

Health
Career
Programs

2018

This report will examine the successes and areas for improvement for Health Career Programs 2018 summer experience.

Annual Report

Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals (TIP)

Executive Summary

General Information

The Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals (TIP) Program is a state-wide effort whose objective is to increase the representation of various groups of students who are underrepresented in the health professions. TIP operates on the campus of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Since TIP's inception in 1987, one-thousand six-hundred sixty-one (1,726) students have participated.

Program participants are all undergraduate students or new graduates. The participants are recruited from colleges throughout Tennessee and bordering states, as well as other states where there are Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and sizeable concentrations of Tennessee residents (e.g. Mississippi, Georgia).

In 2018, a total of sixty-five (65) applicants were accepted. Forty-eight (48) women and seventeen (17) men participated in the 2018 TIP Program.

Track I

Track I provides internship experiences where students work alongside local practitioners in the students' areas of interest. It enables students to fully understand the rigors and challenges of being a healthcare professional. For many, it provides a framework by which students may come to a) appreciate the stark realities of the profession, b) reaffirm their desires to become health professionals, and c) help them better articulate (to admissions committees) their reasons for wanting to pursue the vocation.

Track I was comprised of twenty-seven (27) students where seventeen (17) were pre-med, three (3) were pre-dental, four (4) were pre-nursing, two (2) were pre-pharmacy and one (1) student was pre-physical therapy and sixteen (16) preceptors supported this group.

Track II

Members of underrepresented minority groups continue to experience difficulties associated with standardized exams. The Track II component of TIP is a test preparation program, where the intent is to enhance students' understanding of standardized test construction and to improve their skill levels on such exams. This track helps students to identify any deficiencies they may have in their test taking and learning skills. The students then learn how to overcome these deficiencies, which in turn will enable them to achieve the criterion score on the entrance exam critical to professional school admission. The students were enrolled in review courses through Kaplan and received instruction by TIP faculty, and academic support services through UTHSC Student Academic Support Services & Inclusion.

Track II was comprised of twenty-six (26) students where nineteen (19) were preparing for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), four (4) were preparing for the Dental Admissions Test (DAT)-dental, and one (1) was preparing for the Graduate Admissions (GRE).

Track III

The participants of the Track III component of TIP have already applied and been conditionally accepted to UTHSC Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, and Pharmacy, but their eventual matriculation into these colleges requires that they achieve a grade of no less than a “C” in each of the courses offered in this track. The courses offered are the same as many in their first year curriculum.

The Track III component also includes a great deal of learning skills preparation. Formal workshops were given for topics such as time management, test and note taking, stress management, personal wellness, etc., but time in the schedule also allowed students the opportunity to work individually.

Track III was comprised of twelve (12) students where seven (7) were College of Medicine students and five (5) were College of Pharmacy students. Of the Track III students, all College of Medicine students matriculated and six (6) students matriculated in the College of Pharmacy as UTHSC Fall 2018 students.

The students reported strong satisfaction with the program’s ability to help them pursue their career goals in all three tracks. Faculty also expressed their overall contentment with the program and the students.

Out of the sixty-five (65) participants, sixty-four (64) students attend/attended Tennessee undergraduate institutions. The number of students from various undergraduate institutions is reflected in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Distribution of Institutions
Christian Brothers University
Emory University
Hampton University
Howard University
LeMoyne-Owen College
Lipscomb University
Middle Tennessee State University
Rhodes College
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Tennessee State University
University of Memphis

Union University
University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Vanderbilt University
Xavier University