Indiana University
Health Careers Opportunity Program

**Need in the Community**

According to the America’s Health Rankings (2015), Indiana is ranked 41st in terms of overall health status. Indianapolis is one of the many areas the state has designated as a health professional shortage area (HPSA). The need for a diverse health workforce is acute in the state of Indiana. The need for expanded educational pipeline to enhance opportunities for racial/ethnic minority and HCOP-eligible students to enroll and graduate from health professions programs and enter careers in the health professions is more pressing than ever.

**Program Description**

The Indiana University Health Careers Opportunity Program (IU-HCOP) is a federally funded initiative designed to provide HCOP-eligible students with the academic and social skills to successfully graduate from health professions programs.

**Junior Summer Camp**

The IU-HCOP Junior Summer Camp is a six-week summer program designed for rising high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in math, science, or healthcare careers. The camp provides students with the financial, academic, and social support to encourage their interest in health careers.

**Saturday Student Academy**

The Saturday Student Academy is a 20-week program designed for current high school juniors and senior who have an interest in healthcare careers. Over the course of the program the students will participate in interactive workshops focused on math and science, language and creative writing, college preparation, as well as the Healthy People 2020 curriculum. Students have the opportunity to observe healthcare professionals during site visits and learn from healthcare panelists.

**Pre-Health Professions Enrichment Program at John Boner Neighborhood Centers**

The Pre-Health Professions Enrichment Program is a partnership between IU-HCOP and the John Boner Neighborhood Centers, focused on adult/non-traditional learners. During the intensive eight-week program, participants attend certification classes, 20 hours of health professional shadowing and clinical rotations, health care professional presentations, and career exploration workshops. Upon completion of the program, participants earn certifications in a health care profession.

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**UNDERGRADUATE**

HCOP-eligible students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS) at IUPUI or transferring to the BSHS program from Ivy Tech, who are interested in pursuing a career in the allied health fields are assigned a mentor to assist in navigating the undergraduate experience. Students are invited to attend workshops with topics ranging from Health Related Career Opportunities to Applying for Pre-Professional Programs.

**GRADUATE**

Students currently enrolled in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences professional programs (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant), that meet the HCOP eligibility requirements, are connected with a mentor in their respective professional field. The graduate program assists students in making the transition from pre-professional studies to the demanding professional phase.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

IU-HCOP is always looking for volunteers currently working in healthcare professions. The time commitment is flexible, with most experiences lasting one to two hours. Some areas of opportunity could include:

- Hosting a group of students for an on-site observation.
- Speaking to a group of students about your experience in your profession.
- Mentoring a pre-professional or professional graduate student.

Contact Information

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SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES
Health Careers Opportunity Program

Fulfilling the Promise