Meet Victoria Kalamur . . .

At the age of 16, Victoria began responding to first aid calls on the ambulance and realized that clinical medicine was her true calling. The patient interactions and various emergency situations following her EMT certification introduced Victoria to the exciting yet challenging life of a physician. She entered college as a first-generation Ukrainian immigrant and college student with a full understanding of the competitiveness for admission into medical school. Involvement in the HCOP NERA MedPrep Scholars Program not only enhanced her resume but, furthermore, gave her the opportunity to prepare for the MCAT that she could not have afforded otherwise.

Three summers later she was accepted into the UMDNJ New Medical School Class of 2016 as an Early Decision applicant. Today, Victoria is on her way to achieving her dream thanks to the continued support of HCOP.

“The MedPrep Scholars Program afforded me the various experiences and skills that built the foundation ultimately leading to my successful admission into NJMS.”

About the Program

The Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP) are 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.

Program activities include an intense reading and science enrichment program during Phase 1, MCAT preparation during Phase 2, and research during Phase 3. Each phase is supplemented with clinical experiences.

More information on the HCOP program activities is available on the program website: http://njms.umdnj.edu/education/odace/NERA/index.cfm

According to Victoria . . .

I began my involvement in the MedPrep Scholars Program knowing only that my dream was to influence the lives of many as a physician. Without understanding exactly how I was going to realize this dream, I persisted for three consecutive summers and discovered the ideal pre-medical package for the undergraduate student.

I received academic advisement and endless support from the individuals running the program that always kept me on the right track. Additionally, the MCAT component entailed rigorous academic work guided by seasoned medical students that developed my self-confidence and time-management skills. Engaging in biomedical research led to a deeper appreciation for the impact research has on healthcare. Shadowing a clinician offered an opportunity to think and collaborate like a doctor.

The MedPrep Scholars Program was the chance of a lifetime to grow personally and intellectually among medical students who were exactly where I strived to be. Because of the HCOP Program, I now have that chance to achieve my dream and become a medical doctor.