

Meet Lila Ali . . .

Lila’s participation in the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) helped her realize she was interested in a career in the health care field. Determined to pursue this route since her sophomore year of high school, Lila enrolled at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, where she participated in HCOP from 2003 through 2006. Through various HCOP activities, such as academic enrichment courses, internships, research projects, service on campus committees, assistance with community service projects, and traveling for volunteer opportunities, Lila gained valuable exposure to her intended field of study. In May 2006, she graduated with honors, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Administration. That summer, Lila worked as an intern with an HCOP partner, Froedtert Memorial Hospital. The Froedtert staff was so pleased with her performance she was offered an Advanced Student Internship in Quality Management. Next on Lila’s agenda: graduate studies in business with a concentration in Health Care Management.



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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 University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee’s College of Health Sciences operates an HCOP through its Office of Diversity. The program serves 555 students annually and also collaborates with the HCOP program at the Marquette University College of Health Sciences.
- The program offers an academy for fourth and fifth-graders, a pre-college academy for high school students, and a variety of programs for college students, including internships, summer enrichment programs, and an MCAT review course.

According to Lila . . .

Ever since my sophomore year in high school, I knew that I wanted to go into a health career. I came to know this because I participated in a pre-college HCOP program. I have a high level of motivation to enter an occupation in the health care professions. That is the reason that I entered an HCOP program – it exposed me to a variety of health care professions and real-life work experiences. HCOP allowed me to learn from experts, including my health program instructors, experienced health care professionals, and other HCOP students. If it were not for HCOP, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I am looking forward to attending graduate school and continuing to put what HCOP taught me into practice!

More information on the UWM HCOP program and its activities is available on the program website:

<http://www3.uwm.edu/chs/students/diversity/programming.asp>



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