
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

McGovern Medical School & Rice University

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Health humanities foster critical thinking, empathy, and tolerance for ambiguity—qualities in high demand for medical school and beyond. What's more, “the programs give students the opportunity to really grapple with the importance of culture in medicine and societal responses to illness and

disability,” – Therese Jones, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver

<https://www.ebsco.com/blog/article/why-its-important-to-study-the-humanities>

BACKGROUND

- Proximity and rich collaborations that already exist: fostered environment to create this unique program
- Literature/research demonstrates that Humanities majors may better apply social and cultural context of health care:

A [study](#) from 2018 shows that medical students who are exposed to the humanities demonstrate higher levels of positive skills and qualities such as empathy, tolerance for ambiguity, wisdom, emotional appraisal, self-efficacy, and spatial reasoning—all important in being a competent, good doctor.

Journal of General Internal Medicine 33(5):628-634

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs11606-017-4275-8.pdf>

- In good company...Stanford University, Northwestern's Feinberg SOM, UCSF, for example

- University of California—Irvine: 36%
- Brown University: 34%
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai: 29%
- University of Vermont: 25%
- Columbia University: 21%
- University of Rochester: 21%
- Emory University: 20%
- Hofstra University: 20%
- East Carolina University: 19%
- Wake Forest University: 19%

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-medical-schools/slideshows/13-medical-schools-where-humanities-and-social-sciences-majors-often-attend?slide=13>

MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL

- 240 Students Admitted each year
 - 2023 Entry Metrics: Avg GPA= 3.88 Avg MCAT=512
- Largest Medical Center in the world!
- Dual Degrees: MD/PhD, MD/MPH, MD/MBA, MD/MS
- Average debt level- \$131,400 (National Average is \$194,280 public, \$218,746 private)
- 4th largest city in the U.S.



MEDICAL SCHOOL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

- Criteria
 - US Citizenship, with preference for Texas residents
 - Declared Humanities Major
 - 3.7 GPA with 3.5 BCPM
 - 510 MCAT with 125 per section
- While still at Rice, exposure to MMS through clinical research/research activities
- Facilitated Acceptance—students accepted into the program as junior at Rice who meet criteria, will receive an interview during the fall of their senior year

“What the humanities teach, what literature and art and music and philosophy and history teach, is that the correct description and analysis of human life is not a scientific affair.”



RICE UNIVERSITY
Medical Humanities Program
School of Humanities



Menu 



<https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/mcgovern-medical-partnership>

How the program works

- Students must submit the application form with three letters of recommendation, a personal statement and a transcript by the deadline of October 13, 2023. See the Office of the Registrar's website for [transcript request](#) information.
- Interviews with representatives from Rice and McGovern Medical School will be scheduled in early November. A background check will be performed following the interviews.
- Letters of acceptance to the Facilitated Acceptance program will be sent in late November-early December.

How the program works

- Students who are accepted into the program must take the MCAT between January and June of 2024 (prior to their senior year).
- Students will be invited to participate in a Summer Enrichment Experience at the McGovern Medical School between their junior and senior year at Rice.
- Students must complete the UT Health-McGovern Medical School application. See the medical school's [application process page](#) for more information.
- Please refer to the [TMDSAS website](#) for application deadlines and important dates.

How the program works

- Progress reports including disciplinary records and medical humanities enrichment activities will be sent to McGovern by Rice in Spring of junior year and fall of senior year.
- Students will be invited to interview for medical school admission in the fall of their senior year.
- Students must graduate in their Humanities major to remain eligible for the program.

What does “facilitated acceptance” mean?

- The intent of the program is to recruit Humanities majors for admission to McGovern medical school. Our shared goal is for all students admitted to this program to be admitted into McGovern medical school.
- HOWEVER, admission into the Facilitated Acceptance program does not guarantee admission to the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. Students must meet [additional requirements](#) (including GPA, MCAT score, TMDSAS, criminal background check, and interview) before admission into McGovern Medical School is granted.

Eligibility requirements

- Declared Humanities major. (Humanities minor alone is insufficient.)
- Area majors will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- I will have either: a) completed three courses (9 credit hours) in a Humanities major by the end of the Spring semester in my sophomore year; or b) completed two courses (6 credit hours) in a Humanities major by the end of my sophomore year AND will be enrolled in at least two courses (6 credit hours) in a Humanities major for the Fall of my junior year (following the Fall add/drop deadline).

Eligibility requirements

- *Any exceptions must be requested and approved by the Director of Medical Humanities (Dr. Kirsten Ostherr) in writing. Contact <Andrew.Stefl@rice.edu> for instructions on uploading this approval to your application.*

Eligibility requirements

- Resume or CV
- Unofficial transcript
- Currently enrolled as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours) and will be a full-time student in the Fall semester of junior year
- U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident
- Reviewed the [requirements for matriculation into Medical School](#) posted on the Rice University Pre-Health Professions website of the Office of Academic Advising

How to prepare

- Describe your interest in medicine, including discussion of how your humanities background has prepared you for a medical career (Maximum 1500 words)
- *Background in Medical Humanities coursework strongly recommended*
- *Depth of knowledge of humanities methods and content desired, not just credit hours*
- Three letters of recommendation are required, with at least one recommendation from a Rice Humanities professor or instructor (graduate student instructors are ineligible). *Letters that can describe your humanities-based approach to medicine would be helpful.*

Questions?

- Please send any follow-up questions to Andrew.Stefl@rice.edu so that we can add them to the FAQ on the Medical Humanities website, [here](#).