



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO
PRITZKER SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

August 28th, 2012

6:00-7:30pm

Monica Vela, MD, Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Course Director of *Health Care Disparities in America*

Anthony Montag, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions

Robert Sanchez, MS2, SNMA Admissions Chair

Sylvia Robertson, Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid

Darrell Nabers, Director for Admissions & Outreach

Charles N. Todd, PhD, Associate Director for Admissions & Financial Aid



Pritzker Charles: Welcome!



dpadilla21: Hello



Dr. Vela: Hello everyone, this is Monica



Pritzker Charles: Hi Monica!



Pritzker Charles: Hi Sylvia



SylviaPritzker: Hi Everyone



Pritzker Rob Sanchez: Hi Sylvia, Hi Dr. Vela!



SylviaPritzker: how are things in Texas?



Dr. Vela: Hi Rob! How is your family in Texas?



SylviaPritzker: Thank you Charles for setting it up!



Pritzker Rob Sanchez: Everything is going well here in Texas! It's nice that Pritzker gives us med students time like this for a break before the start of 2nd year. Looking forward to the chat with everyone.



Pritzker Charles: Can you believe this incredible weather today in Chicago? Perfect end of summer day!



SylviaPritzker: Enjoy every minute of your break Rob! It is important to learn to take very quick vacations!



SammyElsarrag: Hello pritzker!



Pritzker Charles: Hi Sammy!



Pritzker Charles: Hello everyone!



ririele: Good evening, Pritzker

 **dlp92486:** David Parker here, greetings from Utah!

 **Dr. Vela:** Welcome, everyone, so glad you could join us tonight!

 **rwk9vp:** Ruth Kihiu here from Virginia

 **Aladine:** Hello Everyone! Checking in from Nashville!

 **Pritzker Charles:** It is nice to meet you all :)

 **SylviaPritzker:** Way to go Dr Vela! I know you can do this!

 **jordand:** Good Evening Pritzker Jordan Dubique here from Florida

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Sammy! We look forward to answering your questions!

 **dreynolds88:** Good evening everyone! Dana from NJ

 **SammyElsarrag:** I look forward to asking them ! From Richmond, Virginia

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Jordand! I hope you are not in the storm???

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Dana!

 **ririele:** Robin Iriele here from Georgia. My first name might be easier to go by..

 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Robin :)

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Robin! Where in Georgia?

 **ArwaE:** Good evening, Pritzker!

 **zwalker:** Hello everyone! Zach Walker checking in from NYC

 **dpadilla21:** Hello everyone, David Padilla here in San Antonio, TX

 **ririele:** Atlanta!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Everyone ask us your question - we are here to help

 **LeahUm:** Hi everyone, Leah from Buffalo, NY

 **SylviaPritzker:** We will introduce ourselves

 **jordand:** No I am not in the storm I was spared this time

 **SylviaPritzker:** I am the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

 **SylviaPritzker:** Good news Jordana - our thoughts are with those getting the storm now

 **Pritzker Charles:** I am Charles Todd, Associate Director of Admissions & Financial Aid. Welcome everyone!

 **Dr. Vela:** Greetings, I am Monica Vela, MD, the Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs and a Pritzker graduate from 20 years ago!

 **SammyElsarrag:** So my main focus for the past few years as I completed my undergraduate education has been Obesity and it's related illness. I realized the way to make the biggest impact is to pursue an MD concurrent with an MPH. This would enable me to reach out to particularly vulnerable groups through organizations like the Boys and Girls club or the Scouts. I searched throughout your website and found no MPH program. What can Pritzker offer me in that regard?

 **SylviaPritzker:** 20 years ago is not possible, Dr. Vela!

 **langnese:** Maryam Alimirah here, graduated from UChicago in June

 **SylviaPritzker:** Wonderful Maryam - thank you for joining us!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Good question, Sammy

 **asantebadu:** Hi, Asante Badu here!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Sammy - we have students every year who pursue an MPH - our curriculum has the needed flexibility

 **SylviaPritzker:** But also check our out Harris School of Public Policy - a great way to pursue the interests you outline

 **Pritzker Charles:** Right, our students are able to do Public Health research in their time at Pritzker

 **Pritzker Charles:** or they may choose to go somewhere else to do an MPH in the middle of their MD degree and then come back.

 **Dr. Vela:** Dear Sammy, while there is no MPH program , there is a Masters in Public Policy, very similar and should fit your needs nicely. In addition, we are on campus with all of the other graduate schools and work collaboratively on many community projects. Students often work as well with our Urban Health Initiative, set up and run to work with the needs of our local community.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Asante!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** Hi everyone, my name is Robert and I'm a 2nd year at Pritzker. I'm currently on break in San Antonio, and happy to answer any questions I can respond to as a current student!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome LeahUm!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Darrell has joined us now! :)

 **Aladine:** Dr. Vela, how is the support system within the Office of Multicultural Affairs for the students of diverse backgrounds?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello everyone. I'm Darrell Nabers, the Director of Admissions and Outreach at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Welcome!

 **dlp92486:** Robert, what did you enjoy most about your first year at Pritzker?

 **Dr. Vela:** Dear Aladine, I love your question!

 **rwk9vp:** HI Robert, what do you like most about the curriculum at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Sammy, I'm also interested in Public Health, though I'm leaning towards pursuing an MPH later in my career. Just wanted to say that I've already received great mentorship and guidance from the Pritzker faculty about potential future opportunities. I feel very well supported about my interests in community health, the Latino community, and health disparities

 **rwk9vp:** I'm Ruth by the way

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Ruth - how can we help!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Please feel free to jump in everyone and ask your questions

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Congratulations on your graduation from U Chicago, Maryam!

 **Dr. Vela:** and I love my job. WE have a great of diversity at Pritzker, and our incredible students work with us to establish a diversity climate that is warm and welcoming! We have twice as many URMs as the national average!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We will get to as many of them as we can

 **LeahUm:** @Rob Sanchez, what opportunities are available to students interested in getting involved with the Latino community in the Chicago area?

 **rwk9vp:** Oh my question was how is the curriculum at Pritzker set up?

 **ArwaE:** Hi Robert, what do you like most about Pritzker and how was the support system here for first year medical students?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @rwk and dlp: SO many favorite things about my first year! the curriculum is really great, my favorite parts were anatomy in the first quarter, and pathology/microbiology in the spring. The professors for those courses were really great and very approachable. Hands down though, I think the community at Pritzker has been my favorite. We have a strong emphasis on collaboration and it's made for a very supportive and tight-knit class =)

 **lex.woods4:** Hi My name is Alexis. I know there are some community based initiatives, but I am curious--are there some global health service projects that students can get involved with?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** If I met you at an SMDEP fair this summer, let me know!

 **rwk9vp:** @Rob thanks

 **rwk9vp:** that sounds good!

 **marinamzaky:** Hello! I'm Marina Zaky from Clarksville Tennessee. What does independent study consist of during the months of March to April in the second year?

 **SylviaPritzker:** Absolutely lex.wood -- Global health is even one of our 5 tracks to choose in our Scholarship and Discovery program!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @lex.woods4: yes definitely! this summer we had rising second year students in Africa and India to name a few places

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi Marina - students then are studying for their board exam and working on their scholarship and discovery project and relaxing a bit and spending time with family and friends before 3rd year begins

 **SammyElsarrag:** I'm curious about an article I read from the Chicago Tribune, regarding penalties for readmission. The article listed University of Chicago Health system as one of the hospitals subject to fines. How have the recent health care laws affected the Pritzker school, if at all?

 **dreynolds88:** Hi, I know many MS1 students volunteer abroad or locally during their summer break. What opportunities does Pritzker offer for students during that summer?

 **marinamzaky:** Sounds nice enough. Thanks!

 **Dr. Vela:** Dear Alexis, Global health is one of our strengths. It is built into the curriculum as one of the tracks in the Scholarship and Discovery program, AND, in addition, students can choose to travel with our REMEDY group, a student run organization that travels to third world countries to bring needed medical care.

 **ArwaE:** Are their opportunities to go abroad after MS1?

 **Aladine:** Thanks Dr. Vela! Yes, from the many schools I've read about Pritzker mission and attitude towards diversity is by far the best!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Leah: There are several great opportunities I've been able to take advantage of. The first is the Latino Medical Students Association, which Dr. Vela is the faculty adviser for. You can do work in the local and national levels, but I've most enjoyed our community work through mentoring local high school students. One of our 5 free clinics that students can get involved in is also located in a community with about 50% spanish speaking population. It's called Community Health Clinic and I serve as a co-coordinator. Each time I volunteer at our weekly clinic, I'm able to help patients who are Latino and are able to access free care

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi Dreynolds - we have a robust summer research program, aervice fellowship program and great mentorship!

 **ririele:** Speaking of curriculum: I was reading about some interesting aspects of the Pritzker curriculum and I noticed a statement about how the curriculum aims to be dynamic and responsive to larger community needs. When did the "Healthcare disparities in America" class begin? I noticed an article but it didn't see a date on it. Will the incoming class of 2017 be able to take it or do course offerings change regularly?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** SRP's are very popular, @dreynolds88.

 **dlp92486:** @Pritzker Darrell How does ethnicity factor into the admissions process at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @ArwaE - yes! many of our rising second years have just returned from a summer abroad

 **dreynolds88:** Thank you.

 **ArwaE:** Thanks!

 **asantebadu:** I also have a question that may be appropriate for Robert- how do you think that the location of the school itself has made your experience unique, both academically and socially? Also have you found the environment to be pretty collaborative? And is there any literature written by students about Pritzker that you could refer me to?

 **Dr. Vela:** I am the course director for Health Care Disparities and it begins in the second week of first year. It runs for 6 to 8 weeks depending on the year and we have over 40 faculty participating yearly!

 **Aladine:** Darrell, what types of outreach do students do within the Chicago community?

 **lex.woods4:** Thanks!! Another question---how soon upon matriculating can students get involved in the community service projects??

 **Dr. Vela:** Lex: students can get started right away!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dreynolds88: some students are involved in Summer Service Project, working with local Chicago Public School Students on community based projects

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @dip9248, we value diversity at Pritzker. It is not just a word, but a passion and an experience that involves our students as ambassadors of service and leadership within our community.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Leah - there are many more opportunities to get involved at different levels too. Community service is obvious, but there are also great faculty with a research focus on Latino communities. Check out Dr. Arshiya Baig, she's doing some really neat work in the Little Village (La Villita) neighborhood on diabetes with Hispanic/Latin@ populations

 **Dr. Vela:** Our school supports four different free clinics located in different service areas across Chicago!

 **rwk9vp:** Are the classes all lectures or are there any case based classes?

 **rwk9vp:** Or is it a mix

 **rwk9vp:** ?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** In the admissions process, we consider diversity as a valuable trait for any applicant.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi Lex.woods4 - as soon as you want to be involved - our students are absolutely dedicated to service - they have hearts of service

 **LeahUm:** @Sanchez: Thanks! I go to school in Philadelphia and volunteer at a clinic that predominately serves Latino patients. I really enjoy it, that's why I was wondering if UCPSOM offers similar opportunities

 **langnese:** OMSA was very resourceful during my undergraduate and I was wondering what sort of programs does the committee on diversity at Pritzker have that foster a sense of community amongst minority students?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Ethnic diversity is very important because it reflects the ethnic diversity of our community @dip92486.

 **Dr. Vela:** In addition, our students run after school programs at local charter and public schools and address obesity and nutrition, drugs and alcohol, asthma, a science curriculum, sex and pregnancy and this year we are adding parenting skills!!

 **Pritzker Charles:** For those interested in community service, do check out our Service Learning Opportunities website: <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/CommunityServiceOpportunities.shtml>

 **SammyElsarrag:** Speaking of research opportunities, is there currently any ongoing research around the issue of obesity or any of the obesity related illness such as Diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, etc?

 **JeddAudry:** Hi all! I'd like to learn a little bit more about the scholarship and discovery program and how it enhances pre-clinical

 **Dr. Vela:** Our health disparities course is one of the only FREE STANDING (not part of another course) REQUIRED courses that lasts for more than one week (it lasts 6) across the country.

 **dpadilla21:** @Rob, are you from San Antonio? If so, how was the transition going from San Antonio to Chicago?

 **ArwaE:** How early do students start checking out different specialties? Are their opportunities to do this from the first year?

 **JeddAudry:** I education

 **SylviaPritzker:** rwk9vp -- a mix which results in a vibrant curriculum and great way to learn and engage the material

 **dlp92486:** @Pritzker Darrell Thank you!

 **rwk9vp:** That's cool

 **Dr. Vela:** The HCD course incorporates didactic lectures, small group projects, and community expeditions.

 **dreynolds88:** @Charles Thank you. I know that the med school curriculum is very time consuming, so I am wondering is it still possible to volunteer in local programs and dedicate enough time to that program. I currently teach animal dissections at an urban school and encourage the students to pursue a career in medicine or science and would love to continue work like that.

 **rwk9vp:** sounds very interesting

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @Aladine, our students are very involved with our free clinics...

 **Dr. Vela:** 99% of our students participate in our free clinics

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @langnese: As a student I feel very well supported by the administration at Pritzker. They do a wonderful job of fostering a strong community among us students! There was just a wonderful welcome reception just two weekends ago sponsored by the medical school's office of Multicultural Affairs. We had a wonderful dinner and got to meet and greet with faculty, upperclassmen, and residents. As a student it was a wonderful community building experience. But it goes beyond just these events - there is support for students through student groups such as the SNMA and LMSA, and we have a wonderful support from the Dean of the Medical School herself, Dr. Humphrey

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dreynolds88: our students are able to start volunteering in their first year; by second year they start serving on the boards of the clinics and really helping to run them together with the faculty

 **langnese:** Thanks, Rob!

 **GraceJames:** Are there any mission trips that take place in African countries?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** CHC, NLVS, and Maria Shelter are examples of free clinics where our students rotate in a variety of clinical support areas.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dreynolds88: in addition to that our students are involved in days of service throughout the year in the community, plus they are involved in various neighborhood projects such as flu shot drives, health fairs, and healthy food projects

 **rwk9vp:** How is the interview process and what advice would you guys give?

 **zwalker:** I was wondering how easy it is for medical students to get involved with research at the school. We've gone over a great deal of public service initiatives available, which is fantastic, but does the curriculum also allow medical students to get involved with research projects without being in the joint degree program?

 **iriele:** How are 1st and 2nd year courses evaluated?

 **dreynolds88:** @Charles Thank you.

 **ArwaE:** What do you feel is the most unique aspect of the curriculum?

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** rwk9vp - our applicants tell us we have a wonderful interview experience - it is very highly rated - we want to get to know you so we work to create a welcoming environment where we can get to know each other

 **Pritzker Charles:** By the way - if we happen to miss your question, please feel free to ask it again!

 **Ririele:** Are they graded traditionally like our undergraduate coursework?

 **Dr. Vela:** Interview process is, I am told, one of the best in terms of welcoming students, being transparent, and engaging students with other students. We believe in one on one interviews because we really do want to get to know you.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @dpadilla - Yup! Born and raised in SA-town! The transition has been very good. Chicago is a great city, and I really enjoy living in Hyde Park. It's a bigger city than San Antonio for sure, and is culturally vibrant and is easy to adjust to. There's a good public transit system too that I've found pretty easy to get used to in order to explore the city more

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** Hi Ririele - our courses are all graded P/F we want you to learn to work with your classmates - medicine is a team activity!

 **Aladine:** @Darrell and @Dr. Vela, thank you! Just a follow up question: what are the demographics for the patients who go to these clinics? I do Arabic translating for the Vanderbilt student clinic and I was wondering if that would be one of the needs for the clinics?

 **rwk9vp:** @Dr. Vela Thanks!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @Aladine, Students are REALLY involved in community service here. There are countless ways to get involved, from free clinics to school-based health programs to mental health or AIDS awareness groups. You can check out the many student groups and organizations at <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/organizations/>

 **dpadilla21:** Thanks Rob!

 **Dr. Vela:** Our first two years are pass/fail and we encourage a collaborative atmosphere, small groups and try our best to eliminate the competitiveness that follows students from their undergraduate years.

 **Ririele:** Thank you, Sylvia.

 **Ririele:** and Dr. Vela

 **Jedd Audry:** @DrVela: is there a buddy system in place at Pritzker to effectively guide M1's through much of the transition through first year?

 **Aladine:** @Pritzker Darrell Thanks!

 **Dr. Vela:** Yes, it's a little brother/sister system!

 **lex.woods4:** How are the little brother/sister pairs determined?

 **Ririele:** Good question, lex.

 **asantebadu:** to expand on Jedd's question- who exactly makes up the advising societies?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @ArwaE: there are opportunities to explore different medical fields even from the 1st year! The best way is through the different groups who have an interest. I've attended events such as panels and faculty speakers from groups like the Dermatology Interest Group, Family Medicine Interest Group, and Psychiatry Interest Group. There is literally a group for just about every field! And there's always free lunch and great discussion. The faculty and students are eager to talk about their personal experiences. Also, throughout the first year curriculum, from Anatomy to Physiology, there are guest lecturers who talk about their specialty fields and even open us up to hands on experiences!

 **Sammy Elsarrag:** Is there currently any ongoing research around the issue of obesity or any of the obesity related illness such as Diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, etc? Also I noticed from an article on the Chicago Tribune, UC Hospital system was subject to fines for patient readmittance. How have these new health care laws affected, if at all, the Pritzker school?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @lex all of our students are placed into one of 4 societies; the societies are like Hogwarts! they have career advisors, and there are students from each year in each society

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** The advising societies are developed on a peer mentoring system so there are students from all 4 years in each society

 **ArwaE:** Thanks Robert!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @lex the society system is a way for you to receive mentorship from older students as well as to get support from faculty advisors who will help you all along the way, including with the residency application process

 **Jedd Audry:** Thank you.

 **lex.woods4:** Ahh! Thanks!

 **Dr. Vela:** Initially we assign the buddies, but we also encourage that students seek out mentors that fit their needs!

 **Pritzker Charles:** there is also some friendly competition between the societies during our annual field day :)

 **ririele:** That sounds really funny, Charles.

 **dreynolds88:** I was unable to apply early due to financial reasons. Do you think I should wait until next cycle in order to be a better applicant? I've heard that applying early increases the likelihood of being accepted. Also, is it possible to do clinical or lab research while being a med student without being MD/PhD

 **Jedd Audry:** friendly competition is always good.

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** Welcome Everyone! Jump in with your questions and if we miss your question please ask it again!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** Oh yes, Charles - Field Day is coming up next month and it'll be a BIG DEAL => Coggeshall is out to win back the title!

 **zwalker:** I was wondering how easy it is for medical students to get involved with research at the school. We've gone over a great deal of public service initiatives available, which is fantastic, but does the curriculum also allow medical students to get involved with research projects without being in the joint degree program?

 **Dr. Vela:** Sammy: Yes!! There is a new women's center that just opened and the research ongoing is incredible; Google: Dr. Melissa Gilliam

 **Pritzker Charles:** You can see photos from last year from our field day here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/psom/sets/72157629470249853/>

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** Yes, dreynolds88 - at Pritzker it is very easy to pursue your research interests while completing the MD

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @dreynolds88, you should always apply with your best application, and know that AMCAS has a fee waiver process for the application.

 **jade_sanders:** What types of financial aid resources should I look into to help finance my medical education? Are there particular grants awarded by Pritzker to underrepresented minorities?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @zwalker there are more research opportunities than we have students!

 **ririele:** Thank you for the pictures!

 **Dr. Vela:** Research helps to define everything we do at Pritzker. Just to give you an idea: Our students are introduced to the IRB and get passwords on day 2!!

 **Jedd Audry:** Not sure if it has been discussed already, but what goes into the holistic approach to examining whether an applicant is a right fit for the family here at Pritzker?

 **cristinaeds:** Hi, this is Cristina from Boston. I'm also interested in dreynolds88 questions regarding the possibilities of doing clinical/lab research.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @zwalker: check our our research opportunities page here: <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/opportunities.shtml>

 **SylviaPritzker:** dreynolds88 - it is not too late to apply now but you would want to apply by mid September - but if your application would be stronger next year then be patient and wait

 **Dr. Vela:** Hi Cristina: Research here is fabulous. We are number 4 in terms of NIH dollars per faculty, as an example.

 **zwalker:** @Pritzker Charles: thanks!

 **SylviaPritzker:** You always want to apply with the strongest application possible

 **Pritzker Charles:** @zwalker many students will get involved in research their first year before they even get to summer; then about 80% of our student do a summer research project

 **SammyElsarrag:** @Pritzker Anyone I read about the summer research program and was thrilled to see the NIDKK listed as a partner, what kind of work are students performing at the NIDKK?

 **Dr. Vela:** We have an incredible CTSA grant and clinical and translational research abounds!

 **Aladine:** @Pritzker Charles: Are there scholarships offered for current students that they can apply for?

 **Mickbong:** Will there be a moderator for MSTP or should I ask my questions here?

 **dreynolds88:** @Sylvia thank you.

 **cristinaeds:** That sounds exciting. I've been working in a research lab since graduating and more and more I'm considering ways in which I can still incorporate it into my medical education

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - our financial aid is very generous; we award scholarships, both merit based and need based, on a rolling basis throughout the admission process

 **SylviaPritzker:** JeddAudry - we carefully review every application looking for a passion for learning, a dedication to service and a commitment to excellence

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - we consider you at the time of admission; we gave about \$11 Million to the incoming class of 2012, and we hope to do about the same for next year's incoming class

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @dreynolds and cristinaeds: As a student, it's great to be at a place like Pritzker in terms of research. I wasn't SUPER involved in research during my undergrad (I was more into clinical experience like free clinics) but there's SO MUCH support for research here it's easy to find something you're interested in here, even if it's not your forte (like myself). I participated in the summer research program and had a WONDERFUL experience, and I was even fortunate enough to receive some recognition at the end for my research paper and presentation. It felt really good and reinforced my interested in pursuing academic research in the future

 **Dr. Vela:** Cristina, it will definitely be a part of your medical education here at Pritzker. You will leave Pritzker with skills that many other students have not yet developed.

 **SylviaPritzker:** JeddAudry we also need to see how applicants would add to the diversity of our class - you will all learn more in a diverse class

 **JeddAudry:** Thank you Sylvia

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Jedd!

 **JeddAudry:** Hi Charles!!!

 **JeddAudry:** Thrilled to be here!

 **brandon.scott:** What do Pritzker students typically do during their first and second summers? Is there a common trend of activities students involve themselves in or a wide variety?

 **Dr. Vela:** JeddAudry: There is so much to gain from diversity in a class. Everyone's experience is important and we all learn from each other.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Mickbong we can answer most of your MSTP questions but if not, we will get you in touch with the right person

 **JeddAudry:** Are non-traditional students represented favorably in the class demographic and what has their impact meant to the overall mission of Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Brandon and others with research questions: Check out this page for some of the names and titles of the summer research projects that some of my classmates worked on. Some really cool stuff here and is just an example of the cool work that we can get involved in during the summer. http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/research/2012_SRP.shtml

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - metrics are not enough for us to consider you; we are looking for leaders who will add to the diversity of the class, who love to learn, and who are dedicated to service

 **SylviaPritzker:** JeddAudry because we value diversity our committee is always very interested in non traditional students - they bring such rich experiences to the class

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd about 40% of our class is non-traditional

 **JeddAudry:** wow

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @JeddAudry, non-traditional students offer a great deal of experience and diversity to the class.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Mickbong - you can ask us MSTP questions here

 **Dr. Vela:** YES, We LOVE nontraditional students. Students with backgrounds in the social sciences, literature, art, languages all help to inform how we care for patients and how we communicate with patients, and also how we perceive medicine in society.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Brandon - I also have to mention the Summer Service Project, which several of my classmates participated in. Here they get to really get involved in the local communities in the Southside of Chicago and work with high school students. They complete needs assessments and implement new initiatives each summer, empowering local high school students to partner with the university and the medical school to make a positive impact on their communities. My friends who participated in it had some really good things to say and were glad that they worked with it this summer

 **Aladine:** @Pritzker Charles: Thanks! Just to follow up: what time frame would it be ideal to interview to be considered early in terms of rolling admissions/financial scholarships?

 **dlp92486:** What are some of the struggles that first year medical students have at Pritzker?

 **Kerr23:** What kind of support for LGBT students does Pritzker offer?

 **SammyElsarrag:** @ PritzkerStudents , Just curious are any of you pursuing specialty in endocrinology?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - that is tough, it always depends on the applicant pool that year

 **LeahUm:** What kind of skills will Pritzker students develop that other students haven't, and how will they develop these skills at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - we start making offers on October 15

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - but we will continue to make offers through the spring; so best advice is just to get your application in as soon as possible

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Kerr23 - great support for LGBT students!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @JeddAudry - speaking as a NonTrad student myself, I think Pritzker is a GREAT place to be a non traditional student. The student body is pretty well balanced and I felt like I fit right in. Also, it's cool that those who have some other types of life experiences can bring so much to the table. I have classmates who were teachers, musicians, cooks, and much more that I can't even think of. It's such a great group of students to go through medical school with. Keeps things interesting for sure!

 **SylviaPritzker:** @dip92486 Our first year students are so very excited about their coursework - they tell us they cannot believe all they are learning and how much they are loving their classmates! Great support is available for the transition to medical school here so you can focus on what you love doing - learning and serving

 **Dr. Vela:** We have a very strong LGBT student group that just recently asked for our support in launching a regional LGBT Health conference. The medical school and the BSD backed them financially as did the faculty lend their time!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Kerr23 - Dr Vela covers LGTB health issues in her healthcare disparities course

 **Pritzker Darrell:** LeahUm, our students are very collaborative and that is certainly something that makes our students stand apart from those at other institutions.

 **dip92486:** @SylviaPritzker That is great to hear!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Kerr - There is Outpatient which is the official LGBTQ student group on campus. Dr. Vela is absolutely right in their work with the regional health conference. They've also organized some great panel discussions and guest speakers, all of which were well attended.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Kerr23 - we also have a 2-part podcast on LGTB life at Pritzker; here is the link to part 1: <http://pritzkerpodcast.com/2010/09/15/34-lgbt-life-at-pritzker-1-of-2/>

 **Dr. Vela:** One of the small groups in the health disparities course is focused on evaluating our curriculum for more opportunities to integrate LGBT health curriculum throughout the four years!!

 **Kerr23:** Wow. Thanks for the responses. Very helpful. And I will certainly check out those video clips.

 **Dr. Vela:** We also have a working LGBT faculty committee (2 students sit on it) to address LGBT health issues within our hospital.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Kerr - In general, I'll also just say that I'm consistently impressed with the responsiveness of the Pritzker administration to the needs of students on a variety of these issues. Whether it be related to LGBTQ, cultural, socioeconomic, or any other concerns, I've always felt that there's been genuine interest and support to make sure that the concerns of Pritzker students are heard and acted upon

 **LeahUm:** Thanks Darrell :) Do students mostly collaborate through classwork, or are there also opportunities to work together outside classes?

 **dreynolds88:** What percentage of graduates choose to become primary care physicians vs. a specialty? Do many students decide to stay within the Chicago area?

 **jade_sanders:** What percentage of students continue into residencies and stay and work as physicians who serve underserved communities in southside Chicago?

 **Aladine:** @Charles: Thanks! Fortunately I was granted an interview, I was just trying to put in perspective the time frame in terms of admission/financial offers, but I completely understand that it depends on the applicant pool.

 **JeddAudry:** @Rob that's awesome. As a native New Yorker currently living in the south I realized exactly how much of the "rest" of the country I had been missing out on living in the Northeast. Does Chicago comprise a good cross-section of urban and rural patient populations?

 **langnese:** I have a question about the Scholarship and Discovery component of the curriculum. I have done quite a bit of scientific research, but I am also very much interested in international health. Do you know of any students who found a way to combine both interests using the scientific investigation and/or the global health scholarship tracks?

 **Pritzker Charles:** These are all great questions everyone! Please feel free to keep asking them!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Sammy: Yes! I was able to shadow an endocrinologist during my first year as part of our Longitudinal Program, and it was a very positive experience. I'm definitely interested in it, especially since I have friends and family members with various issues related to endocrinology.

 **SammyElsarrag:** Thank you Rob!

 **marinamzaky:** Is there a process where the students get to pick what projects they would like to work on for the summer research period?

 **Aladine:** @Dr. Vela: I understand there are multicultural programs, but are there any interfaith programs?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** you are welcome, LeahUm. Students have opportunities to collaborate in courses like human anatomy and health care disparities. In HCD they work to actively identify and problem solve disparities within the local community. These experiences often lead to the joining in and formation of student interest groups where students actively engage in service with the local community.

 **Dr. Vela:** @Langnese All service projects whether local or global, have a research component to them. This is part of the curriculum.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @marinamazaky: yes absolutely! we public our scholarly opportunities guide around Jan/Feb each year

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jedd - I'd definitely say yes. My classmates come from a great range of backgrounds, and there's value placed on each type of experience. I'll also highlight a great student group called "JOURNEES" that is focused on rural health and has done trips in the past to rural parts of Mississippi and the Dakotas (one site was a Native American reservation). Though I didn't get to attend, they gave a great presentation about the work they did. It was truly eye-opening and students from both urban and rural backgrounds were able to participate.

 **marinamzaky:** Sounds great. Thanks Charles!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @marinamazaky: you can see the 2012 Scholarly Opportunities Guide here: http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/Summer_Opps_Guide.pdf

 **SylviaPritzker:** @marinamazaky - yes - in Febraury of 1st year a process begins to help you find a mentor for your summer project for your summer project - so many wonderful opportunities!

 **rwk9vp:** What do medical students do for fun in UChicago Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @marinamazaky: it provides all the research projects faculty are working on for which they are looking for students; and there are way more projects than there are students to go around :)

 **JeddAudry:** That sounds terrific Rob. Thank you!

 **LeahUm:** @Darrell: Ah, I see. That's really cool because that way, if a group of students share a common interest, they can work together to do some good in the community! That's awesome, thanks again, Darrell :)

 **SylviaPritzker:** @Aladine - we look forward to welcoming you to Pritzker!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Marina: Yes, the scholarly opportunities guide is the excellent resource that all of us use to figure it out. But you also get to talk with faculty and the advisors are always available. I spoke with several different doctors as well as the leader of the summer research program Dr. Arora about what options would be the best for me

 **Dr. Vela:** Aladine: Yes not only do we have students who have organized into religious groups, but we as of today we have a room that students can reserve so that their group can pray and reflect within the medical school. In addition, we have a group of faculty studying religiosity, and we discuss religiosity in medicine in our coursework!

 **marinamzaky:** Great! Sounds exciting.

 **JeddAudry:** Curious as to whether there are any pre-matriculation programs for accepted students?

 **langnese:** Thank you, Dr. Vela

 **SammyElsarrag:** I have two questions, What child social programs are Pritzker students able to get involved in in the Chicago area (eg boy scouts, girls and boys clubs or others)? My second question is about the curriculum; How is a multidisciplinary approach to patient care encouraged at Pritzker? Are students taught to evaluate the patient as a whole as opposed to isolated systems?

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** @dreynolds88 out students are able to obtain residencies in the part of the country they choose - some do stay in Chicago for great programs while many others go back to their home states

 **Dr. Vela:** rwk9vp: our students have established dance groups, singing groups, they form bands, they participate in intramural sports and though I don't hear all the details :) I know they enjoy all the experiences that a city like Chicago has to offer!!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Chicago is a fun place to live, @rkw9vp. We have a world class symphony, museums, sports teams, and a wonderful and vibrant theater scene. Our students can receive tickets to a number of these events through our Ultmann Fund, which provides many students with a chance to try out some of the areas fun spots with at cost!

 **Aladine:** @SylviaPritzker: Thanks! I'm so excited, it will be my first time in Chicago! @Dr. Vela: Awesome! I think its great that there is that Pritzker adds that connection with religion and medicine in its curriculum!

 **rkw9vp:** Thanks!

 **mdfreyes:** Hi everyone! I'm Fatima Reyes and I'm currently in Philadelphia. I would like to hear about the student's schedule during the first two years. When do your students begin their clinical rotations?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @rkw9vp: SO MUCH FUN happens during medical school. Don't get me wrong, we work hard for sure, but there's also great opportunities to have fun too! If you want to stick close to campus, there are great Intramural activities (personally I love Basketball and Soccer) and Hyde Park is home to cool university activities such as a campus movie theater called DocFilms. Lots of students venture out into the city too, there are tons of parks where folks organize bike rides or trips to the beach or campfires at the nearby promontory point park when the weather's nice. Or for nightlife folks like to go dancing or check out cool restaurants. I can go on and on, but suffice it to say that just about every week our class's facebook group has tons of different ideas with activities to do.

 **ririele:** I'm not familiar with the Chicago area at all. How affordable is housing? Are there any campus options for medical students?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @ririele - Chicago is very affordable, where are you coming from?

 **ririele:** I'm coming from Atlanta.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @rkw9vp: I'm a big music junkie too, and I've really enjoyed the music scene here. So many cool concerts and outdoor music festivals

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** @Aladine please be certain to speak to me on your interview day - we can connect you with students who are very involved in their church communities - last year a Pritzker student won the University award for combining pursuit of scholarship with a faith commitment

 **ririele:** I don't know how they would compare.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @ririele, Chicago might be a little bit more expensive than Atlanta, but it is still a very affordable place; I have lived in Hyde Park for 9 years now

 **Dr. Vela:** Sammy: One of our free clinics, the Maria Shelter, has underserved children as its focus. In addition, our students have forged relationships with local public middle schools and Teach America and deliver afterschool programs with curriculum in the basic sciences, and curriculum that addresses nutrition, drugs and alcohol and healthy living.

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** @reriele Chicago is a very affordable city -- not like Boston or San Francisco

 **brandon.scott:** @Pritzker students, given your busy schedules as med school students do you feel like you've been able to fully immerse yourselves in Chicago and really get to know the city?

 **SammyElsarrag:** That's awesome!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @reriele - there is grad student housing available which is subsidized by the University so that makes it even better

 **ririele:** Sounds great!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @mdfreyes - welcome! :)

 **SylviaPritzker:** @rirele our budget is very generous and students are easily able to find affordable housing for about \$900/month - but we will also help you find a roommate to keep the cost even lower!

 **JeddAudry:** is grad student housing on or off campus?

 **dlp92486:** @ Charles is the grad student housing hard to get into?

 **dpadilla21:** Do students live outside the city? I have a family, so I have to consider location and size. I'd be willing to commute to get a bigger place for better price.

 **langnese:** What sort of leadership opportunities are available for med students?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @JeddAudry - grad student housing is scattered around Hyde Park

 **JeddAudry:** In the same boat as dpadilla... good question. Thank you Pritzker Charles!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** There are a lot of housing options close to campus and throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. The University has a "Graduate Student Housing" office if you would like to be in a university-owned building. There are also many privately owned buildings throughout the neighborhood as well.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @JeddAudry, its considered off campus, but almost all of the buildings are within a 5-20 minute walking distance

 **Aladine:** @SylviaPritzker: I definitely will! I do a lot of interfaith work at Vanderbilt and would love to continue it at Pritzker! Thanks!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @brandon: I've been very happy about the different neighborhoods I've been able to check out even during just my first year. Wicker Park, Pilsen, Little Village, Lincoln Park, Hyde Park, South Loop - I feel like I've gotten to see cool things that so many neighborhoods have to offer. I've even visited friends out in the suburbs too haha. That being said, Chicago is a big city with lots too offer and I feel like there's always things I can still explore. Friends are always telling me of cool places and neighborhoods to check out which is still pretty awesome

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dpadilla21 - most students in 1st year live in Hyde Park, but some live in South Loop, or North Side neighborhoods

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi @mdfreyes-students begin having clinical experiences very early in their first year - you can also become involved in serving in the community clinics during your first few weeks - we want you to continue to balance your commitment to service and learning

 **brandon.scott:** @Rob - Thanks!

 **ririele:** Wow, the housing support would definitely give students a little less to consider which is wonderful.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dpadilla21 but we do have some students who will commute from farther away

 **Dr. Vela:** Langnese: Many leadership opportunities as we have so many student groups. In addition, students are involved in almost every aspect of how Pritzker runs so there are leadership opportunities on Student Council, on Curriculum committees, on service projects and on the Admissions Committees, on Orientation Committees, etc, etc.....

 **ririele:** worry/fret is what I meant

 **JeddAudry:** Any Caribbean medicine focus groups.. specifically Haitian medical initiatives?

 **Pritzker Charles:** many of our students will actually room together in Hyde Park which makes it much more affordable even - we put together a housing webpage for you to get matched up with roommates

 **AMontag:** Hi everyone, Dr. Montag here.

 **JeddAudry:** Hi Dr. Montag!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Dr. Montag! Dr. Montag is our Dean for Admissions

 dpadilla21: @Charles, thanks!

 Pritzker Charles: keep the questions coming! they are great!

 langnese: Thank you, Dr. Vela!

 ririele: Hi, Dr. Montag.

 Pritzker Rob Sanchez: @langnese: Also, there are so many student groups that you are welcome to serve on the board for. I've found that it's more challenging to try and *limit* the number of leadership opportunities to take advantage of rather than where to find them haha

 SammyElsarrag: Where can Pritzker students go to the gym?

 AMontag: Did I miss anything that I might contribute to?

 Dr. Vela: Langnese: WE also run 3 summer pipeline programs and are always looking for students to mentor young students!

 SylviaPritzker: @dip92486 you can easily find room for a family and we will help!

 langnese: good to know, thanks Robert!

 Pritzker Charles: @Sammy - the gym is right by the Pritzker building!

 AMontag: Olympic sized pool 2 blocks away

 Pritzker Charles: @Sammy - Pritzker is on 57th street near Ellis Ave, and the gym is on Ellis at 58th

 Dr. Vela: The Ratner gymnasium is STATE of the ART: incredible facilities, beautiful swimming pool and VERY VERY affordable for students and faculty

 SammyElsarrag: That is fantastic!

 Dr. Vela: Many faculty and students will go for a run, swim or a class during lunch hours

 Pritzker Rob Sanchez: @sammy: There's the UChicago Rattner gym which is a super nice facility. There's also Crown Field House which is just a block away with a large indoor track, racquetball and squash rooms, and multipurpose courts for anything from basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, and more. There's also great paths for outdoor workouts - like the Lake Front trail which is excellent for jogs, runs and biking.

 Pritzker Charles: We have another gym a little further away - Crown Field house; here is a picture set of our students playing some basketball (including Pritzker Rob!) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/psom/sets/72157629484568707/>

 AMontag: 17 mile bike path to North side of the city

 mdfreyes: How do you students find mentors within the faculty? Are there formal mentoring programs?

 SylviaPritzker: Just get us started about this great city and exercise - there are now man-made "hills" on the lake front! They will be great for sledding as well as biking!

 Pritzker Charles: @mdfreyes - great question!

 Pritzker Charles: @Dr Vela, actually the campus gym is free for students :)

 JeddAudry: Are there any prematriculation programs available for incoming students prior to their M1 year?

 SammyElsarrag: Any students participate in powerlifting at Pritzker? Is there a club of some kind?

 mdfreyes: For the students - how many hours do you spend in lecture/listening to lecture and how many hours studying per day?

 jade_sanders: Do most students primarily utilize public transportation to commute to different parts of the city? Are there student passes available?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @mdfreyers - for finding mentors, you will be guided both by the career advisor in your society, as well as Dr Vinny Arora, our Dean for Scholarship & Discovery

 **ArwaE:** How frequently do students take exams? Is it weekly? Monthly? etc.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @jade - lots of bus options to get from Hyde Park downtown, as well as the Metra and the El

 **SylviaPritzker:** @mdfreyes Our faculty are eager to serve as mentors to Pritzker students - the advising societies give a first relationship with a mentor, summer experience gives another and then your Scholarship and Discovery project gives many more - easy to find mentors

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @mdfreyes: Students can find mentors in formal and informal settings. The Pritzker societies and the summer programs I think are some of the best ways to find mentors who match your interests. Also, all of the student groups have faculty advisers who have personally been outstanding mentors for me. Also, the Bowman Society puts on lectures and networking dinners on a quarterly basis throughout the year, which has been a wonderful way for me to meet with and find mentors within the faculty and upperclassmen who come from underrepresented and diverse backgrounds

 **Pritzker Charles:** @jade there are monthly passes you can get;

 **jade_sanders:** Are clinics for rotations easily accessible via public transit?

 **Dr. Vela:** Jade: We have an incredible bus system called uchicago that goes around campus and also can take you to local areas and all you need is your student ID. Also, many students bike--loads of racks all over the campus

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @JeddAudry, our first years matriculate the first week of August and are introduced to Pritzker with anatomy and health care disparities courses prior to the fall quarter. Because of the timing of the start for first years there is not pre matriculation program for first years.

 **AMontag:** For research, there is a list of available opportunities, so you can check out with whom you would like to work during the first summer or afterwards.

 **SylviaPritzker:** @jeddAudry - no prematriculation program - we really encourage you to relax and rest that summer - prepare for the transition to medical school - in some ways it is your last summer

 **Aladine:** How are the on-campus or neighboring restaurants, in terms of price and accessibility? Also are the Chicago Deep Dish Pizzas as good as everyone says they are?

 **JeddAudry:** @Pritzker Darrell: Thank you!

 **AMontag:** The North shore rotation is in Evanston, there is an El that goes there, but they also put the students up in a hotel for the duration of the rotation.

 **rwk9vp:** good question Aladine, i love going out to eat

 **ririele:** My undergraduate college was located in a suburban area so students needed to travel a good bit away to reach inner city populations. How close (via public transportation) is the University of Chicago to the inner city and it's affiliated hospitals?

 **JeddAudry:** Thank you Sylvia. I agree!

 **Dr. Vela:** Jade: We are on campus with the hospital and most of your clinical rotations are there. We do have another campus for third year rotations and students are put up in a local hotel!

 **dreynolds88:** What are food options like on/off campus? Is it possible to have healthy eating habits without cooking?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - yes, lots of great food options in Hyde Park: Thai, Sushi, Lebanese, Korean, Italian, Greek, Veg, South Style, BBQ!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** The faculty adviser for the free clinic I help head up has been a great mentor for me. She's a Med-Peds doctor who encouraged me to attend a Med-Peds conference that she organized on campus which was really excellent

 **SylviaPritzker:** @Aladine - wait for your interview day! Deep dish pizza awaits! Seriously Chicago has some of the best restaurants in the world and the neighborhoods are full of affordable ethnic restaurants

 **Ririele:** I think we had similar questions, Jade.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine: Indian, more Thai, French, Mexican...I could keep going :)

 **Ririele:** :)

 **ArwaE:** What percentage of students match into primary care? What about other specialties?

 **Dr. Vela:** Yes, the deep dish pizza is awesome and we serve it on your interview day!! :)

 **AMontag:** Many Thai, middle eastern, pizza etc in Hyde Park. Rajun Cajun and other restaurants have vegetarian, I like Valois, see your food, cafeteria style with atmosphere.

 **JeddAudry:** Are there any exchange programs between Pritzker and other schools for away rotations?

 **Ccegbujor:** For students: I am from Texas and used to driving everywhere. Do most students have their own car and drive to campus or do most take public transportation?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jade, @Ririele - you can get up to North Short hospital via public; that one is the furthest away; as Dr. Montag said, they will put you up in a hotel while you rotate there so you don't have to go back and forth everyday

 **Dr. Vela:** There are not 'exchange' programs, but students can elect to go away to another academic center for a month rotation during fourth year.

 **Aladine:** @Everyone: Thank you for the responses! @SylviaPritzker: Can't wait!

 **SylviaPritzker:** @ArwaE would you please email me tomorrow at sroberts@bsd.uchicago.edu and I will give you the exact number - I think it is about 20-25% but want to give you the right number

 **AMontag:** Most students live in Hyde park the first year or two, and there are public transportation and shuttles. There is ample parking in Chicago compared to most big cities, although it can be tight at times.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Aladine - I love deep dish! had some for lunch today :D

 **Ririele:** @Pritzker Charles- Thank you!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We have about 30 minutes left for the chat

 **Pritzker Charles:** If you haven't got your questions in keep going! :)

 **ArwaE:** Thanks @SylviaPritzker!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @dreynolds: Great question! How'd you know I was on a diet?! haha. There are good options for healthy eating around school. there are university dining options in all of the buildings and hospitals, and they almost always have healthy options (including if you happen to be vegetarian or vegan). There are also food trucks which are pretty good though a little more expensive around campus during lunch. I'll say that throughout Hyde Park, I'd like it if there were more restaurant options (there are some, but I think there could be more and this is usually one of the few weaknesses I can find with living in Hyde Park). Still it should be said that it's more economical to learn to do some home cooking haha

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sylvia - could you share your top 10 list for going to Pritzker?

 **SylviaPritzker:** @rwk9vp Our students also regularly hold potlucks which seem to have some of the best food in the neighborhood and certainly the most fellowship and fun!

 **Dr. Vela:** ccegbujor: many of our students own their own cars but choose to commute to daily classes because the school and public transportation systems are excellent.

 **rwk9vp:** ooh Thankyou @SylviaPritzker

 **ccegbujor:** Thank you Amontag

 **ccegbujor:** @Dr. Vela - Thank you!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @ccegbujor-People do have cars on campus--probably about 50% of first-year students have one. Chicago does have a very accessible public transportation system, so you don't need to feel like you have to have a car in order to get around. When you look for housing, you will need to keep parking in mind if you do have a car. Some apartment complexes will charge extra for a space in their parking garage. There is free street parking around campus--but you usually need to be on campus pretty early in the day to find a spot. There is also a paid garage on campus that is about \$85 a month.

 **SylviaPritzker:** You bet, Charles!

 **dreynolds88:** @Rob Sanchez. LOL thank you. my undergrad cafeteria consisted of Wendy's and Chick-fil-A.

 **mdfreyes:** @Darrell - coming from LA then Philly that parking sounds amazing!

 **lex.woods4:** I agree with the parking--current Philly resident. It is not easy!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @ccegbujor, it's not like Texas where everyone has a car and air conditioning!!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - you can also do an away rotation abroad!

 **ccegbujor:** @Prtizker Darrell: You are so right, coming from Texas I never even think about parking!

 **Pritzker Charles:** If you live in Hyde Park you will definitely not need a car to get to campus

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @ccegbujor: I feel you on driving all the time (I'm from TX too!). Though I didn't bring my car to school and have found it just fine to get around, I know it's important! I actually helped another student from Houston drive his car up to campus this past December. I'd say about 20% students have a car (rough estimate, don't hold me to it!), especially if they're from the midwest. If you do bring one, it's important to think about parking which could be an extra cost if you opt for the convenience of a university parking spot or for a garage spot at your apartment.

 **JeddAudry:** @Charles-That's pretty exciting!

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON #10 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - CHICAGO a world class city with over 60 neighborhoods rich in diversity and a vibrant economy which allows for affordable living - come explore and grow!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We have free shuttles and buses that run around Hyde Park; and they are even getting ready to open a new shuttle line aimed at medical students that runs from the medical center across the neighborhood to the lake

 **Pritzker Charles:** it will end near Regent's Park which is an apartment building where many of our students live

 **Pritzker Charles:** more questions!?

 **SammyElsarrag:** It seems there are no shortages of opportunities at Pritzker! During the admissions process how keenly are the applicant's area of interest taken into consideration in determining an applicant's "fit"?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes, Hyde Park and Chicago are becoming more 'green', with hundreds of miles of bike paths being installed on Chicago streets, this will only improve over time!!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sammy - we definitely are looking for applicants who will take advantage of the resources we have to offer

 **JeddAudry:** Are neighboring medical schools and centers considered a resource for Pritzker medical students?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sammy - we have a small class size - only 88 students per class, so fit is very important to us

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** Since I talked about driving, I have to give props to getting around without a car: It's been REAL convenient getting around. There's a bus that picks up right by my apartment and drops me off at campus within like 12 minutes. There are also shuttles that run through the evening that

help me get around in the evenings quickly and safely. There's also a CTA bus that drops me off in the heart of downtown Chicago in about 15 mins time, from where I can get to just about any neighborhood in the city through the Chicago "L" train system

 **AMontag:** We look very closely at extracurriculars, team and group activities, things that you are passionate about, and what you would add to a class. We like applicants who are engaged in their communities.

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON #9 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - HYDE PARK a diverse neighborhood and a great place to live! From the campus gathering spots to the Argentine parakeets (honest) there is always something new to explore!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sammy - so short answer is yes, we do take your interests into account

 **Dr. Vela:** Sammy: We feel pretty confident that we can accommodate almost any interest at Pritzker. If we truly could not provide the type of opportunities you needed to succeed within your field of interest, then we would let you know. WE are definitely looking for students who are engaged with others, engaged in teaching or service or research and can speak in a way that we are all going to benefit from your experiences and your perspective.

 **Jessica:** Hi my name is Jessica Flores and I am VERY interested in the Health Disparities Curriculum you offer. Could you please tell me a bit more about it? Are classes regarding these issues integrated into the normal medical school schedule?

 **AMontag:** It is possible to rotate at other Chicago medical schools, and there are program projects and other grants that are multi institutional, but most of your activity will be at Pritzker.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Jessica!

 **Jessica:** HI!

 **JeddAudry:** Thank DrMontag.

 **AMontag:** Dr. Vela created the health care disparities curriculum.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jessica: Great to hear! I'm a second year student at Pritzker, and I remember being super interested in the health disparities course too when I applied. It was one of the things that drew me to Pritzker the most! It's a really great course and Dr. Vela does a wonderful job putting it all together.

 **Dr. Vela:** HI Jessica, I am the course director for the health disparities course.

 **JeddAudry:** How big is technology a factor in the way Pritzker students acquire information and share it in the classroom and outside the school?

 **Dr. Vela:** It is a six week course that is required for all first year students and begins the second week of classes along with anatomy.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Rob! I am so thankful you joined us at Pritzker! You have brought extraordinary commitment and creativity to our community -- thank you!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** Thanks Sylvia =D

 **Dr. Vela:** The course integrates didactic lectures, community expeditions, and small group projects that focus on developing an innovative service, research or educational product that addresses a disparity in our community.

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON # 8 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine -- our FACILITIES - come visit and tour our new Hospital to open in January 2013 -- a new center for the arts and an expanded Clinical Skills Center!

 **Dr. Vela:** We have over forty faculty from across campus and the city participating: clinicians, clinical and translational researchers, sociologists, historians, lawyers and economists as well as public policy experts.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** 25 minutes remain...keep sending us your questions.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Our students are starting to work on their Health Care Disparities projects now

 **SammyElsarrag:** Will a transcript of this conversation be available afterwards?

 **Ihathout:** How does one get involved in some of the student-run community clinics at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sammy, yes we can make one available

 **Dr. Vela:** Jessica, let me know if you are interested in learning more. My email is: mvela@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

 **AMontag:** We record lectures and make them available on the Chalk website. Generally the power points are available during the lecture so that you can annotate them. We use virtual slides for histology and pathology courses

 **SylviaPritzker:** Every year our students change lives with their health care disparities project - look forward to hearing about their work

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sammy, if we don't get it posted right away you can please email me and I will send it to you: ctodd@bsd.uchicago.edu

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes, Sammy. Either posted to our site or emailed to you directly.

 **SammyElsarrag:** T

 **AMontag:** We also have computer simulated patients for clinical skills training.

 **SammyElsarrag:** hank you!

 **lex.woods4:** If you all take the email route, please include me!

 **JeddAudry:** and me! :)

 **Pritzker Charles:** @lex - will do!

 **Jessica:** Mr Sanchez, that sounds exactly like me. Thank you very much for your input. Dr Vela, my dream is to become a doctor, but would not be complete without working with underserved populations.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jedd: Though I'm not a huge tech guy, I'm more of a read the book and take hand-written notes type, technology is pretty helpful at Pritzker. Our lectures are recorded with high quality sound and are good for review. Students utilize different gadgets and apps to help with studying. The best example is the student group "Students for the Advancement of Technology in Medicine" who organize opportunities to shadow doctors who use cutting edge technology in their clinics - like getting to practice using Da Vinci robots.

 **Jessica:** Dr Vela, I will definitely e-mail you for more information. I am more interested now than ever.

 **Dr. Vela:** Ihathout: We have FOUR free clinics supported by Pritzker students. 99 percent of our students participate and do so starting their second week after an orientation to working in the clinics.

 **Ihathout:** That sounds great! Thank you!!

 **Dr. Vela:** The free clinics are located in different service areas across Chicago and focus on different populations. For example, the Maria Shelter, works with pediatric underserved populations!

 **JeddAudry:** @Rob-Thanks! Sounds pretty amazing... especially the part about practice with Da Vinci robots.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Reason #7 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO -- the resources of a world class university within blocks of our medical school - business school, law school, divinity school, school of public policy, school of social service administration and a great intermural sports program!

 **Jessica:** Also, thank you everyone for participating and to the Pritzker staff for making this chat session available.

 **Dr. Vela:** Jessica; Go for that dream, it is wonderful to be a physician who can address the needs of underserved populations!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Rob - how did our teams do this year in the intramural competition?

 **dreynolds88:** Do students take shelf exams?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jedd - Yeah, man. Really cool stuff going on. My buddy Anup has been heading a lot of that up, he was an engineer before he came to med school. Talking to him about this stuff you can't help but get excited about it all

 **ccebujor:** Yes, I agree with Jessica. Thank you for this. This is the first med school that I have seen offer this.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** You are welcome, Jessica! Thanks for joining us!

 **mdfreyes:** @ Dr. Vela - what populations do the 3 other clinics target?

 **ccebujor:** Really appreciated

 **langnese:** I am sorry if this has been asked before, but what sort of South Side outreach programs does Pritzker have?

 **SylviaPritzker:** dreynolds88 0 yes - we make the shelf exams available for our students to help them feel confident

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Thanks ccebujor! Glad you could attend.

 **Pritzker Charles:** You are all definitely welcome! It is our pleasure :)

 **Dr. Vela:** Mdfreyes: One serves a largely Asian Indian population, the other has a large Spanish speaking population, and the fourth serves largely an African American population!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Charles - Pritzker Intramural Basketball DOMINATED this year. They were school wide champions. Intramurals are always fun and we usually have enough interest from students to form multiple teams. From Volleyball to Broomball to Soccer. Most folks are out to just have fun and get some exercise, but when it gets to playoffs, the competition increases a bit and so does the fun haha.

 **JeddAudry:** Very cool Rob... I'm more of a note taking old school guy myself but some of the ways in which information is being integrated primarily for the purposes of helping patients access information and make appropriate decisions based on that information is pretty outstanding.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Rob - always glad to hear that we beat the Law School and Business school again :)

 **SylviaPritzker:** Reason #6 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - FINANCIAL AID - \$11 million/ year in need and merit scholarship and more loan interest Pritzker loans and just as important, a robust financial aid support resource to help you prepare for loan repayment - you can afford medical school - if you doubt that email me at sroberts@bsd.uchicago.edu

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jedd: Oh yeah, plus ALL of the residents in the hospital get Ipads and so do the faculty. From what I hear they really love them and its been cool to see the way it helps with integrated care.

 **JeddAudry:** @Rob.. please tell me there's a dodgeball league!

 **mdfreyes:** Penn has similar clinics and it has been great to work for the clinics in Philly. I am looking forward to continuing that work!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Alangnese, students are REALLY involved in community service here. There are countless ways to get involved, from free clinics to school-based health programs to mental health or AIDS awareness groups. You can check out the many student groups and organizations at <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/organizations/>

 **Mickbong:** @mdfreyes Fellow Penn Student?

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** You know...I'm NOT sure if there's a dodgeball league...I mean Ultimate for sure, but I haven't heard about dodgeball. I'm pretty sure we play dodgeball at field day though, so you can fulfill the need for that then haha. Or, I guess there's always room for a Pritzker Dodgeball Group haha

 **JeddAudry:** @Sylvia -Finance is a major concern for me. I'd definitely like to find out a bit more about the available resources.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** I have to head out for a bit but will be back soon

 **JeddAudry:** Love it Rob

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON #5 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - SUPPORT STRUCTURE - faculty like Dr. Vela and Dr. Montag are dedicated to your success along with a staff who are available to be certain you can focus on learning and serving

 **SammyElsarrag:** I have an engagement in 15 minutes and must be going. I wanted to thank all of you for hosting this, this has been valuable and very unique in of itself.

 **langnese:** good to know, Thanks Darrell!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - we offer all accepted applicants a financial package that covers full cost of attendance

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - we have institutional loans, plus federal loans, plus merit aid, plus need based aid

 **Dr. Vela:** JeddAudry: We have a wonderful program available for students that are interested in staying local and working with underserved populations that offers an incredible loan repayment program. Pritzker is so proud to support this!

 **mdfreyes:** @Mickbong: yep! and I think @lex.woods4 was in my physics lab :)

 **JeddAudry:** Thank you Charles!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - basically we make sure that money will not be an obstacle to attending medical school

 **dreynolds88:** Thank you for answering all of my questions. This web conference was very useful and the faculty and students sound amazing. I would love to receive a transcript as well so that I can review other people's questions.

 **JeddAudry:** Dr Vela how would I find out more about that program

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Jedd - you should also check out <http://aamc.org/first>

 **ccebujor:** Are the merit base scholarships provided after a year into the program to see how the student performs?

 **JeddAudry:** Thank you Charles- I will

 **Pritzker Charles:** The AAMC FIRST website provides essential information on funding your medical education - it will be an important website for you no matter which medical school you go to

 **SylviaPritzker:** Reason #4 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - CURRICULUM - a P/F curriculum which you can trust to lead you to success in achieving your goals - our Scholarship and Discovery opportunity to complete a scholarly project in 4 years

 **AMontag:** Our merit based aid is made as a 4 year commitment

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @ccebujor, merit scholarships are offered at acceptance as a total sum committed to you over your 14 quarters at Pritzker.

 **Dr. Vela:** JeddAudry: It is called REACH and it is on our website at Pritzker! You can always email me at mvela@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu!

 **JeddAudry:** Also how active are Pritzker students in voicing their concerns about current and future healthcare policy?

 **JeddAudry:** @DrVela- awesome thank you!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Here is the link for REACH: <http://uhi.uchospitals.edu/encouraging-doctors-practice-south-side>

 **AMontag:** Our students are very vocal (in a good way), very socially engaged, and many have policy interests.

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON #3 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - OUR FACULTY - extraordinary people with extraordinary talents dedicated to you becoming extraordinary physicians

 **mdfreyes:** It's great so see such welcoming and helpful students and faculty at Pritzker!

 **ccegbujor:** @Pritzker Darrell, @Montag: Thanks for the information

 **ArwaE:** Thank you all for this great opportunity! This has been very helpful and Pritzker sounds absolutely amazing!

 **Dr. Vela:** JeddAudry: We have a public policy student interest group and they have access to incredible faculty mentors that teach at the Harris School of Public Policy as well our Econ school!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** Back

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Students are able to voice their opinions directly to our Deans of our Medical Center and our Medical School through frequent 'brown bag' events. Student opinions are valued here.

 **ririele:** Do students apply for the REACH program at the end of their medical education

 **ririele:** ?

 **Dr. Vela:** ririele: Yes!

 **SylviaPritzker:** REASON # 2 to consider the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - OUR STUDENTS - just like ROB! They are passionate about learning, they are dedicated to service and they are dedicated to excellence in all they do! 88 remarkable people each year!

 **ririele:** Oh! I suppose that students can be involved in efforts towards this end in varying ways before though.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @ririele - REACH would be something you did after Residency

 **rwk9vp:** Thank you everyone for answering our questions!

 **ArwaE:** For the REACH program - are medical students restricted to certain specialties?

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Sylvia - yes our students are truly amazing, they inspire me every day!

 **rwk9vp:** I appreciate all of you guys taking the time to do so!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We are all dying to find out @1 Sylvia!

 **Jessica:** One last question... Is there a course offered at Pritzker for Spanish Medical Terminology?

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes there is, Jessica! It is offered as an elective.

 **Dr. Vela:** Jessica: so glad you asked!!

 **ririele:** I understand now. Thank you!

 **Jessica:** YES!! Thank you.

 **Pritzker Charles:** These have all been terrific questions

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @Jessica: YEP! There are different ways to utilize Medical Spanish. There's an elective offered in the spring, there's also a student group called "Students for the Advancement of Medical Spanish" who meet regularly and are very popular! There's also opportunities to interpret at one of the free clinics that has a significant Spanish speaking population

 **Pritzker Charles:** Time for any last minute questions

 **Dr. Vela:** In addition to the elective, we are offering coursework that runs at the same time as our clinical skills class in the first year. you get to practice your medical spanish AS you learn communication skills and with standardized patients who are also translators!!

 **mdfreyes:** @ROB - This makes me very happy since I am a certified Spanish interpreter!

 **AMontag:** Reach tends to be community health oriented. INt med, ob, pads, fan med, etc. My specialty, pathology, would be a reach.

 **Jessica:** Mr. Sanchez and Dr. Vela that sounds absolutely fantastic!

 **ArwaE:** Thanks!!

 **sknaki:** I agree Jessica! That sounds incredible and very useful

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** And ALSO, Dr. Vela has been excellent in offering an opportunity to medical students work with standardized patients who are fluent in English and Spanish as part of our clinical skills curriculum. This past Spring I was interested in practicing my physical exam skills in Spanish as well as in English, and Dr. Vela helped make that a possibility. I've already felt that I'm more comfortable working with patients at the free clinic in Spanish!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** @mdfreyes: It's always GREAT to have certified interpreters at clinic. They help us SO much in delivering quality care to our patients every Monday night

 **SylviaPritzker:** AND, the #1 REASON TO CONSIDER THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRITZKER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE is that it may be THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU! That is what this process is all about and please know we are here to help! Be in touch with questions -- we want you to achieve your goals and be wonderful resources for many patients in your future.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yeah, Dr. Vela!!

 **jkaswick:** That sounds like a really great opportunity and very useful!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We definitely hope that you see all of us here at Pritzker as a resource for you

 **Pritzker Charles:** You are welcome to follow up with email questions

 **LeahUm:** Thank you everyone for all the questions and feedback

 **ccegbujor:** Thanks so much!!

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** I also have to mention just how great the other free clinics are. I've focused most of my work on one of them, but many students find time to volunteer at all of them. Each of them have their own niche in the communities they serve and you can have different experiences at each. It's so great to be at a medical school where practically all of the students are involved in providing free care to underserved communities

 **Dr. Vela:** My email in case of lingering questions: mvela@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

 **Pritzker Charles:** And we will try to get the transcript distributed in the next day or two

 **mdfreyes:** @Dr. Vela @ Rob - I am amazed that you offer english/spanish standardized patients! That is an amazing opportunity and something that I have not seen at any other school!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Thank you @LeahUm for joining us!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Thanks for the countdown, Sylvia! We enjoyed all of your questions and responses.

 **AMontag:** We really do look at the whole application to find the type of community engaged, intellectually curious student that we value. Consider joining us.

 **sknaki:** Thank you for all information!

 **Dr. Vela:** have a wonderful night!

 **mdfreyes:** Thank you all!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Thank you all for your time and interest in Pritzker!

 **Mickbong:** Thank you so much!

 **jkaswick:** Thank you so much everyone! This has been so informative and helpful!

 **dpadilla21:** Thank you all! Very informative.

 **elielarrey:** Are there any particular parameters for selecting out of state individuals? For example, most medical schools in the states of Texas have every entry class to be 90% Texas residents and 10% out of state. What are the parameters at Pritzker for out of state applicants? Thank you

 **Pritzker Charles:** Thanks for joining us everyone! It has been a pleasure for us!

 **Jessica:** Thank you and have a lovely night.

 **rwk9vp:** Thank you for all your valuable information!

 **jordand:** Thanks got a lot of good information from this session.

 **langnese:** Thank you so much for organizing this! It was great learning more about opportunities my Alma mater offers!

 **ririele:** Thank you all for the information! It's been very warm and truly helpful!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Best wishes - stay bold in achieving your dreams - you are important!

 **ArwaE:** Thank you everyone! Have a lovely night!

 **rwk9vp:** Thank you!

 **AMontag:** We are a private institution. No in state quotas.

 **Pritzker Rob Sanchez:** my email as well: robertsanchez@uchicago.edu

 **Pritzker Darrell:** @elielarrey, we are a private institution with no such parameters for out of state applicants.

 **Dr. Vela:** Rob, you are the best!

 **Pritzker Charles:** my email is ctodd@bsd.uchicago.edu

 **elielarrey:** Thank you very much

 **Pritzker Darrell:** You can feel free to reach me at dnabers@bsd.uchicago.edu with any questions. Thanks, and good night everyone!!

 **marinamzaky:** This was great! Thank you everyone. :)

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes, Rob, you are awesome!!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Good night everyone.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Good night!

 **ririele:** Good night!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Rob, have a great vacation and hurry back!

 **AMontag:** Thanks for participating everyone