

Why Come to Rhodes?

Our Commitment at Rhodes to Health Professions Advising (HPA)

Our HPA program works with students interested in pre-medicine and all other health professions, including veterinary medicine. Currently thirty percent of our students are exploring a career in a health profession. This may be out of curiosity or a committed interest. We want all incoming students to be open to the many possible career options in and out of health professions.

Historical success of our program

Rhodes has a long history of serving students going on to pursue health professions, with a great success rate for students going on to succeed in medical school. See FAQ about Recent Health Profession School Acceptance Information. In reality, a good fit between the student and school services provided and experience should be of higher value than the acceptance rates.

Director of Health Professions Advising Position

A director of health professions advising position allows for committed mentoring and advising of our students interested in HPA beyond what's offered by first year and major advisors. This position also allows for the director to be nationally involved with health profession schools and deans.

Programming

Our HPA programs start with orientation and go throughout your four years. Some programs focus on a given graduating class and some on a profession. This allows for a series of planned workshops as you develop and have different needs or as you are working on different application aspects. Others focus on finding a career, how to apply, and finally what to expect during your first year in the professional school and later as a practitioner.

Other offices and programs support HPA at Rhodes. These include but are not limited to:

[Business Department](#) (Dee Birnbaum): advising for Health Administration Careers and Medical Industry Marketing.

[Psychology Department](#): advising for Counseling Careers

[Career Services](#): Career choice and preparation advising, programming, Internships, Interview Practice and Critique and practice for professional school Exams.

[Academic Support](#): Advising and intervention with academic support
Barrett Library Reserve Section

Volunteer groups such as the [Kinney Program](#)

[Alumni Relations](#): Alumni Network

Excellent Liberal Arts Program

Rhodes is an excellent Liberal arts college with great strengths in many departments, and with a strong commitment to academics, diversity, service, and community partnerships.

A liberal arts program is a great place to prepare for medical school and the other health professions. Our curriculum emphasizes reading, synthesis, analytical thinking and communication through writing and speaking. It emphasizes both group and individual work. These are all skills that medical schools and other top professional schools are looking for. Our program allows for small class size where students get to know the professors who will later be asked for letters of recommendation. Many of our classes have laboratories or other experiential components. Our program of strong academics, along with varsity and intramural sports,

community work, internships, and many other student organizations, offers the ability for students to become well-rounded and to gain a breadth of experiences. Again, these are qualities that are looked for by Medical School Admissions Committees, for example.

Although any of our humanities classes can help with those skills discussed above, we also have classes that are sometimes called “medical humanities” at other institutions. These include: medical ethics, health psychology, and economic topics in health. Art courses such as sculpture and drawing can help your three dimensional perception and focus on fine visual detail, while demonstrating your fine motor coordination.

One of the most important things to remember as you pick an undergraduate program is that a large number of high school graduates change their career goals during their college years. Where ever you go, be sure to keep your mind and eyes open for other possible interests, classes and careers. New academic concentrations and career options are often introduced to students that strike a chord and were not thought of in high school. Being at an excellent liberal arts college, like Rhodes, allows for flexibility if you do change your goals or interests. That being said, of the larger number of excellent liberal arts colleges, far fewer have the strength of science programs that Rhodes does. Come [visit](#).

Rhodes students interested in health professions (HP) are mostly (5:1) interested in becoming a physician. Other careers that our HP students pursue are: Veterinary Medicine, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Physician’s Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Dentistry, Optometry, Public Health, and others. We are first and foremost a liberal arts college. Our students are committed to and embrace a four year liberal arts program. In that respect we do not promote or have a single pre-medicine track . Our program allows students to prepare and take all required course work for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, and Public Health. Some programs of nursing, physician assistant, and physical therapy allow our courses to fulfill all of their prerequisites. Others of these do not.

We may not be the quickest or easiest place to pursue a simple BSN program, nutrition, kinesiology, audiology or speech pathology, or occupational therapy. These careers do not require a four year undergraduate program before entrance to their training programs and they require some specific technical classes not offered at Rhodes. That being said, we have students who desired our liberal arts college degree and experience who took the required technical class work at other institutions and then pursued these more technical programs after Rhodes. To help facilitate this many programs of nursing have developed accelerated BSN degrees along with the many direct entry MS or second degree MS of nursing (i.e., for a nurse practitioner license) that are designed for the graduate of a four year liberal arts institution and which our students pursue.

Strong Sciences

Rhodes has always had a very strong science program with publishing scientists on faculty. In fact, Rhodes changed its name in 1984 to honor a past Physic professor and an important College president. We currently have faculty in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Neuroscience, Environmental Sciences, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, who pursue research while integrating their research program with their teaching. Our science courses have small class sizes and well equipped state-of-the-art laboratories. Although we now offer many interdepartmental and focused science programs, we remain committed to strength throughout the breadth of our science programs.

Our science faculty have more national grants than ever before and more of our students have their research funded than ever before. We have research ties through faculty and students with other scientists at St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital, University of Tennessee Heath Sciences, University of Memphis and the Memphis Zoo and Aquarium. These community partners offer us varied collaborations and resources that might not be so easily available at an

isolated liberal arts school. Similarly we can more easily attract active teaching scholars for our faculty than many small liberal arts colleges because of this large Memphis scientific community, and greater available resources such as scientific libraries. All of this benefits our students. Although active researchers, our faculty are teachers first.

Student independent research is encouraged. This can be on-campus or off-campus opportunity. Our students compete well for nationally competitive summer research programs. Students have presented research at national meetings and many have been authors on scientific publications. Finally our students go on to earn PhD's sciences at a rate much higher than most Universities and Colleges, putting us in the top 6% of all US institutions. (1995 -2004 NSF data, the latest available, 7/09)

Visit our science department sites for more information of interest to you: [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#), [Physics](#), [Neuroscience](#), [Environmental Science](#), and [Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#).

Many Opportunities for Health Care Experience

Rhodes is surrounded by a large health care industry in Memphis and we have many community partners. Because health care is so big in Memphis, we have found practitioners for our students to speak to in even relatively rare health care niches.

Since Memphis is a major city, health care disparities do exist and many of our students who are socially minded are especially happy to be able to contribute to communities which do not always have the best access to healthcare.

Experience can take the form of part of a course, an internship course, volunteering, shadowing, and employment. All of these are ways that our students gain first-hand knowledge of their chosen field.

Area Health Care Institutions include:

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- University of Tennessee Health Sciences (Medical School, Physical Therapy, Dental School, Nursing and Pharmacy)
- Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center
- The Regional Medical Center at Memphis, commonly known as The Med
- Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation – local hospital system
- Methodist Healthcare, local hospital system
- Saint Francis Hospital
- Memphis VA Medical Center
- Church Health Center
- Campbell Clinic – Orthopaedics
- InMotion – Orthopaedic Research Center

Many other clinics and practitioners open their doors to our students.

In addition our student gain experiences in hometowns and throughout the country. Sometimes these are with nationally competitive programs and at other times these are experiences offered by our alumni.

Strong Alumni Network for help

Rhodes is fortunate to have a strong alumni network of health care providers throughout the country. Alumni are available to communicate on a wide number of topics and many provide an opportunity for career shadowing. There is yet to be a question which has not been answered by our alumni.

Some of our best internship opportunities have been through with our alumni.

Each homecoming weekend HPA has a program where current students and alumni practitioners meet in a very informal way. It has been a great way that students can ask questions which they may be hesitant to ask faculty or more formal health care experience mentors.

Rhodes College Commitment to Diversity

Rhodes is committed to creating a community in which diversity is valued and welcome. [Click here](#) for further information.