

Meet Allison Tatum . . .

With a Bachelor of Arts in biology and a Bachelor of Science in neurobiology from the University of Texas at Austin, Allison Tatum had a solid science background. She was looking forward to medical school at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport (LSUHSC-S) – she just didn’t know what to expect. Then Allison was accepted into a pre-matriculation program at the school, sponsored by the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). Along with fourteen other entering medical students, Allison had the opportunity to familiarize herself with the medical school curriculum, prior to the start of classes. The six-week program reviewed important first year concepts such as physiology and anatomy, and allowed the students to hone their study skills and participate in patient observation activities. With a better understanding of what to expect as she began her first year, Allison now had a head start on her journey toward becoming a physician.



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About the Program

- HCOP is authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Centers of Excellence (COE), HCOPs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The LSUHSC-S HCOP includes the Pre-matriculation Enrichment Program (PEP). The PEP is a preparatory program designed to introduce 15 first year medical students to the medical curriculum, including three basic science courses taught in the first year of medical school.
- The HCOP also includes the Educational Familiarization Program (EFP), which provides undergraduates the opportunity to improve test performance.
- More information on the LSUHSC-S HCOP program activities is available on the website:

<http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/multicultural/front.htm>

According to Allison . . .

I was one of 15 students who were allowed the opportunity to learn anatomy, biochemistry, and cell physiology prior to the start of medical school. I thoroughly enjoyed the small class size and instructors, and believe my grades reflect my participation in the program. Having never taken part in anatomical dissections, I have greatly benefited from the program’s anatomy lab, which has inarguably helped me succeed in such a difficult course. It was also a privilege to observe surgeries and learn firsthand what new technologies and procedures surgeons were implementing.

The skills I obtained to study such a vast amount of information, have been invaluable so far. The most valuable information I have obtained from the program is the notion of what medical school is truly like and how important it is to take every opportunity to further my medical education. Without the HCOP-sponsored PEP program, I would have undoubtedly struggled through the beginning of medical school.



For more information, contact: **Erica Froyd** (efroyd@aamc.org) or **Tannaz Rasouli** (trasouli@aamc.org)

Association of American Medical Colleges, Office of Governmental Relations

2450 N Street NW • Washington, DC 20037 • Ph: 202.828.0525 • Fax: 202.862.6218

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