 BOR meeting...

Medical School Rankings

The future doctors of America have spoken. In a recent Graduateprograms.com survey, both current and former medical students ranked the best med schools across the country.

The Medical School Rankings for the Fall of 2015 are listed below:

Rank	School	Student Rating
1	The Ohio State University	9.13
2	University of Pennsylvania	9.07
3	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	9.01
14	Johns Hopkins University	8.51
16	Stanford University	8.46
20	Yale University	8.33
24	Harvard University	8.29
30	University of California, Los Angeles	8.18
31	Columbia University	8.16
46	Baylor College of Medicine	7.90



2016 Top Physical Therapy Graduate Programs

This list compiles the top 40 graduate programs in physical therapy, and is based on student reviews. Several, such as [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#) and the [Mayo School of Health Sciences](#), have a student to faculty ratio of 10 to 1 or less. Many of these programs are affordable options, with eight of the schools on our list charging an annual tuition of around \$15,000 or less.

Best Schools Offering Graduate Programs in Physical Therapy

Rank	School	Annual Tuition	2016 Student Rating
1	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$16,656	4.67
2	Texas Woman's University	\$11,885	4.61
3	University of Central Arkansas	\$9,691	4.59
4	University of North Florida	\$22,946	4.56
5	Mayo School of Health Sciences	\$27,000	4.54
6	University of Wisconsin - Madison	\$25,184	4.54
7	MGH Institute of Health Professions	\$39,918	4.40
8	University of Southern California	\$37,504	4.36
9	University of Central Florida	\$28,616	4.33
10	Old Dominion University	\$25,152	4.27
11	Elon University	\$12,082	4.26
12	East Tennessee State University	\$21,109	7.24
13	University of Indianapolis	\$25,510	4.22
14	Western University of Health Sciences	\$21,400	4.11
15	Midwestern University - Glendale	\$35,756	4.07
16	Utica College	\$30,692	4.05
17	University of Minnesota - Twin Cities	\$24,398	4.01
18	Thomas Jefferson University	\$28,512	3.99
19	Clarke University	\$13,590	3.96
20	Georgia Regents University	\$17,758	3.95
21	University of Incarnate Word	\$15,642	3.93
22	Grand Valley State University	\$18,188	3.91
23	University of Michigan - Flint	\$13,882	3.90
24	Drexel University	\$29,575	3.89
25	Marquette University	\$18,450	3.89



2016 Top Nursing Graduate Programs

This list of the top 25 schools to receive a graduate degree in nursing from is based on student rankings. Tuition varies from program to program, but those who are looking for affordable options can find them here.

Best Schools Offering Graduate Programs in Nursing			
Rank	School	Annual Tuition	2016 Student Rating
1	Curry College	\$15,235	4.70
2	University of South Florida - Main Campus	\$21,126	4.55
3	Mount St. Joseph University	\$10,350	4.45
4	Spalding University	\$12,285	4.41
5	University of California - Los Angeles	\$27,673	4.41
6	University of Arizona	\$12,048	4.32
7	Barry University	\$17,280	4.29
8	California Baptist University	\$10,790	4.27
9	Azusa Pacific University	\$10,563	4.26
10	University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh Campus	\$33,426	4.23
11	California State University - Fullerton	\$18,612	4.22
12	University of Pennsylvania	\$31,744	4.22
13	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$16,656	4.19
14	Western University of Health Sciences	\$21,400	4.17
15	Duke University	\$46,586	4.16



2016 Top Pharmacy Graduate Programs

With an average student rating of 3.62 or higher, each of the top 35 schools offering graduate programs in pharmacy are excellent options for those seeking a degree in that field. Students rated their schools in seven different areas, including campus safety, satisfaction with degree, and student diversity.

Best Schools Offering Graduate Programs in Pharmacy			
Rank	School	Annual Tuition	2016 Student Rating
1	Mercer University	\$13,774	4.49
2	University of California - San Francisco	\$27,469	4.43
3	University of Connecticut	\$31,946	4.43
4	Regis University	\$10,890	4.38
5	Butler University	\$9,572	4.36
6	Notre Dame of Maryland University	\$9,890	4.34
7	University of Missouri - Kansas	\$16,659	4.34
8	University of Florida	\$30,036	4.30
16	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$16,656	4.06



2016 TOP MEDICAL



This list of the top 50 schools with graduate degrees in healthcare is based on student reviews. [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#) is the top rated school on our list, with an incredibly high student satisfaction rating of 4.7. Many reviewers commented on the strong community and supportive professors. One reviewer wrote, "Really enjoy the atmosphere, as it is collaborative and supportive." Another student highlights the "great camaraderie among students" and the "faculty and staff invested in your success" at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Best Schools Offering Graduate Programs in Health Sciences

Rank	School	Annual Tuition	2016 Student Rating
1	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$16,656	4.71
2	Pacific University	\$28,037	4.44
3	Harvard University	\$39,846	4.39
4	Midwestern University - Downers Grove	\$36,517	4.39
5	Duke University	\$46,586	4.37
6	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	\$27,459	4.31
7	Emory University	\$39,934	4.30
8	Texas A&M University - College Station	\$16,746	4.30
9	Loma Linda University	\$25,812	4.29
10	Wayne State University	\$30,356	4.29
11	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	\$17,960	4.28
12	A T Still University of Health Sciences	\$28,806	4.28
13	Florida State University	\$26,697	4.26
14	Loyola University Chicago	\$17,478	4.25
15	University of Texas Health Sciences Center Houston	\$25,732	4.24
16	Bastyr University	\$22,470	4.23
17	Case Western Reserve University	\$38,616	4.23
18	University of Virginia - Main Campus	\$26,266	4.23
19	Logan University	\$7,930	4.22
20	Des Moines University	\$9,720	4.21
21	Washington University in St. Louis	\$44,400	4.21
22	University of Maryland - College Park	\$23,694	4.20

C A L U N I V E R S I T I E S

Rank	School	Annual Tuition	2016 Student Rating
23	Northwestern University	\$45,560	4.18
24	University of Alabama at Birmingham	\$15,444	4.16
25	Yale University	\$36,500	4.15
26	Boston University	\$44,580	4.14
27	University of California - San Francisco	\$27,469	4.14
28	Western University of Health Sciences	\$21,400	4.14
29	Midwestern University - Glendale	\$35,756	4.13
30	University of Florida	\$30,036	4.12
31	Indiana University - Purdue University - Indianapolis	\$23,991	4.12
32	Texas Woman's University	\$11,885	4.12
33	Life University	\$6,876	4.11
34	Texas State University	\$12,953	4.11
35	University of Arizona	\$12,048	4.11
36	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	\$39,798	4.11
37	University of Southern California	\$37,504	4.11
38	University of Missouri - Kansas City	\$16,659	4.08
39	Thomas Jefferson University	\$28,512	4.08
40	Baylor College of Medicine	\$22,075	4.06
41	University of South Florida - Main Campus	\$21,126	4.06
42	University of California - Los Angeles	\$27,673	4.04
43	Vanderbilt University	\$42,342	4.03
44	Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	\$26,004	4.03
45	Eastern Virginia Medical School	\$23,839	4.02
46	Palmer College of Chiropractic - Davenport	\$7,602	4.02
47	University of Vermont	\$36,408	4.01
48	University of Illinois at Chicago	\$25,901	4.00
49	Stanford University	\$43,245	3.98
50	University of South Carolina - Columbia	\$25,360	3.98



FMAT - First Three-Year Medical Degree a Success

Inaugural class completes family medicine residencies

July 1, 2016

Eileen Sprys, M.D., always had interest in primary care medicine. Yet, she was concerned about the debt that she would face upon graduating from medical school.

“As much as I did not like to think about how many years the debt would take to work off if I did primary care, I had to think about it,” Sprys said. “The debt was a reality whether I liked it or not.”

Sprys is one of eight students from the inaugural class of the Family Medicine Accelerated Track (FMAT) program created by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Medicine.

The FMAT program allows primary care students at the TTUHSC School of Medicine to complete their degree in three years at about half of the cost of the standard four-year program. This month, Sprys along with the inaugural class that includes Keeley Ewing-Bramblett, M.D., Clay Buchanan, M.D., Robert Cooper, M.D., Emily Dosier, M.D., Amanda Hartman, M.D., Seth Wilhelm, M.D., and Charles Willnaue, M.D., completed family medicine residency training and will begin their careers as practicing physicians.

“The FMAT program took an edge off of that reality of completing medical school with a huge debt,” Sprys said. “The program has allowed me to consider family practice



FMAT Inaugural Class and Founding Faculty

without bias. I was motivated to do the FMAT because it would allow me to practice what I genuinely want, family medicine program without the fear of insurmountable debt in the back of my mind.”

Steven Berk, M.D., TTUHSC executive vice president, provost and dean of the School of Medicine, said with the baby boomer generation growing older and the increased demand for primary care with the federal health care law, this program has addressed the need for more family medicine doctors.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), since 1997, U.S. medical school graduate matches in family medicine and general internal medicine programs have fallen by nearly 50 percent. A 2006 AAFP Workforce Study estimated that the U.S. would need approximately 39,000 more family physicians by 2020.

Betsy Goebel Jones, Ed.D., professor and chair of the Department of Medical Education and professor of family and community medicine at TTUHSC School of Medicine, said other universities, many of which have started similar programs, have closely watched the program.

“The FMAT program took an edge off of the reality of completing medical school with a huge debt.”

“The visibility of the program has raised the status of primary care across this institution and others.” Jones said. “Our School of Medicine has become an advocate to help many of the other universities creating their own programs. We field questions regularly from other interested schools, and we work closely with a consortium of nine other medical schools, including New York University; Medical College of Wisconsin; University of California, Davis; University of Louisville; Penn State and others, engaged in implementing and assessing the benefits of accelerated training as a way to reduce student debt and provide more direct pathways to address physician work force needs.”

FMAT training began for the first class of students in June 2011; those first eight students graduated from medical school in May 2013, began residency the following July and completed their third and final year of family medicine residency in June 2016. To date, 31 students have graduated from the program and begun family medicine residency. Eighteen additional students are currently in the FMAT program.

Seven of the eight graduates will be in practice in Texas, many in small communities that are medically underserved. One will continue an additional year of training in primary care fellowship.

Sprys will begin working as an attending TTUHSC Family Medicine physician at the Student Wellness Center. Graduating, she said, is bittersweet.

“The FMAT program fosters a great deal of mentorships and friendships,” Sprys said. “I consider so many of my attending physicians mentors and close friends, and the same goes for my classmates. We’ve been a close-knit group who have rounded in the hospital and sat in lecture together for six years. We’ve become brothers and sisters and we’ve been through a great deal of hard work together and we’ve persevered.”

On the other hand, Sprys said she also feels a sense of relief to graduate.

“Our program hit the ground running” Sprys said. “We went straight from medical school on a Sunday to residency on a Monday. I can say with confidence on behalf of my peers and myself that we feel prepared to go out in to the world and work as family doctors. I couldn’t be more grateful to my attending physicians inside family medicine, specialists, professors and Texas Tech for the opportunity to participate in the FMAT program.”

Berk said FMAT has succeeded in its goal of training more primary care physicians. While the percentage of TTUHSC School of Medicine students matching with family medicine in 2011 was 11.2 percent — close to the national average of 11.4 percent — by 2016, TTUHSC’s average rose to 19.5 percent, while the national average remained at 11.6 percent.

“Although the process of maintaining FMAT has been challenging, what has been most satisfying has been the level of performance FMAT graduates have demonstrated as they transition to residency,” Berk said. “FMAT works and meets the goals we set. This first class completed their residency and can be proud they were the first to set the standard.”

What’s
FMAT...?

URbaN
DICTIONARY
knows...

F a M i L y
M e D i C i N e
a C C e L e R a T e D
T R A C K

a
program
created by



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TTUHSC Announces New Joint Venture with Covenant Health July 1, 2016



School of Medicine Covenant Branch Inaugural Class

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Medicine announced a joint venture with Covenant Health to create the TTUHSC School of Medicine Covenant Branch, an alternate training site for students staying in Lubbock who wish to experience community-based medicine.

Located a short distance from TTUHSC campus, The TTUHSC School of Medicine Covenant Branch officially will open July 2016 with third-year clerkships. The branch will offer a wide variety of subspecialty experiences for medical students.

“This branch was a great opportunity to expand our educational program into Covenant Health,” said Steven L. Berk, M.D., TTUHSC executive vice president, provost and School of Medicine dean. “Teaching hospitals help train the next generation of doctors with skills that they will use throughout their careers. With the help of our alumni and community physicians, we now provide our students these opportunities at two hospitals.”

The first class of 30 students will begin their orientation on July 1. Robert Salem, M.D., founding regional vice dean for Covenant Branch Medical Education Programs, said Covenant Health has been involved with the education of

medical students and residents since the school enrolled its first class in 1972.

“Covenant’s now-expanded role provides the students with a unique learning opportunity under the direct supervision of members of our medical staff in treating private practice patients,” Salem said. “The diversity of their experience in this setting will greatly enhance their overall educational knowledge base. We look forward with great enthusiasm to this joint venture opportunity with TTTUHSC.”

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), every year more than 16,000 students earn a medical degree from an AAMC-member medical school. The work of teaching hospitals is more important than ever, as the U.S. faces a growing shortage of physicians. The AAMC states that by 2025, the U.S. will face a shortage of between 61,700 and 94,700 physicians in all specialties.

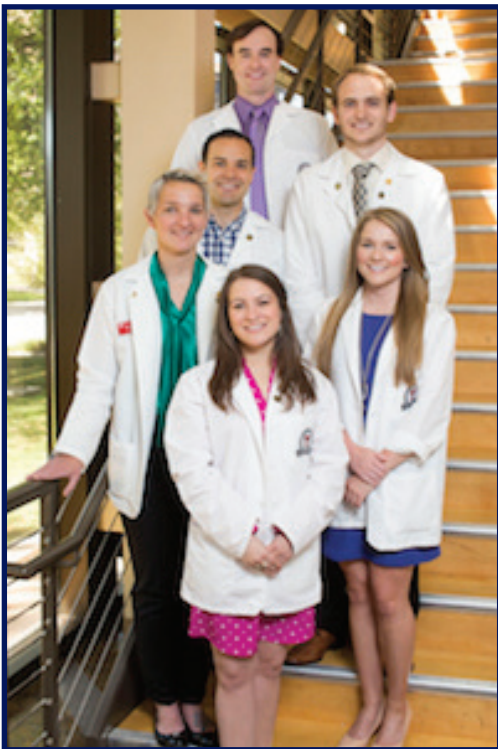
“We are partnering with Covenant Health to address the shortage of physicians in West Texas,” said Robert Casanova, M.D., TTUHSC School of Medicine assistant vice dean of medical education. “By working together, our hope is that many of these students will stay and continue to work in the West Texas area.”



Steven L. Berk, M.D.

Student Run Free Clinic Chosen Best Agency of 2016 by South Plains Association of Social Workers

The Free Clinic new leadership team working to improve lives | May 2, 2016



The Free Clinic 2016-2017 Leadership Team

Growing up, Garrett Meeks' nighttime ritual was a bit different than that of most children. His bedtime stories consisted of surgery tales his mother, an operating room nurse, had experienced for the day. Those childhood memories may have led to a love of medicine.

"I grew up wanting to learn more about the human body," Meeks said. "As I got older, originally wanted to do genetics research on the pathology of cancer, but then I tried bench research and didn't really enjoy it. So I thought if I don't do the research side, I would try the people side."

Meeks would find his love of medicine beginning medical school in 2015. In his first year, he heard about The Free Clinic and decided to volunteer to see what it was like.

"When I was there, I just felt like, this is what I am supposed to be doing," Meeks said. "It's a light at the end of the tunnel. Everything is stressful with academics and studying for the Step exam. The Free Clinic gives you opportunities to stop and talk to someone who in many cases no one has ever taken the time to talk to them about their condition. Many times, they don't know what is going on with their health. To be able to talk to a patient, take time to explain their condition and make sure that they have care is really satisfying."

Along with Meeks, The Free Clinic new leadership team consists of Logan Adams, M.J. Bollinger, Brittany Cox, Jena Deitrick and David Stamps. The Free Clinic is an urgent care clinic at Lubbock Impact for free basic health care for the uninsured, working poor and homeless population of Lubbock. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine physicians and medical students run the clinic every Wednesday from 4 to 10 p.m.

Meeks said this year The Free Clinic team will continue the programs already in place as well as add other resources needed in the community. This year they partnered up with the Lubbock Health Department to provide a vaccine clinic the third Wednesday of every month. The partnership allows The Free Clinic to save cost on vaccinations and provide a consistent range of vaccines. The Free Clinic also is looking at how they can work more closely with the South Plains Homeless Consortium.

Continued on next page

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“Our hope is to share our resources with them,” Meeks said. “They also have resources we don’t have access to. They have a full-time homeless clinic that provides a larger scope of services.”

Along with the care they provide every Wednesday night and specialized clinics like the Women’s Day Clinic, the leadership team hopes to implement a patient assistant program for illnesses like hepatitis C, diabetes and asthma. Treatments for the diseases are expensive. The patient assistance programs would help diabetics with their insulin and inhalers for asthmatics.

Meeks said the team is still in learning phase with what resources are available. They plan to use the summer to prepare grants for these projects and the possibility of building endowments.

“Most of the feedback we receive from the patients is very positive,” Meeks said. “People appreciate someone listening and caring for their health care needs when so many have never shown interest. The Free Clinic, which also provides a pharmacy for indigent or homeless patients, works with Lubbock Impact to get them connected to needed resources. Based on clientele the clinic serves, we want to make sure that not only the health care is taken care of but also the rest of their life taken cared for.”

The Free Clinic was chosen as the best agency of the year for 2016 South Plains Association of Social Workers. Meeks said the recognition demonstrates the clinic has made a positive impact on Lubbock.



The Free Clinic receives Agency of the Year award

Laura W. Bush INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health hosted three events in April to educate and raise money for the institute and sex and gender research, education and women's health initiatives.

The institute kicked off the month with an educational event with keynote speaker Taya Kyle in San Angelo. The luncheon and discussion featured news and information related to women's health, sex and gender medicine and the outreach of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health in the San Angelo area.

Later in April, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health presented the seventh annual Power of the Purse in Amarillo. The event featured a luncheon and designer purse auction, benefitting the InfantRisk Center.

As keynote speaker for Power of the Purse and in San Angelo, Taya Kyle, wife of “American Sniper” Chris Kyle, former U.S. Navy SEAL, spoke about the work of her organization, the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation, which gives support to military and emergency responder personnel and their families.

Taya explained that themes of love, war, faith and renewal are at the center of her organization's mission and are universally important to everyone.

“Everyone wants to be loved, everyone is fighting some kind of war, everyone needs faith and everyone is hoping through faith for renewal,” Taya said.

These themes are also the center of Taya's book, “American Wife,” which she wrote after the sudden death of her husband. She explained that her experience as both the military spouse and widow of such an inspiring figure encouraged her to start an organization that works to support families dealing with the pressures of service. Taya also said it was nice to be speaking in Texas, her and her late husband's home state.

Hosts Spring Events

Thomas Hale, R.Ph., Ph.D., executive director of the InfantRisk Center, spoke at Power of the Purse regarding the mission of the InfantRisk Center, which conducts research regarding the safety of medications while pregnant or breastfeeding and operates a call center to answer questions from health care providers and mothers regarding medication safety.

“It’s terribly important you know what you’re funding here today,” Hale said. “Mothers need access to this information, and until recently, no one was doing this research. We now can say if medication for depression, thyroid issues or some other medication is safe for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.”

Hale said that, additionally, the InfantRisk Center has launched two mobile apps to answer questions related to medication safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Hale said that the center is concerned with getting evidence-based information into the hands of mothers, not convincing them what to do.

“All we need to do is give mothers the information,” Hale said. “We never tell them what to do.”



Taya Kyle



Former First Lady Laura W. Bush

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health presented the “Female Focus: Differences Matter” women’s health symposium to bring attention to the importance of personalized medicine and highlight medical differences between men and women that are critical to health and longevity with regard to heart disease, hormones and brain health.

The Fort Worth symposium, held in April, was the idea of Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price who developed the city’s ongoing FitWorth initiative and announced in 2014 that Fort Worth would join the Blue Zone Project as part of her Healthiest City Initiative. Price explained that the focus of her health and wellness campaign is not to force people to do anything, but to encourage people toward a healthy lifestyle by creating easy options.

Continued on next page

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Former First Lady Laura W. Bush welcomed the audience and encouraged women to take control of their health. She emphasized the importance of women taking time for themselves, even though they are very busy caring for their families and careers.

Four keynote speakers spoke on health topics related to women's health and sex and gender medicine. Wayne Isom, M.D., chairman emeritus of cardiothoracic surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center, presented "Focus on the Heart," which was a heart health lecture targeted towards women and emphasizing the critical importance of preventing heart disease, rather than treating it.

The second keynote presentation by University of North Texas Health Science Center's Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and professor of pharmacy and neuroscience, and Rebecca Cunningham, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Center for Alzheimer's Research and Neurological Disorders, was "Focus on Hormones and the Brain." They discussed in detail the effects of hormones like estrogen and testosterone, which extend beyond their effect on individuals' reproductive function. Interestingly, these hormones or a lack of them can have significant consequences for brain health.

Speaking on the topic of "Focus on Sex and Gender: Differences Matter" was fellow keynote speaker Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health chief scientific officer and director of medical initiatives and scientific engagement within the Food and Drug Administration Office of Women's Health. Jenkins explained that medications prescribed to women are often studied in men. She explained that the differences between men and women are important, and the sex and gender medicine research funded by the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health is critical to understanding how these differences affect personalized medicine.

"The impact of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health continues to grow with events like these across the State of Texas," said Connie Tyne, executive director of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health. "We work to make these communities and the world healthier by raising money for services in these areas and funding groundbreaking research that will benefit women everywhere."

The Our HSC employee campaign is a fundraising initiative that provides employees with an opportunity to make a contribution to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The campaign is an exciting program that allows us to make a difference in our own way. Employee-funded and employee-administered, it allows employees to directly impact their workplace in a very positive way.

2015 Campaign
\$46,464 raised

Funded Projects Include:



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- Secure Charging Stations
- SMART capture white boards
- CPR/AED training for 60 employees
- True Colors course for 24 employees
- English as a Second Language classes
- 10 filtered water stations
- Waiting room furniture for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) & the Program of Assistance for Students (PAS)
- Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS) Master Training Course



TTUHSC Collaborates with TTU on Dual Degree Programs

TTUHSC students succeed in earning dual degrees

Today, becoming a health care professional requires being multidimensional and an intense dedication to serving others. A growing number of students are taking that dedication to another level by completing dual degrees

A Legal Doctor

Marta Hoes just returned from five weeks in South Africa serving on a medical rotation at a small hospital outside of Cape Town. Her hope was to gain insight into the health care system of a developing country. She left with that insight and much more.

“I got to spend time in a beautiful country and see things I would never see in the United States,” Hoes said. “I learned about different policies, both failed and successful, to improve living conditions, observed first-hand the effects of the political climate on health outcomes, and I had the opportunity to see how far the country has come in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The doctors I worked with were passionate, resourceful and committed to social justice. The whole experience was inspiring. Oh, and I got to go cage diving with great white sharks!”

Hoes excitement of learning more about her field is why she not only earned a medical degree but also completed her doctor of law degree. Hoes is the first student at the Texas Tech University System to complete the M.D./J.D. degree. TTUHSC and TTU are among a growing number of institutions that offer the opportunity to earn an M.D./J.D. degree. The Doctor of Jurisprudence/Doctor of Medicine Dual Degree Program’s goal is to create an opportunity for students who want to combine these two courses of study in an integrated program.

Earning both degrees typically requires seven years of study. Yet, this joint program requires six years. Nationally, the TTUHSC School of Medicine and the TTU School of Law are the first to offer the program at one institution.



Marta Hoes (left)



The Trifecta, a Dream Job



Amanda Rodriguez

Amanda Rodriguez vividly remembers treating her first cochlear implant patient. The 92 year-old patient was originally told that she was not a candidate for cochlear implants because of her age. When the switch was turned on to activate the implant, the woman was able to hear her husband for the first time in many years. The patient's husband asked, "does this mean we can pray together now?"

"To witness a person go from silence to detecting any sound is absolutely breathtaking," Rodriguez said. "I still get emotional thinking about it. We help provide access to sound for communication, and that is what drives me in this field."

Rodriguez completed a dual degree with a Doctor of Audiology while working simultaneously on a Doctorate of Philosophy. Early on, she felt in order to be a well-rounded clinician, research was key.

"As a clinician, our role is to diagnose and treat hearing loss and vestibular disorders," Rodriguez said. "The Ph.D. or research is helpful to supplement a lot of the practices we do as clinicians and investigate ways to improve tools for clinicians."

A Business Sense for Pharmacy

Britni Montague's family may describe her as an overachiever. In eight years, she has earned a bachelor's degree in engineering and now a dual degree with a master's in business administration and a doctorate degree in pharmacy.



Britni Montague

"I am way more competitive than what is healthy," Montague laughed. "My family will attest that I hate to go bowling because I won't win, and it will upset me. When I was about five to eight years old, I made my little brothers play "school" with me, in which I always had to be the teacher. School is definitely not for everyone. But every person needs to find something they love and work hard at it."

As an undergraduate, Montague prepared to attend medical school. She knew she wanted to work in the health care field, but throughout her

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undergraduate studies, she learned more about other health care options and made the decision to become a pharmacist.

“Being a pharmacist is the perfect fit for me,” Montague said. “I wanted a career, but I also wanted a personal life with a family. I wanted to work in a small town. I wanted to be an accessible health care provider. I can be all of those things as a pharmacist.”

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Life-changing opportunities

As a high school student, James C. Wang attended the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) at the University of North Texas, a unique residential program for high school students with a strong interest in math and science. During his high school years, he was exposed to scientific research early on and interned during his summers at Macrogenics, a startup biotechnology company. By the time he completed high school, Wang graduated with honors and 72 hours of college credit.



James C. Wang (left)

He attended the University of Rochester in upstate New York graduating with a major in biomedical engineering with distinction and minors in biology and chemical engineering in three years. During this time, he was a first violinist in both the University of Rochester Symphony and Chamber Orchestras while taking violin lessons at Eastman School of Music. Afterwards, Wang worked as a research engineer in Houston for four years at a company called Nanospectra Biosciences, Inc. The company developed a particle-based therapy for the selective and precise thermal destruction of solid tumors while minimizing damage to healthy adjacent tissue and preserving critical structures. Wang assisted in the development of these gold nanoparticles for the treatment of head and neck cancers and also was appointed as a visiting scientist at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“From that experience, I participated in translational research which opened my eyes to pursue a career as a physician scientist,” Wang said. “My goal and desire was to practice medicine, educate future generations of physicians, health professionals and scientists and to conduct research because that is how you advance medicine.”

In 2008, Wang applied for and was accepted as one of two students to the M.D./Ph.D. program at TTUHSC. Early on, Wang made the decision to pursue a career in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery. He began his residency training on July 1, 2016.

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TTUHSC Public Health Building to Open in Abilene

Faculty and staff from TTUHSC and TTU involved with the Masters in Public Health program had a work retreat at the Spirit Ranch on July 15. The current MPH program is growing in enrollment and the curriculum is being refined to include an on-line offering. Plans are also underway for the development of a doctoral program. These additions are all part of the strategic planning for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Additional faculty members are being added, both in Abilene and in Lubbock.

Members of the administrative team from TTUHSC are working closely with individuals from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) as part of our goal of accrediting a new TTUHSC School of Public Health.

The new Public Health building in Abilene will allow for expansion of our programs in the region, including further collaboration with area universities. It will also provide space for students to study, relax and share “down time” together in an intraprofessional environment.

Ribbon cutting for new Public Health building to be held on September 13.

In Other News...

The School of Nursing dominating statewide leadership positions

- Dr. Jeff Watson - President of the Texas Nurses Association
- Dr. Paula Webb - President of the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives
- Dr. Alyce Ashcraft - President of the Texas League for Nursing
- Dr. Michael Evans - President of the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education

School of Health Professions faculty receives NIH funding

Dr. Mary Beth Schmitt - Awarded a NIH (R03) grant to determine the feasibility of a behavior regulation intervention for children with language impairment.

This September
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Will Host the 2016 World Congress on Ultrasound
in Medical Education



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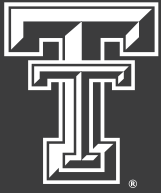
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