

Why Come to Rhodes for Health Professions?

Rhodes students interested in health professions (HP) are primarily (5:1) interested in becoming a physician. Other careers pursued by our HP students include: 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 and our students are committed to a four-year liberal arts program. In that respect, we are best suited to preparing students for HP careers that require a four-year degree prior to entrance, such as medical school. We do not promote a single Pre-Med track, nor do we have such a track.

We may not be the best or easiest place to pursue a BSN nursing career or one in Medical Technology, as these careers do not require a four-year undergraduate program before entrance to their training programs. However, we have graduated students who desired our liberal arts college degree and then pursued these more technical degrees.

There are five main reasons why you should consider attending Rhodes if you're interested in health professions:

- Excellent liberal arts program
- Strong sciences
- Commitment to Health Professions Advising
- Location in a community with a large healthcare industry
- Strong alumni network

A liberal arts program is a great place to prepare for medical school and the many other health professions.

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

Our curriculum emphasizes reading, synthesis, analytical thinking and communication through writing and speaking and encourages both group and individual work – 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 – combined with varsity and intramural sports, community service, internships and 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.

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. Wherever you go, be sure to keep your mind and eyes open for other possible interests, classes and careers. You'll hear of new academic concentrations and career options that may strike a chord and were not introduced to you in high school. An excellent liberal arts college like Rhodes allows for flexibility if you do change your goals or interests, though few have science programs as strong as Rhodes'.

Rhodes has always had a very strong science program supported by publishing faculty members.

In fact, Rhodes changed its name in 1984 to honor a past Physics professor and an important college president.

We currently have faculty in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Neuroscience, Environmental Sciences, and Biochemistry who pursue research while integrating their studies with their teaching and students. Although we now offer some interdepartmental and focused science programs, we remain committed to strength throughout the breadth of our curriculum.

Our science courses have small class sizes and well equipped, state-of-the-art laboratories.

Our science faculty have more national grants – and more of our students have their research funded – than ever before. Student independent research is encouraged. This includes on- and off-campus opportunities. Our students compete well for nationally advertised summer research programs. Students have gone to present research at national meetings and many have been authors on scientific publications.

We have ties through faculty and students with other scientists at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Campus, 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.

Finally, a mark of our strength in sciences – and a fact of which we are most proud – is that our students go on to earn PhDs in sciences at a rate much higher than most universities and colleges.

Rhodes has a long history of serving students pursuing health professions.

In January 2006, Rhodes announced a new commitment of resources for Health Professions Advising by creating a Director of Health Professions Advising position. This position allows a faculty member to commit to the many and varied jobs that HPA requires, and to expand and improve current resources. Dr. Alan Jaslow, Associate Professor of Biology, currently holds this position.

A committee of faculty supports the Director in developing and promoting special programs.

Other offices and programs that support HPA at Rhodes include:

- Business Department – advising for careers in health administration and medical industry marketing
- Psychology Department – advising for careers in counseling
- Career Services – career choice and preparation advising, programming, internships, interview practice and critique, and the administration of practice professional school exams
- Academic Support – advising and intervention with academics
- Barrett Library –HPA holdings in reserve reading section
- Chaplains Office – internships
- Alumni Affairs – alumni network

Rhodes is located in Memphis, a regional center for healthcare and the biomedical industry.

Rhodes has developed partnerships with local healthcare institutions and biomedical corporations, resulting in internships, volunteer opportunities and employment.

Local area healthcare institutions include:

- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center (medical school, dental school, physical therapy)
- Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center
- The Med (Regional Medical Center at Memphis)
- Baptist Memorial Hospital (4 locations)
- Methodist Hospital (4 locations – partner with UT Medical School)
- Saint Francis Hospital
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Church Health Center
- The Campbell Clinic (orthopedics)

Biomedical corporations located in Memphis include:

- Medtronic

- Smith & Nephew
- Wright Medical

A major regional biomedical research center is under construction adjacent to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Many other clinics and medical practices open their doors to our students.

Finally, Rhodes has a strong and loyal 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. Some of our best internship opportunities have been through our alumni.