



University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy

(A former Governor's School)

412- 647-8129, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., except holidays

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Applications available online September 2012

Health care is an important and changing world that offers a wide range of careers in scientific research, medicine, mental health, public health, social work, rehabilitation, and administration, to name a few. It is also a world that increasingly demands highly skilled and knowledgeable practitioners who are well versed in the economical, cultural and personal implications for consumers. The University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy introduces the students to the world of health care, including issues of primary care, prevention, public health, career exploration, human growth and development, and areas of practice.

Who May Apply to UPHCSA

Academically talented high school students who are sophomores or juniors at the time of the application deadline may apply to the Health Career Scholars Academy. Applicants are asked to demonstrate academic achievement, especially in the sciences, an interest or potential in health care and a record of leadership and service activities.

The UPHCSA Student Selection Process

The application has four parts. The applicant completes the Personal Data Form, attaching essays. A science teacher and another teacher/activities advisor complete reference forms. The applicant's guidance counselor completes a recommendation form and attaches the transcript, attendance record and, if available, class standing and test scores. The applicant is responsible for gathering the four parts, assembling and submitting the completed application to the UPHCSA office.

A selection committee comprised of health care professionals, educators and other officials reads the applications. All information provided in an application is taken into account, with emphasis on the student's essays, activities resume and the transcript. The panel looks for excellence in written expression, originality and depth of thought, ability to contribute to the living/learning community, and a strong interest in health care. The panel reviews the extracurricular resume for evidence of volunteerism, involvement in community activities and leadership. Teacher references are read for evidence of scholarship, maturity, responsibility, initiative and positive reaction to criticism.

The panel will select 110 students.

Costs and Commitment

Tuition, room, board, instructional materials and curriculum related social activities are included in the program fee (\$2400 for 2013). Expenses for dorm group activities are not included. Families are responsible for students' transportation to and from the program, money for personal needs, for any library fines, and for any damages to the dorm or facilities. Students are expected to live on campus for the full four weeks of the program. They are expected to arrive promptly for all classes and program activities. The Health Career Scholars Academy cannot provide special facilities or alter schedules for formal athletic training, intensive music study or other commitments unrelated to the program.



University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy

The Program of Learning

Core Courses

Caring for Health: A course designed to expose students to primary health care issues through the Healthy People objectives, presentations, case studies, communication exercises and hands-on activities.

Thinking About Thinking: A series of sessions examining paradigms, creativity, constructive criticism, reflective learning and writing designed to orient the students to the type of intellectual work they are expected to perform at UPHCSA.

Making a Difference: A series of lectures, discussions and exercises designed to assist students in planning their personal and professional development, as well as improving their teamwork skills.

Learning Team Course

Public Health Improvement Project: A team learning experience in which student groups examine a public health issue affecting Pennsylvania, its ethical and public policy attributes, and the possible causes and solutions. The groups create two presentations on the topic.

Concentration Courses

All students are assigned to a concentration course to pursue one area of study in depth. The courses vary from year to year, but in the past have included health care for the chronically ill, family and child health, behavioral health, geriatrics, global health and public health. Every effort is made to match students with their first choice, but if demand exceeds space, some may be assigned to their second or third choice.

Reflective Portfolio and Research Project

UPHCSA is an ungraded program. Students measure their own experience and progress by developing a reflective portfolio of their learning and work in the program. UPHCSA has designed reflective journals for organizational purposes and as building blocks for the portfolios. Students also write a research paper, focusing on a health-related topic, while in residence.

Other Activities

Two day-long shadow experiences, multiple site visits, small discussion groups, guest speakers, simulation games, team projects and presentations, videos, independent study and cultural events are included in the UPHCSA curriculum. The program also schedules social and recreation activities. Typically, students spend evenings after 8:30 p.m. working in computer laboratories or doing advance readings.

Facilities and Faculty

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is one of the nation's most renowned academic medical centers. UPHCSA students are privileged to meet with the professionals who develop health policy, conduct research and deliver patient care. Many of the program classrooms are situated in the medical center hospitals. A wide range of professionals volunteer their services as instructors and mentors at UPHCSA.

The University of Pittsburgh campus is urban, and the program rules are strict for the well being of participants. Students live in gender-separate quarters exclusive from other campus groups. Trained staff members monitor curfews and residential life, and act as facilitators for projects and discussions.

A Typical Schedule

Weekdays:

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - noon	Core courses, concentration courses or discussion groups
noon	Lunch
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Core courses, concentration courses, guest speakers or presentations
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Guest speakers, presentations
8:30 - 10:30 p.m.	Study/Research time; residential life activities
10:30 p.m.	Residence curfew

Saturdays: Course work, team training, study time and dorm group social activities.

Sundays: Morning - church, laundry, study time; Afternoon - study or research, presenters or computer lab; Evening - residential life meetings.