

Meet Brian Hall, PharmD . . .

When Brian Hall began considering pharmacy school, he had just graduated with a degree in geology. Faced with a rigorous two year pre-pharmacy curriculum and then four years of intensive coursework and clinical rotations in pharmacy school, Brian was relieved to find the HCOP-COE program at the University of Montana, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. Staffed with inspiring and welcoming faculty and staff, the HCOP-COE program assisted Brian and other students like him beginning pharmacy school. With the aid and support of the program, Brian graduated with a Pharm.D. degree in 2006. Currently, he is finishing his Ph.D. in pharmacology/pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Montana. Eager to lend his much-needed service to the community that raised him, he is also working part-time as a staff pharmacist at the Blackfeet Service Unit of the Indian Health Service at his home reservation in Browning, Montana.



“They become like a family away from home – an adopted extended family that coach you, push you along, are there to listen and give you confidence.”

About the Program

- The Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and the Centers of Excellence (COE) are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. The programs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The University of Montana, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences HCOP-COE program is designed to prepare and support students' pursuits toward a pharmacy career.
- Since 1995, UM's HCOP has provided Native American students an opportunity to advance into the health professions. To date, the UM HCOP has graduated 23 Native American pharmacists in Montana alone.
- More information on the program activities is available on the program website:

<http://www.umt.edu/hcop>

According to Brian . . .

The staff in the HCOP-COE office was a great resource for me throughout my time in pharmacy school. If I ever had questions or needed something, I knew there was a place that I could go for assistance. The office provides free tutoring, counseling, advising, and “meet and eat” potluck dinners each month. These dinners gave me the opportunity to meet faculty and staff and develop friendships with other students who shared the same goals and challenges as I was facing.

The HCOP-COE programs also allowed me to attend the professional conferences of the Western Pharmacology Society, the Society for Neuroscience, and the American Pharmacists Association. These were eye-opening educational experiences which allowed me to present my research data to my peers. This would not have been possible without the assistance of the HCOP-COE program at the University of Montana, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.



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

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