

University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences The Pritzker School of Medicine

The Pritzker School of Medicine has many career advising opportunities for medical students. All students begin participating in the career advising program during their first year when they are divided equally into four societies. Each society is made up of two faculty advisors and one quarter of each class of students who meet formally to discuss relevant medical topics throughout the four years including choosing a specialty. They also meet informally at social events where they interact with students from other years. The societies help develop a team-based learning environment that is fun. Family members are encouraged to attend social functions as well. This approach allows students to get to know their advisors better over the course of four years. The advisors also assist with the composition of the Medical Student Performance Evaluation or MSPE (formally known as the Dean's Letter) written for each student adding a more personal touch.

The societies are only one part of the advising program; a layered approach is utilized allowing multiple opportunities to reach students throughout the four years. In the first year, the students participate in the Myers Briggs personality inventory as part of their self assessment and they are referred to the [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) web site. There are also informal lectures about various fields of medicine available to first and second year students for early exposure to specialties. Lectures about combined degrees, such as getting an MBA or MPH, are also made available to students. Late in the third year, students choose a specialty advisor to help with application and match decisions which allows career-specific advice about residency programs and qualifications. MD/PhD students are also involved in societies and have their own PhD advisor.

The advising program is funded by the medical school and it consists of eight faculty members for the four years. One of their biggest hurdles has been coordinating student and faculty schedules. The program hopes to develop the specialty advising aspect more formally in the future. The program is modified based on student evaluations every few years. Highlights of the Pritzker career advising program include the layered approach, the team-based advising over four years, and the fun environment for advising.

Timeline:

<http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/advising/career.shtml#explore>

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Best thing about the program?

“Lunchtime career advising panels that the Office of Med Ed organized where they invite faculty from different medical/surgical specialties to talk about their careers and answer questions” – OSR representative