



ACCEPTED STUDENT CHAT TRANSCRIPT

FEBRUARY 29TH, 2012

6:30 – 8:30PM

Sylvia Robertson, Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid

Darrell Nabers, Director of Admissions & Outreach

Charles N. Todd, Associate Director of Admissions & Financial Aid

Sophie Shay (MS4), Revisit 2012 Co-Chair

Andy Cohen (MS4)

Robert Sanchez (MS1)

Kirk Cahill (MS1), Revisit 2012 Co-Chair



SylviaPritzker: Welcome Kenneth!



SylviaPritzker: Where are you chatting from?



kenneth.barshop: Hello! Thanks for hosting this chat. I'm in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



SylviaPritzker: One of my favorite places in the world!



SylviaPritzker: I grew up in North Carolina, around Charlotte



Pritzker Darrell: Hello Kenneth!



kenneth.barshop: Haha that's too funny - I love Chapel Hill too. Excited to get in a bigger city for med school though.



SylviaPritzker: I love Chicago and we have some great southern food here—check out Q - they even have hush puppies!



SylviaPritzker: But to be honest there is no BBQ in the world like North Carolina BBQ.



kenneth.barshop: Glad to hear that's not something I'll have to sacrifice up there! How do incoming students generally go about finding housing in Chicago?



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. You will receive a guidebook called "Life at Pritzker" that gives a lot of great tips.



SylviaPritzker: We help with that - Starting in Revisit and then during the Orientation. More information comes in early May.



SylviaPritzker: It is easy to find housing here though - it is not like Boston or San Francisco - you do not have to compete to find affordable housing.



Pritzker Darrell: You will find that housing is covered in the Orientation process as well as at Revisit.



SylviaPritzker: Do you have any specific questions?



Pritzker Darrell: Many students live in Hyde Park



SylviaPritzker: Hi Andy!



Andy Cohen: Good evening!



SylviaPritzker: Thank you for chatting with us - would you introduce yourself?



Pritzker Charles: Hey all!




Andy Cohen: I am a 4th year medical student, currently cooking some panko coated pork chops, but that is probably TMI!



kenneth.barshop: Great! Thanks!




Pritzker Darrell: Hello everyone


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Ken, how are you doing?

 **kenneth.barshop:** Great, thanks. How are you?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Sounds great Andy, we will all be right over!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Doing well! Excited about Revisit :) We have been meeting with our student committee members today to get our planning done.

 **SylviaPritzker:** So Pritzker students actually have time to cook for themselves and their spouse?

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Dallas!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Dallas :)

 **kenneth.barshop:** That's great to hear. I'm excited about coming up to Chicago - Hoping to stay a bit longer this time and get to know the city a bit.


 **dallas:** Hello!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Dallas!


 **Andy Cohen:** Yes, Sylvia, my wife and I are addicted to cooking shows like Chopped, Restaurant Impossible, and Top Chef. So we pretend to cook like the experts at least 5 nights a week. Anyone want to guess what temp I should set the oven?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Andy, this is not my area of strength—maybe 750?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Our revisit will help with getting to know us and the city—this is a great place!


 **Pritzker Charles:** You should introduce yourself...


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Dallas, are you indeed from Texas?

 **dallas:** Yes I am.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Sylvia is the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at Pritzker.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Darrell, Director of Admissions.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome ADAM!

 **dallas:** It's super hot here right now.


 **kenneth.barshop:** I'm from Texas too—San Antonio.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Kirk, Rob and Adam.


 **dallas:** How was the adjustment to living somewhere colder?

 **adam.markovitz:** Hello Silvia!


 **Kirk (MS1):** Hi, I'm Kirk and I'm a first year medical student.


 **Pritzker Rob:** Hi everyone, my name's Rob Sanchez, I'm a first year and I'm also from Texas! San Antonio!


 **SylviaPritzker:** What an unusual weather day this has been!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Robert! Hi Kirk!

 **adam.markovitz:** Hi all!

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I transitioned from Florida.


 **Kirk (MS1):** Hi Charles and Sylvia!

 **Kirk (MS1):** I'm from Indiana.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi Kirk, thank you for leading such a great Revisit planning meeting today!


 **Kirk (MS1):** Thanks Sylvia, it was such a great meeting and I'm really happy about the progress and our direction.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Me too, it will be an exciting weekend!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Florida and Texas have similar weather I would say.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Andy moved here from Florida and is going to STAY!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** That's true, I signed up for 6 more years of residency here. Anyway you get yourself a NorthFace 2 layered jacket for \$300. But divide the cost over your 4+ years and it is a very affordable way to stay warm. Plus I've learned how to ice-skate, cross-country ski, and throw snow balls.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Andy could you explain your plans for next year?


 **dallas:** What specialty are you going into?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I am going into Urology.


 **kenneth.barshop:** Where'd you go to school in San Antonio, Rob?


 **Pritzker Rob:** Hey Kenneth, I went to Holy Cross for Middle School, then went to TMI for High School.


 **Pritzker Rob:** How about you?


 **kenneth.barshop:** I was at San Antonio Academy for Middle School, St. Mary's for High School. Small world! How do you like Chicago? A bit different than San Antonio of course.


 **Pritzker Rob:** Small world! That's cool man. Yeah, Chicago is definitely different, but I really, really like it here!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Julie and Caitlin!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Juliem and Caitlincolling!!! We are glad you are here to chat!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Julie and Caitlin!


 **caitlincolling:** Hello!


 **kenneth.barshop:** Great to hear Rob. Any recommendations on what part of the city to live in as a first year?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome katiek and kwmyer! Glad you are here to chat with us. Let us know your questions!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello and welcome to the chat! We have current students on the chat who are here to answer your questions have about Pritzker!


 **Pritzker Charles:** For all new comers...please feel free to introduce yourself :)


 **Pritzker Rob:** I chose to live in Hyde Park, and I'm pretty happy with it! It's close to school and it's not hard to get into the city (for example, in the past few days I went downtown, Wicker Park, and to go see a Bulls game with friends).


 **katiek:** Hi! I always laugh when people ask about the cold...I'm from Chicago and live here now, but actually went to school somewhere even colder haha.


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Kenneth - Does that mean you're pretty interested in living here next year?!?! =D


 **adam.markovitz:** Sylvia, were you a speech therapist in a former life, or am I thinking of a different member of the adcom?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Yes I was a speech therapist.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Great memory!


 **adam.markovitz:** Ah, okay, we interviewed together!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes Adam, you interviewed with Sylvia.


 **adam.markovitz:** Well, I had a terrible stutter when I was younger, and have worked in prisons in the past, so we had much to discuss.


 **SylviaPritzker:** I will never forget our interview Adam - you are extraordinary!


 **adam.markovitz:** I felt the same way about our conversation!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** I didn't know that Sylvia :) That's really neat!


 **SylviaPritzker:** The Bulls are going to do it this year! On our way to a four-peat!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Danny :)


 **adayaal:** Hi everyone!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Sylvia, the Bulls won last night (and I got to see them live thanks to Pritzker!), but they have to get past my San Antonio Spurs tonight!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes, the Ultmann Fund enables students to enrich their lives by seeing cultural events, like the Bulls!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Arjun!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** If you are just joining us, let us know what questions you have about Pritzker :-)


 **adayaal:** Ok sounds good.


 **futuremdnca:** Hello!!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome futuremdnca!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi futuremdnca :)


 **adayal:** I wanted to know about housing?

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi adayal, we will have much information about housing at Revisit and then posted afterwards.

 **kenneth.barshop:** Thanks Rob, good to know the commute isn't too bad from Hyde Park.


 **SylviaPritzker:** It is easy to find housing in and around Hyde Park and we will help!

 **adayal:** Great!

 **adam.markovitz:** How do students commute to and from the South Loop?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yeah Lake Shore Drive makes it so easy to get into the city.

 **SylviaPritzker:** They commute from the South Loop by bus and train.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** People do have cars on campus—probably about 60% 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. 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.


 **futuremdnca:** If I may, is there some sort of order to this chat? Or is it popcorn type questioning?


 **Pritzker Charles:** There is no order here....everyone can just ask whatever questions are on your mind.


 **SylviaPritzker:** @futuremdnca - If you would rather you are welcome to email me tomorrow with questions at sylvia@bsd.uchicago.edu - I know a chat is an unusual format.


 **futuremdnca:** No problem at all, I just wanted to make sure I know what's going on.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello everyone, we have quite a turnout. Yes, this is speed questioning, so feel free to ask away!


 **adam.markovitz:** How early are we talking to get street parking?


 **Pritzker Darrell:** I've seen spots fill in as early as 7:00 depending on the time of year, but the garage is reasonable.


 **adayal:** What time to classes generally start?

 **Pritzker Charles:** When I drive to campus and park on the Midway I target about 7:20 to be near Ellis...and by 8:00-8:15 the Midway is usually full.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Right now with construction to build the new hospital parking can be harder to get close, but people leave throughout the day too.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Sometimes I get there at noon and find a spot.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Ozambela - Hi Manuel!

 **Ozambela:** Hi Charles, I was having some trouble getting this to open but I finally made it. :)

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Ozambela - Glad you got it to work!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Congratulations ozambela—I have a celebration when I figure this technology out.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Hi all! Sorry for joining the chat a few minutes late! I'm Sophie, a current 4th year medical student and one of the Revisit Co-chairs.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Sophie!


 **SylviaPritzker:** WELCOME Sophie!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Sophie and Kirk are our Revisit Co-chairs and now they are both here!

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** :) !

 **dallas:** What is the 3rd year like at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** 3rd year is amazing here. Because there are the chosen few, you are an integral part of the clinical team and given huge responsibility. That is good because you learn a lot and truly act as an intern. But it could be seen as a negative if you want to "hide" behind others or your classmates. You are given a lot of opportunity to make a difference in your patient's hospital or clinic stay.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** You get a lot of face time / educational time with the world re-known attendings, and the residents are fantastic teachers as well.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** I would like to echo what Andy said about the 3rd year experience... the faculty members really fight for student opportunities to learn, and work with patients.

 **futuremdnca:** One question I had was about the cost of attendance - there is a mandate for life insurance?

 **SylviaPritzker:** Not for life insurance but for disability insurance—you really want that and our policy is one of the best in the country.

 **futuremdnca:** Oops yes, I meant disability?

 **SylviaPritzker:** This is not a fun thing to talk about—but it covers you at the level of physician salary if something awful happens.

 **futuremdnca:** Thanks for explaining about the insurance.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Megan! Glad you could join us! :)

 **MeganSilas:** Thanks! Sorry I'm a few minutes late!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Is that Megan Silas???


 **SylviaPritzker:** Wonderful! Welcome!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Emily!

 **emily.s.bartlett:** Hi everyone!


 **emily.s.bartlett:** Sorry for joining in late...I've been trying to catch up on the info at the beginning of the chat!


 **Pritzker Charles:** We will post a transcript of the chat in case you miss anything or what to review it! :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Rupert!! How are things in Philly??

 **Rupert:** Hi everyone, sorry I'm late, had trouble logging in just now :)

 **Rupert:** @Dr Todd, everything in Philly is going great, thanks for asking!


 **Pritzker Charles:** @Rupert - glad to hear it! :)

 **adam.markovitz:** I have skimmed the 2011 Life at Pritzker brochure, and have seen the visual of the Pritzker Initiative, but are there more resources out there to get a better understanding of the curricula?

 **futuremdnca:** Can you talk a bit more about the Societies?

 **dallas:** Could you guys talk about the Pritzker Societies?

 **futuremdnca:** lol

 **dallas:** haha!

 **futuremdnca:** dallas, great minds think alike!

 **PritzkerSophie:** futuremdnca and dallas, think of the Societies as Harry Potter houses.


 **PritzkerSophie:** From Orientation on, you are sorted into one of 4 houses: Huggins, Delee, Phemister, and Coggeshall.

 **PritzkerSophie:** Each Society is named for a famous physician who has been at the University of Chicago.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yes they're just like Harry Potter houses! And when you get your white coat, your Society advisor puts it on you just like the 'sorting hat' in the books.


 **adayal:** Cool!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @dallas @futuremd - Yeah, the Societies are pretty great. I'm in Coggeshall (aka Gryffindor) and they've given me some great opportunities to see the city, interact with faculty, and do fun community service activities!

 **PritzkerSophie:** @Rob, I would argue that DELEE is Gryffindor.. :)

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** There are friendly competitions between houses, and Coggeshall (aka Gryffindor) clearly always wins...


 **PritzkerSophie:** The Society serves two purposes: both advising and social.


 **Pritzker Charles:** The Societies offer you a kind of tiered mentoring system.


 **Pritzker Charles:** You are mentored by your Society leaders as well as the upper classmen in your Society—22 students in each Society from each year.


 **adam.markovitz:** Are different advisors assigned to different Societies each year?


 **SylviaPritzker:** The advisers stay consistent in the Societies from year to year.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** I'm in DeLee and we just had a Day of Service last Saturday.


 **PritzkerSophie:** Each Society has two faculty mentors who will serve as your advisors during your 4 years here at Pritzker.


 **PritzkerSophie:** The advisors will meet with you a few times during your first and second year, and much more during the end of your third year and throughout your fourth year helping you pick a specialty, and put your residency application together.


 **emily.s.bartlett:** @Kirk - Where was your Day of Service?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Coggeshall Society created a yoga room at Maria Shelter, Phemister & Huggins Societies paired to tutor and give mock job interviews with City Year, and DeLee tutored at Woodlawn Charter School.


 **futuremdnca:** And thank you for the information on the Societies. I guess that means that we'll have connections with the third and 4th years.

 **adam.markovitz:** Good point, that would be really nice!

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yeah I really enjoy the connections between the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years. Well we don't see the 3rd years as much, but I usually meet them while I'm in the hospital for the Pritzker Longitudinal Program.


 **PritzkerSophie:** I also just have to throw out there that the advising we get from the faculty and staff here for residency is OUTSTANDING. I've spoken to many of my friends at other medical schools, and they don't have the same dedicated resources to residency applications that we do. For instance, we have several staff members to help us proofread our CV's, make sure we meet all (of the many) deadlines for the residency applications, get our photos taken, hound letter writers for those letters of recommendation...Something to really think about as you make your decision!

 **PritzkerSophie:** As a 4th year, I get to meet our 1st and 2nd years by returning as a teaching assistant for many of our courses. So if you like to teach, come to Pritzker :)


 **SylviaPritzker:** By the end of orientation you will feel like you are connected and completely supported

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Allison Louis!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Ema!


 **Ozambela:** When will we find out if we will have a host for Revisit?

 **Pritzker Charles:** Everyone who requests a host for Revisit should get one...


 **Pritzker Charles:** Kirk is meeting with the hosting committee this week to start making those assignments.


 **SylviaPritzker:** We will connect you with your host by early April but don't worry—we will find you one.


 **adam.markovitz:** Is it okay to arrive late to Revisit?


 **Pritzker Charles:** @adam - You can arrive late at Revisit, just let Kirk & Sophie know...send them an email.


 **adam.markovitz:** Great, thank you.


 **dallas:** Was there any confirmation about signing up for Revisit? I think I did a while ago, but I don't remember for sure.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @dallas - we will be sending you your Revisit confirmation in the next couple of days...


 **futuremdnca:** I'm planning to stay longer for the Revisit weekend as an FYI, in case anyone else will be around.

 **SylviaPritzker:** We are so glad you are coming for Revisit!


 **SylviaPritzker:** But if someone cannot make it, we will help you get all you need to make an informed decision.

 **Pritzker Charles:** If you haven't introduced yourself yet...please do and tell everyone where you are from!

 **adayal:** Arjun Dayal from Virginia!

 **kwymer:** Hey everyone, I'm Kevin Wymer from Albuquerque, NM, but enjoying 70 degree weather down in Nashville right now.

 **caitlincolling:** Caitlin Colling from Massachusetts!


 **caitlincolling:** Hello everyone!

 **dallas:** Clifford Hsieh from Texas!

 **SylviaPritzker:** It was 55 degrees here today in Chicago!

 **Rupert:** Hi everyone, I'm Rupert, from Philadelphia!

 **allisonlouis:** Hi, I'm Allison Louis from Houston, TX. Looking forward to seeing Chicago again in April!

 **futuremdnca:** Crystal Nnenne Azu - living in the Philly area!

 **SylviaPritzker:** CRYSTAL!! Welcome!

 **futuremdnca:** Hello! :D @Sylvia, thanks for the welcome!

 **MeganSilas:** Hi guys! I'm Megan Silas from the northern suburbs of Chicago, but I currently live in Champaign, IL and go to the University of Illinois!

 **adam.markovitz:** Adam Markovitz, graduated a few years back and now working at the School of Public Health, in Ann Arbor, Michigan!

 **emily.s.bartlett:** I'm Emily, originally from the Washington, DC area, but currently writing from the UK!

 **kenneth.barshop:** Kenneth Barshop from San Antonio, another Texas rep!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Allison!

 **dallas:** Fair amount of Texans here!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Yes, Texas is well represented!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Wow! Love all the Texans here...we may need a round of "Deep in the Heart of Texas"!

 **Pritzker Rob:** @Allison - Yeah! I'm from Texas too!

 **SylviaPritzker:** How about a Texas and North Carolina barbeque cook off in the future—I'll be there!

 **futuremdnca:** What is involved during the orientation in August? And how many days is it?

 **SylviaPritzker:** Orientation occurs over a 1 month period but the intense part is 4 days beginning the Friday before White Coat—I think that is the schedule—we will get that confirmed.

 **Pritzker Charles:** @futuremdnca - Hi Crystal! You also have a 2-week Scholarship & Discovery Orientation in those first two weeks where you get to meet all of the track leaders!

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Hi Allison, did you decide about bringing a car next year?

 **allisonlouis:** Hi Kirk and Darrell! So good to chat with both of you again! Kirk, I still have not decided about bringing a car. It all depends on if I can get to the grocery store well enough without one.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Hi allisonlouis—just say PEAPOD and no need to worry about a car—check it out online.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** about 60% of students have cars, but with all the growth of Hyde Park retail options, you may find that taking the free transit around the neighborhood is a better financial option in the short term.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** and yes, there' Peapod ;-)

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Texans love their cars though, right Allison?

 **allisonlouis:** We sure do! Can't get around Houston or Dallas without one, but I'm very excited at the thought of being able to comfortably walk most place (it gets SO hot for most of the year).

 **emily.s.bartlett:** I've heard some about the Urban Health Initiative at Pritzker—has anyone been involved with it at all?


 **adam.markovitz:** Yes, is the Urban Health Initiative connected to the "Health Care Disparities" course at the beginning of M1?

 **PritzkerSophie:** I have not been involved with the Urban Health Initiative (UHI) personally, but the general idea was originally to address the underserved populations here on the south side of Chicago, while trying to decrease the amount of people who use the ER as their source of primary care.


 **PritzkerSophie:** For more info on UHI: <http://uhi.uchospitals.edu/>


 **PritzkerSophie:** However, UHI is not directly tied to Health Care Disparities. Health Care Disparities is a course run during the first 10 weeks at Pritzker where students get the opportunity to learn more about the South Side of Chicago, and issues facing our patient population.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Yes, the Urban Health Initiative and the Health Care Disparities course are a part of the overall initiative to educate, serve, and innovate around these issues.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** All the students work on a project addressing some health care disparity during the course. A few members of my class did a project on analyzing the barriers to mammography screening at Cook County Hospital for the uninsured population.

 **dallas:** I would love to hear more about the new hospital? And what happens to the old hospital?


 **Pritzker Charles:** The New Hospital Pavilion (NHP) is not a replacement hospital...things will be moved around in Mitchell and the rest of the medical campus...so we will have even more space!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** You can take a tour of the New Hospital Pavilion at Revisit!


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** You will have a chance for a hardhat tour during Revisit!


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** The old Mitchell hospital will remain a part of the medical campus and it will be improved—this is not a replacement but an expansion and enhancement.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Garrick!


 **gtalimage:** Hey everyone! Garrick chatting from NC while watching the game...go Heels!


 **adam.markovitz:** Can you discuss clinical opportunities during the first two years? I saw several informal opportunities (Community Health Clinic, etc), as well as Clinical Skills modules in the curriculum, but do students actually formally enter clinical settings during M1-M2?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I've run into the 1st years a lot in clinics, and I have personally mentored them as they interviewed their first patients at a volunteer clinic way back in September of their first year.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** We have an open door policy in the ER. Anytime you want to practice seeing patients, procedures or just want to learn some diagnosis you can go to our ER and learn.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Adam, almost all of our lecturers during the 1st and 2nd year are clinically active physicians, and all of them would be also more than willing to have 1st and 2nd years shadow them in the clinic/floor/OR.


 **adam.markovitz:** Thank you Andy and Sophie!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** The clinical experience is great! All first years participate in the Longitudinal Program which is through the Clinical Skills course. You rank your interest and then get paired with a physician to shadow and apply basic clinical skills you learn during first year.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** The first years should talk about the preceptorship during the first year clinicals.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Right now my first-year preceptorship is in neuro-oncology. I'm paired with another classmate and then we arrange to go to the medical campus to see patients with our mentor.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Also in terms of clinical experience during first year, we participate in the Longitudinal Program and then during Anatomy physicians from various specialties come to lab and give presentations and then usually offer for students to come shadow them.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Many of my classmates have gone to shadow the various doctors who came in and that's just an easy way to get started. Also as part of the Clinical Skills course we go to the medical campus to meet with residents and we interview patients. That was mainly during the fall quarter.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Also because there are only 88 of us all of our lecturers tell us to come shadow them in clinic.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Jonathan! Welcome Craig!

 **kwymer:** Could you guys talk about some of the early opportunities to get involved with research at Pritzker?

 **Pritzker Rob:** @kwymer - Even as a first year you get some great opportunities to get started in research. In our Health Care Disparities course in the fall, all students work in small groups to put together research projects on the topic of their choice. Several students have gone on to present their research here at the University and at other conferences. And then now, a lot of us are already gearing up for research projects we'll be doing this summer with the Summer Research Program. I'm going to be doing clinical research on Diabetes in the South Side of Chicago.

 **kwymer:** That's awesome, thanks for the info!

 **Megan Silas:** How about getting from Hyde Park to downtown Chicago? Do students go into downtown Chicago often or typically stay and hang out around the Hyde Park area?

 **Pritzker Sophie:** Megan - depends on what you are looking for when you go out. Lots of people live in Hyde Park and there tends to be a great Pritzker community that does potluck dinners, book clubs, movie nights, etc. If you want to go out and explore Chicago nightlife, a day of shopping, or a night of fine dining, that would require heading downtown.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** To get downtown: Driving takes about 10 minutes.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** There are several buses which take 15-25 minutes.

 **SylviaPritzker:** We will encourage you to take advantage of the great resources of this city to grow and have fun.

 **Pritzker Rob:** @Megan - getting to downtown is super easy for me. I take a bus that gets me right to Michigan Ave in 10-15 minutes. I was at the United Center last night for a Bulls game, and went downtown to see a movie this past weekend and went out in Wicker Park for food with friends too. It's not hard at all to get around in my experience.

 **MeganSilas:** @Pritzker Rob - I'm SO jealous that you were at the Bulls game last night!! Probably an awesome (and exciting) game to see!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Where did you go in Wicker Park Rob? One of my favorite places is Piece Pizza—great New Haven pizza.

 **Pritzker Charles:** I like Piece too, Sylvia!

 **Pritzker Rob:** @Sylvia - I have to try out Peace Pizza! I haven't been there yet. We were just at Big Star for some great tacos the other night =D

 **adam.markovitz:** Glad to hear you have New Haven pizza in addition to all that deep-dish!!

 **SylviaPritzker:** It is seriously good and while you may be surprised that I enjoy their freshly brewed beer—I seriously do!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Don't tell anyone, but you can get New York-style pizza in Buck Town/Wicker Park....

 **futuremdnca:** How's the connection between med students and other grad schools?

 **futuremdnca:** One thing I liked about my undergrad was that I got to meet people from all the grad schools and the undergrad.

 **PritzkerSophie:** @Futuremdnca - there is a Grad Student Council here at the University of Chicago that organizes lots of community and social events among the many graduate schools. There will usually be a social event once a quarter.

 **PritzkerSophie:** Most recently, the professional schools (Pritzker + Law school + Booth School of Business) had a social event downtown at Lasalle Power Company. Last year, the Grad Council organized a dinner + cocktail event at the Willis Tower with private access to "The Ledge" where you can stand in that scary glass bottom box 110 stories up in the air!!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Is that Lindsay Poston? Welcome! :)

 **lposton:** Yes, this is Lindsay Poston.

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Lindsay!

 **Pritzker Charles:** How are you doing Lindsay?

 **lposton:** I'm great. I have some questions about the "typical" Pritzker student, (if it's even possible to generalize). Are most of the 88 straight out of undergrad or do more of them bring real life experiences in clinical or social service settings?

 **SylviaPritzker:** As Dr. Humphrey says, there is no typical Pritzker student—we have a remarkably diverse, amazing group of students.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yeah it's impossible to generalize a typical Pritzker student.

 **Pritzker Rob:** @lposton - As someone who took a few years off before medical school, I can say that I've really enjoyed being a part of class that's super diverse in their experiences. I have close friends who came straight out of undergrad, and those who took time off like me to do work in different areas.

 **allisonlouis:** I was wondering if it is a good idea to bring a pet for first year. I have a small dog and would like to bring him along.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** What kind?


 **PritzkerSophie:** Allison - a few of my classmates have pets. Cats more than dogs, but there are a few Pritzker puppy mascots as well!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Pets are so important! There are apartments that allow them and dog walkers in the area to help—Dr. Montag's dog has been sick the last few days and we are all worried.

 **PritzkerSophie:** we will often get requests from these classmates to dog sit over a weekend, etc. Definitely manageable, as long as someone can help let him out when you get to 3rd year.


 **allisonlouis:** Ok, glad to hear other students have pets too! My dog is a small terrier mix.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** (of dog) I have one currently under my feet and I know several classmates with them.


 **Pritzker Charles:** I take my 70lb black lab up to the dog beach in the summer....she loves to go swimming with the other dogs!


 **PritzkerSophie:** @allison - That's adorable!


 **PritzkerSophie:** I love terriers :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Martha! Welcome!


 **martha.mcgilvray:** Thanks Charles! Glad to be here :)

 **adam.markovitz:** At some point, I would love to hear more about clinical skills/small groups/relationships with preceptors.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Adam, the clinical experience will begin the first week of medical school. Our students also frequently shadow our physicians at the medical campus, and volunteer in one of four student-run free clinics. The majority of your clinical training will occur at the medical campus. You also have opportunities for clinical training at the NorthShore University Health System (a 3-hospital suburban setting) and Mercy Hospital (an urban community hospital).


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Tomorrow all of the first-years are seeing standardized patients to review clinical skills.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** We have been seeing standardized patients since we started and it has also been cool to interview patients at the medical campus as well with the residents.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Also most of the fourth-years help with the Clinical Skills course so we get to know them well, too, which is great for mentoring!


 **adam.markovitz:** Thank you!


 **adaya:** Is there a dining plan available?


 **SylviaPritzker:** We don't really have grad student dorms so no need for a dining plan—we want you to learn to be a community member before your residency.


 **Pritzker Charles:** @adaya - When I was a grad student I lived in grad student housing and frequently ate on campus at the many, many options during the day and then cooked lots at home in the evening :)


 **adaya:** Thank you Sylvia!


 **SylviaPritzker:** You will learn to cook and the Wellness Center can be a big help if this worries you—I am using MEEZ meals (Google them)—there are many ways to manage the cooking.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Andy, did you turn the oven on to 750 yet?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** By the way, the pork is wonderful, can you smell that chipotle?


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Smells great Andy!

 **adaya:** I actually love to cook! Hope I have time.


 **futuremdnca:** lol yes, Arjun, I cook too....So for those who are for sure coming to Pritzker, I will be having dinner. LOL


 **SylviaPritzker:** You will have time to cook and organize potlucks for your class!


 **lposton:** How many months of the year is outdoor running not an option in Chicago? Do we have a gym on campus?


 **SylviaPritzker:** My husband just ran his 31st marathon and he runs outside almost all year - the lake front path is plowed


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Some people run outside all year long, but my wife stays indoors for winter.


 **katiek:** Outdoor running definitely depends merely on how hardcore you are. I drive Lake Shore Drive (LSD) frequently and there's never NOT runners...I've seen joggers in pouring rain and in snow too.


 **SylviaPritzker:** The water fountains are turned off in the coldest times but the paths are still open—only a few days a year does he decide to run in the gym.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Chicago is a great place for runners!

 **PritzkerSophie:** @Lindsay - depends on how hardcore you are about running! Lots of the marathon runners will run all year round as long as there is not too much ice outside! Personally, I think the outdoor running season goes more from March-November. There are beautiful running paths along the lake and breathtaking views of the city!


 **Pritzker Sophie:** And there is a very large gym right on campus. Gerald Ratner Athletic Center, located at 55th and Ellis, just 1 block from the med school!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Joeyel1985 - Welcome!


 **joeyel1985:** Hi Charles! Thanks.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Elizabeth Munroe! Welcome :)


 **emunroe:** Thanks!


 **Rupert:** Where are the free clinics located? Are they on campus?


 **futuremdnca:** Free clinics are in different locations.


 **lposton:** Could someone please expound on the opportunities to volunteer in free clinics?


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Rupert - Pritzker has four different student run free clinics located in different parts of the city. Two of them - Washington Park and Maria's Shelter - are located in the South Side of Chicago, while the other two - Community Health Clinic and New Life Volunteering Society - are located in the West and North sides of the city, respectively. I'm a coordinator of Community Health Clinic and can speak to some of my experiences with that if you'd like!


 **lposton:** I'd love to hear more.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Many of the clinics start recruiting first year students to volunteer very early on. In the first few weeks of school, there is a clinic training session, where you learn to take vital signs, give immunizations, etc and after that you can volunteer at any of the clinics!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @lposton - The opportunities are great, especially for first years! Something like 98% of Pritzker students volunteer at free clinics.


 **Rupert:** Thanks Rob!


 **futuremdnca:** Is anyone involved with some of the volunteer activities in the community? I'm really big on giving back and I want to be involved especially with mentoring young people etc.


 **lposton:** Is it weekly?


 **Pritzker Rob:** @lposton - Yes, each organization has clinic once a week (all on different days/times). Students can volunteer at almost any of them, and though it varies, I'd say that students could have the opportunity to volunteer at clinic at least once a month (CHC is about once a month for our volunteers).


 **lposton:** Do we get any continuity of care with the patients at free clinics or is that more likely with the community health preceptorships?

 **Pritzker Sophie:** futuremdnca - I actually volunteer at the Chicago Youth Program center in Washington Park, in the same building as the Washington Park free children's clinic.


 **futuremdnca:** @Sophie - What do you do there?

 **adam.markovitz:** Do you think Pritzker attracts students particularly interested in health disparities due to its location on the south side?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Most of the students who volunteer at the clinics interview patients, but at CHC we also have the opportunity to work in the phlebotomy lab. So, my classmates show up to clinic with their white coats and work with the UChicago attending there and the fourth-year students to see patients. I show up in my scrubs and do blood draws, urinalysis, glucose/hemoglobin testing, and strep tests.


 **futuremdnca:** @Kirk - Sounds like something I would want to do, the CHC.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** I really like the phlebotomy lab!

 **Pritzker Sophie:** I've been working with a group of 8 high schoolers to put together a presentation on how to best communicate to urban adolescents in the clinical setting. We just presented on Monday to an audience of medical students, residents, and faculty members!


 **futuremdnca:** @Sophie - Awesome, congrats.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** @Futuremdnca - Another group of my classmates are working at the Gary Comer Youth Center to tutor for the SATs and ACTs. A few of us during our family medicine rotation went to a charter school to teach about nutrition and sex ed.


 **Pritzker Rob:** @lposton - The first years are not only volunteers at free clinics but also take leadership positions on the board about halfway through first year. As a coordinator of one of the clinics, I can say that it's both challenging but also extremely rewarding and a great learning experience in how to do great community service through free clinics here in Chicago.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yesterday a group of 10 of my classmates and two fourth-years (one of which was Andy!) went to a local elementary school and brought live organs to talk about adolescent substance abuse and prevention.


 **PritzkerSophie:** Yes, what Kirk referred to is called ASAP (Adolescent Substance Abuse Program).


 **futuremdnca:** We're pretty lucky to have so many great clinical opportunities at Pritzker - I talked to people at other schools who say that clinical opportunities get taken up in 5 minutes after the email is sent out so only a small percentage can volunteer.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** We are part of a Pritzker student group called ASAP (Adolescent Substance Abuse and Prevention).


 **SylviaPritzker:** ASAP is amazing—there is nothing like seeing a smoker's lung to convince.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yes and in terms of the clinical opportunities there are just so many. I just wish I had more time in the day!!!


 **PritzkerSophie:** There is also HPREP here, where we invite high schoolers to Pritzker a few times a year and have panels on how to be pre-med, what you need to apply to med school, etc. On another note, I just volunteered to judge a local high school science fair! Lots of mentoring opportunities!

 **SylviaPritzker:** We are dedicated to providing the resources students need—a class of 88 insures you do not have to compete for clinical opportunities!


 **Pritzker Charles:** These are all wonderful questions....keep asking!


 **Pritzker Charles:** And to those who are still joining us...we will post the transcript so you can read back over this later!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Happy Leap Day Everyone!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi Nita! Welcome! How are things in New York?

 **nitapadavil:** Things are cold! We're having snow, around 5 inches. Other than that, it's great haha!


 **Pritzker Charles:** @nita - Oh no! Believe it or not it was 50+ here today!

 **SylviaPritzker:** It was 55 degrees here today but we have heard of the weather around us—stay safe.


 **emunroe:** Are there opportunities to learn and practice medical Spanish?

 **lposton:** Have any of you taken the medical Spanish electives?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** You'll have the opportunity to take electives in the spring of first year.


 **adam.markovitz:** On that same note, are there predominately Spanish-speaking clinics?


 **Ozambela:** Are there opportunities to use Spanish in the clinics?

 **PritzkerSophie:** There is also an elective during the 4th year called SERVE where fourth years work throughout the year on a community service project, and also return to volunteer at these student-run clinics, this time more as teachers to the first and second year volunteers.


 **futuremdnca:** Thanks Sophie! That's helpful

 **lposton:** Do you know what portion of students taking the medical Spanish electives actually go on to be certified as bilingual providers?

 **Pritzker Charles:** One of the clinics is primarily a Spanish-speaking population.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** There is always a need for Spanish speakers in the clinics, hospitals, and ER. Every hour of every day there are Spanish only patients around.


 **adam.markovitz:** @Charles, which clinic is that?


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Ozambela - Yes! CHC's patient population is about 60% spanish speaking and 40% Polish speaking. As a Spanish speaker myself, it's great to be able to work with the patients in Spanish, but also learn how to interact with interpreters who help treat patients who speak Polish as well.

 **adam.markovitz:** Ahh, okay!


 **Ozambela:** That is great to learn.

 **adam.markovitz:** Which countries are most of the Spanish-speaking patients from at CHC?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I not sure where they are all from—I don't want to mislead, they probably make up 10% of our overall population at our main clinics and the medical campus—it is just if you speak Spanish you have the opportunity.

 **Pritzker Rob:** CHC is in the Ukrainian Village, which has a lot of immigrants coming from Mexico and Central America.

 **PritzkerSophie:** Also NLVS is has a large Hindi-speaking population if anyone has any skills there.

 **Pritzker Rob:** So those are predominately the backgrounds of the patients who we see in clinic.


 **PritzkerSophie:** I speak mandarin Chinese, so I volunteer every now and then in Diabetes prevention fairs in Chinatown.

 **adaya:** I speak Hindi!

 **PritzkerSophie:** Awesome adaya!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hi sdm2136! Introduce yourself!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Hey Kai!!!! How are things in Boston!?

 **kai.qiu:** Hey Charles, good to "hear" from you again. We're having a weak snow that turned into gross rain. Lovely Boston.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Kai!

 **Pritzker Charles:** @Kai - It was great to see you a few weeks ago...sorry about the Boston weather!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Congratulations again on your acceptance to Pritzker, and welcome to the Chat! We are eager to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to jump right in! If you see your question "fall off" the screen just ask it again!

 **cbrown1311:** Hey everybody! Don't really have any specific questions but I'm learning a lot just reading answers to everyone else's questions. I'll probably think of something before long.

 **futuremdnca:** For the first years and for upperclassmen who can remember - What is one thing you wish you had known about med school/Pritzker/Chicago before you got there? Basically, a good piece of advice?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Good advice: Cherish every moment; even if you aren't interested in transport channels in the gut, cherish and learn about it because once you are a doctor it will be a lot harder to learn about it while you are clinically busy.

 **futuremdnca:** Thanks for the advice Andy...anyone else? Basically, a good piece of advice?

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** @futuremdnca, I spent most of summer at home with family and friends, but knowing how close everyone is here and how fun the city is I would have came earlier!

 **futuremdnca:** @Kirk - So when do you think we should move to Chicago?

 **nitapadavil:** @futuremdnca - Good question! I was thinking the same.

 **futuremdnca:** I was thinking mid July, but I'm not sure anymore.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** @futuremdnca - You should try to move in a week or two before orientation. To be honest, I wasn't ready to leave home quite yet and moved in only two days before orientation started haha. I was in Africa for most of the summer so being at home was great. I quickly found that Pritzker was home, so looking back I would have liked to come a week or so earlier.

 **futuremdnca:** Okay, cool...I was thinking maybe the 24th or so of July.

 **Iposton:** When does orientation start?

 **PritzkerSophie:** Orientation is usually the first week of August.

 **Iposton:** Oh, wow, early.

 **Iposton:** I'm contracted with my clinic until July 31 and was planning to drive out to Chicago from the west coast...is that feasible? Do you know when in the first week of August?

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yeah we start early! And then finish Anatomy a lot earlier too!

 **Pritzker Charles:** Orientation is first week of August, because you start Anatomy and Health Care Disparities before the fall quarter begins.


 **PritzkerSophie:** Most medical schools will start within 1-2 weeks before/after that. Orientation is SO much fun!! I used to be one of the Orientation chairs, and I miss it!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Orientation starts on Thursday Aug 2 this year and the White Coat Ceremony is on Sunday Aug 5; Anatomy starts on Aug 7!—we want you to be doctors as soon as possible!


 **nitapadavil:** What is the "Healthcare Disparities in America" course like? Did you guys think it was a valuable course to take? Do you have the opportunity to take courses similar to it throughout your four years?


 **kai.qiu:** I second nitapadavil's question: Could one of our helpful Pritzker natives explain the Health Disparities class in some more detail?


 **Pritzker Darrell:** I think our students really enjoy the Health Care Disparities (HCD) course!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Can any of our students talk about their HCD project?


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Nitapadavil - The Health Care Disparities course is great! It introduced me to a lot of great professors and doctors who work in that area, which is something I'm really interested in. Also, we do research projects—myself and another student ended up presenting our research at the Latino Medical Student Association's national conference in Boston last month!


 **nitapadavil:** @PritzkerRob Thanks for the reply, and congratulations!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Nita - Also, the course isn't super intensive. It's really just you showing up to lecture and hearing some really informative presentations from faculty on some really relevant topics that are facing our communities and the health care system.


 **lposton:** What kinds of things do students do in their first summer? Is research expected? Are their funds for international projects?


 **Pritzker Rob:** There are also ways to get involved in research. My research project this summer will be working with a health disparities project that is seeking to create a diabetes patient-empowerment course that is culturally tailored for Latino patients.


 **Ozambela:** @Rob I think your project sounds wonderful!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @Ozambela - Google Dr. Monica Peek if you're interested in finding out more—she's going to be my research adviser. She's absolutely amazing and she's done some great work in that area!

 **Pritzker Sophie:** @Lindsay - There is the Keith Edson Scholarship which helps to fund international projects, as long as they are medically relevant (minimum of 10 days clinical activity) and not solely language-immersion.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** About 80% of first years have chosen to do a Summer Research Project or participate in the Summer Service Partnership after their first year of courses


 **futuremdnca:** So, being honest, would you say that classes of students at Pritzker can be overly "clique-ish"?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I don't think so, there are too few to form cliques... in the 88.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yeah, there are people who hang out more with each other perhaps because they live together or have similar interests, but there isn't a clique in my class. Everyone is so close that it's impossible!


 **kai.qiu:** Random question: Has anyone made a 300 parody called The 88 yet

 **Rupert:** @kai, that would be epic :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** @kai—I would love to see that! Something for you to come help us with!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** No but that is a great idea for our senior skit, mind if I steal it from you?

 **kai.qiu:** Go ahead. But if I end up at Pritzker I expect a prominent mention in the credits =P


 **Pritzker Darrell:** No, but that's a great idea for a student video!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** @kai.qiu I have thought about it!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Before an exam, one of the second-years did the 300 chant and got everyone hyped haha. The parody would be similar to that.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Ok, tomorrow someone will explain the 300 parody to me.


 **adaya:** I wanted to know about work study programs that are available to students?


 **SylviaPritzker:** We do have work study to award but you can make more money by being a TA.


 **adaya:** Thank you Sylvia.


 **emunroe:** Given the health disparities course and great clinical opportunities, are most students interested in health disparities and volunteering in the community? What other interests do students share? I guess, in general, what is a typical Pritzker student like?


 **nitapadavil:** I second emunroe's question!


 **Pritzker Rob:** @emunroe - I can say that students are definitely service-oriented here. I mentioned this before, but something like 98% of us volunteer at free clinics, which is just a small example of how students try and give back. I can also say that Pritzker students are also super talented, the first years had a really fun talent show in January that was a big success. Oh, and we also like to have a lot of fun haha! (We also do well in school too, I promise).


 **emunroe:** @rob thanks!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** @emunroe – All of my classmates are so altruistic and dedicated to volunteer organizations and really educating fellow classmates about other organizations they're involved in as well as issues they are interested in....


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** For instance, one of my classmates is very interested in global health and is looking to do a health screening this year so we went to the North Side of Chicago and met with an organization who works with refugees from Africa.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Pritzker has an abundance of student organizations, ranging from a group to take medical supplies to an underserved country, to groups for those interested in salsa dancing. As part of UChicago, you will also have access to all of the student groups on campus. Information about our student organizations can be found at: <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/organizations/>


 **Pritzker Charles:** Believe it or not - no typical Pritzker student!


 **Pritzker Sophie:** @emunroe - Hard to put my finger on the "typical" Pritzker student. What I would say is that everyone at Pritzker is very active. Some through volunteering in the community, others in research, some through education, others like me through "event planning" for Pritzker. A variety of things!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** One of our strengths is the diversity of interests within the student body. People come right out of college, have had a decade of work experience, are single, have families, have pets, have spouses, etc. There is no typical student, just that the Admissions Committee ensures that everyone with an invite is super special and amazing and inspiring!


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** I am so very pleased when everyday I see different groups of students working closely together—the Revisit planning meeting today was another example!


 **futuremdnca:** I guess if you can have a child and be in med school, it shouldn't be too bad... lol!


 **Pritzker Sophie:** As someone who came to Pritzker straight from college, I cannot imagine having gone to a medical school where everyone else was straight from college. I have learned so much from my more "nontraditional" classmates, many of whom had completely different careers before pursuing medical school.


 **adam.markovitz:** What is the average age of matriculants?


 **nitapadavil:** Also regarding financial aid, does it matter when we submit our paperwork as long as it is by May 15th?


 **Pritzker Charles:** @nitapadavil - you should get your FAFSA and Need Access completed as soon as possible!


 **adayaal:** Oh regarding FAFSA—it has to be completed after my parents do their taxes for this year, correct?

 **Sylvia Pritzker:** If your parents are delayed in submitting their taxes you can submit an estimate.


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** The timing of submitting the financial aid application does not matter


 **nitapadavil:** @Thank you Charles and Sylvia


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** Oh good—our first conflicting answers of the night... :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** +1 to what Sylvia said ;)

 **nitapadavil:** haha


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** It is best to submit your financial aid application as soon as possible in terms of your decision, but we do not run out of money.


 **kai.qiu:** @Charles: On a related note, when should we fill out the promissory note?


 **Pritzker Charles:** @kai - I am actually not sure about the prom note - Sylvia can answer that, but it should definitely be before your first disbursement when the quarter begins.


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** The prom note can be signed at any time but I would wait until you decide where you are going—it limits complications.


 **dallas:** What's the prom note?


 **futuremdnca:** Master promissory note.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** We are very lucky for the money Pritzker is able to give us :)


 **joeyel1985:** @Sylvia- regarding running out of money... I don't know if this is an inappropriate question, but how many of the MS1's are under scholarship and what is the average award of those?


 **Sylvia Pritzker:** I wish we had enough money to give everyone full funding and I hope someday we will—Come here and then give back as alums :)


 **SylviaPritzker:** At this point about 80% of the class has some funding—I honestly do not know the average award.


 **joeyel1985:** Thanks Sylvia.

 **kai.qiu:** @Sylvia: Very nice proactive fundraising pitch there :)


 **SylviaPritzker:** Thank you Kai—come help us with this!


 **Ozambela:** I received a financial aid letter based on estimated information earlier in the month. I now have all tax forms complete and resubmitted the need access and fafsa forms. Do I also need to mail in a copy of the tax forms and should I expect to see a slightly adjusted letter afterward?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Ozambela - Unless the actual taxes are significantly different there will not need to be an adjustment—certainly not a reduced one.


 **SylviaPritzker:** We are waiting for final budget figures from the University (the Board of Trustees meet this Friday) and then we will be able to send out final awards.

 **emunroe:** Great. Thanks! Also, for current students, why did you choose Pritzker?


 **Pritzker Rob:** #WhyIChosePritzker - I was super impressed by their dedication to educating students who were diverse, service-oriented, and committed to doing research. One of the first things I heard about was their Health Care Disparities course and it really set Pritzker apart for me (I hadn't heard any other school offering anything like it). I really liked Chicago, especially the opportunity to live and work in Hyde Park community. And I also got a good sense from my interview and Revisit that it was a place where I'd be genuinely happy and be able to develop valuable working relationships with other students and faculty.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Most medical schools are finding it difficult to incorporate the issues of disparity in their curriculum—we are one of the few that actually has a class.

 **futuremdnca:** What don't you like about Pritzker?

 **SylviaPritzker:** What don't I like about Pritzker? That is a tough question—I think we all struggle to answer that.

 **Pritzker Charles:** welcome hockey07! :)


 **hockey07:** thanks! :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** @hockey07 - introduce yourself! :)

 **hockey07:** I'm Kelly Wolenberg – I used an old username from high school.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Kelly!! Hi! How's it going?


 **hockey07:** It's going really well! Excited that I could make it for part of the chat!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Kelly, welcome!


 **Pritzker Charles:** @hockey07 - Glad you could as well—we will post the transcript afterwards.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Is that Justin Kuether? Welcome! :)


 **SylviaPritzker:** Welcome Justin!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Congratulations again on your acceptance to Pritzker, and welcome to the Chat! We are eager to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to jump right in! If you see your question "fall off" the screen just ask it again!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Great turn out tonight!

 **kai.qiu:** @Andy: now that you've been through the interview trail (GOOD LUCK on the 15th btw!) and met students from many other schools, have you seen any particular strengths or weaknesses in how Pritzker has prepared you vs. the other curricula out there?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** So at least in terms of Urology (an early match) all of us got our 1st or 2nd choice which is not typical in a field where 1/4 across the country did not match—that must speak to how we are prepared compared to people at other schools at least in terms of next steps of our career.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I also think that in general (opinion only) we are given much more responsibility to take charge of our patients than other schools, just by talking / observing other students.


 **kai.qiu:** @Andy: congrats! Bet you're stoked for the next step :) Is there anything specific in how Pritzker trains its students that you'd say contributed most to that success?


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Here is a link to the 2011 match results, with what subspecialties students matched in, and where they are went after graduation last year


 **Pritzker Sophie:** 2011 match list: http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/about/news/2011_Match_Results.shtml


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** For better or worse I think "prestige" is a factor; it is a very selective medical school and residency directors know that


 **gtalimage:** It's hard to tell from the match list, but would you say that most students get matched to a residency among their top choices?


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Yes, the majority of people match into their top choices (knock on wood, since I have yet to match myself!!)


 **adam.markovitz:** And a lot in Internal Medicine! Do you think that reflects an emphasis on health disparities?


 **Pritzker Sophie:** @adam - I think it is more of a reflection of how strong our Internal Medicine department is here. Wonderful faculty members, and a real strong presence in our education. That being said, I'm going into otolaryngology (ENT).


 **adam.markovitz:** Thanks Sophie!


 **futuremdnca:** Random question, but I need to know for something....how does mail typically work at Pritzker? Do students have mailboxes and/or a school address?


 **Pritzker Darrell:** @futuremdnca students have a cnet account and access a student portal which includes an email account.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** @futuremdnca - We have mailboxes for internal mail (ie - from within Pritzker) but there unfortunately isn't a place to send USPS mail to Pritzker.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Crystal - did you mean snail mail or email?


 **Pritzker Sophie:** I mean USPS mail to students through Pritzker.


 **futuremdnca:** Lol, sorry, I meant snail mail


 **emunroe:** What are 3rd year rotations like? Are most of them on the main campus?

 **hockey07:** Did any of you room with classmates your first year in med school? If so, when did you meet your roommates?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Most roommates met during Revisit Weekend.

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Everyone meets and stays in contact and upon deciding to come to Pritzker they just emailed each other to see if they would want to room together.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Also, lots of people who could not attend Revisit sent out feelers for roommates via the Facebook Group.

 **hockey07:** Ahh okay, thanks.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Pritzker's Revisit Days will be held April 20th-21st.


 **futuremdnca:** Is there anyone who will be staying longer than 20-21st? I'm going to be in town from 18-23...


 **futuremdnca:** ...looking at apartments!


 **SylviaPritzker:** @futuremdnca—I would love to take you, and anyone else staying longer, to lunch—email me at sylvia@bsd.uchicago.edu

 **hockey07:** @futuremdnca - In Hyde Park or somewhere else in Chicago?

 **futuremdnca:** @hockey07 - For the non Revisit days, I will probably be with my friends in Chicago...one of them goes to UChicago in a grad program so I'm guessing they're not far from Hyde park.


 **futuremdnca:** And Sylvia, I will email you. Thanks kindly for the offer.


 **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:** Believe it or not—we have 80 people coming to Revisit right now!


 **Pritzker Sophie:** @Charles - Believe it!! :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** It's going to be a great weekend :)


 **kai.qiu:** @Charles: sounds like a party. Although I suppose you folks in the admissions office wouldn't officially know of any events like that...


 **Pritzker Charles:** @kai - I officially know of no parties :P


 **Rupert:** Regarding Revisit, is it too late to ask for a student host..?


 **Pritzker Charles:** @Rupert - Not at all! Just fill out the Hosting Form that Kirk and Sophie emailed.


 **Rupert:** Thanks! I'm normally more timely with this kind of stuff :P


 **Pritzker Charles:** Not a problem!


 **Pritzker Charles:** For anyone who hasn't filled out the hosting form for Revisit - the hosting committee is meeting this Friday to make assignments so get it done ASAP!


 **Rupert:** Also: I noticed that Pritzker has its own acapella group, can anyone comment on that? Is experience necessary to join?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** The acapella group "Say Ahh" requires no previous experience!


 **Pritzker Charles:** I think the acapella group is going to perform at Revisit actually at the Faculty Reception on Friday :)


 **Rupert:** Great!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Say Ahh just requires a heart of joy and yes, you will hear them at Revisit—could we record it and post it, Charles


 **emunroe:** Are there strong Emergency Medicine residencies in Chicago? How is the Emergency Medicine rotation in the third year? What about trauma experience in the clinical rotations?


 **PritzkerSophie:** @emunroe - Emergency Medicine is a rotation that is done during the 4th year actually, which I believe is true at most medical schools.


 **emunroe:** @sophie, Ok thanks!


 **PritzkerSophie:** However, the ER door is always open so anyone who would like to shadow early on in medical school certainly can.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Sophie, Is ER one you can switch to 3rd year now?


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Yes the ER residents really like first-years to come in too! I've been meaning to do that.


 **PritzkerSophie:** @Sylvia - I don't actually think so, because the ER really wants you to have the 3rd year foundation of knowledge to keep up with the pace. But I know some people who ended up choosing EM would do some shadowing shifts on the weekends, etc to get a feel for it.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Thanks Sophie—that must be why they have their doors open from first year on—everyday I learn!


 **adam.markovitz:** The South Side still lacks a Level-1 trauma center, right? If so, how do you gain exposure to the more serious traumatic injuries?


 **Pritzker Darrell:** @Adam - UChicago's Comer Children's Hospital is a Level-I trauma center for pediatric care.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Students often do a rotation at Cook county, which is the ER from the show "ER", plenty of gun shot wounds there, also I have seen trauma, because people walk in without knowing we aren't a Level-1 trauma center and we treat them. We are, however, a Level-I trauma center for pediatrics.


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Some of my classmates who play violin and flute also go to Children's Hospital and play for the neonates (adorable).


 **adam.markovitz:** Thanks @Andy/Darrell/Sophie!


 **emunroe:** @Sylvia and Sophie, thank you for clarifying. @Andy where is cook county? Also, in general, where are most rotations done?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Cook County is about 25 min North of our campus ish? It is the county hospital.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** It is downtown or thereabouts.


 **hockey07:** If you request a rotation at Cook County, do you typically get it? Or is it fairly competitive?

 **emunroe:** @Andy, thanks! And @hockey07, i was just about to ask that!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** That is decided by Cook County, but I don't think a student has not been able to do one if they wanted to.


 **SylviaPritzker:** Cook County LOVES our students—you get it.


 **futuremdnca:** For any 3rd/4th years, can you talk about rotations? Are there any you really dislike or ones that a lot of people like? Just curious...some of my med school friends have filled my head with horrors :(

 **PritzkerSophie:** @futuremdnca - First of all, dispel any horrors!! Pritzker has a zero-tolerance policy for student mistreatment. We have official ombudsmen where we can report such activities, which to my knowledge, no one has ever had to utilize.


 **dallas:** @sophie - Do you feel that you get to know the attendings pretty well during your rotations?


 **cbrown1311:** For the upperclassmen, when did you decide on your specialty? It seems to me from my very little exposure that you need to choose your specialty based on, at the latest, experiences during third year rotations. How are you sure you want to enter a specialty that you haven't rotated in?


 **PritzkerSophie:** The faculty members have never been anything but patient and willing to teach. I've never had a malignant faculty member who has yelled at me. We are always treated with respect on our rotations and welcomed in the hospital!

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I echo Sophie regarding treatment.


 **futuremdnca:** Thanks for that...

 **emunroe:** @Andy, which rotations are usually done at Cook County? Are there other places that people do rotations?


 **futuremdnca:** So, what about relationships with nurses?

 **PritzkerSophie:** I always am very friendly to the nurses, who can always make life so much easier as a student! They have a lot more experience than us, so make friends!

 **adam.markovitz:** Why do you think students are treated so well in clinical contexts?


 **SylviaPritzker:** ER is the one mostly done at Cook County.


 **emunroe:** @Sylvia, Thank you!

 **Pritzker Charles:** We have about 15 minutes left so ask your questions! :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** And for late comers...we will post the transcript afterwards.


 **Pritzker Charles:** Welcome Harrison!


 **gtalmage:** Hey Harrison I think we were in analytical lab together at UNC

 **harrisonhines:** Yeah, we definitely were Garret. Good to see you here too!


 **gtalmage:** @harrison Yeah great to see you here too!


 **martha.mcgilvray:** What do you think are the most important factors to consider when choosing a medical school?


 **SylviaPritzker:** I think it is helpful to understand your own mission before coming to Pritzker—otherwise there are too many wonderful opportunities from which to choose!


 **gtalmage:** When do most 1st/2nd years shadow? Has it been a valuable experience?


 **futuremdnca:** Sorry if this was asked, but how many diff hospitals do Pritzker students go to?


 **PritzkerSophie:** As for my favorite rotations, I guess I would have to say surgery (since I'm doing a surgical subspecialty), and ob-gyn (I liked delivering babies). I was also very surprised by how much I enjoyed Psychiatry.


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Within our hospital system there is Northshore in Evanston, Mercy Hospital in South Loop, our clinics all over, and our main medical campus in Hyde Park.

 **emunroe:** Do you have to do a rotation at Northshore or can you choose not to if you'd rather not be that far away?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** For my specialty and others, one can do rotations all around the country if you want—I did an experience at Penn (and so did Sophie, by chance).

 **PritzkerSophie:** @emunroe - You do not have to do a rotation at NorthShore, although most people do at least 1 rotation there (approx 1 month). It's worthwhile to do, just to see how a different type of hospital operates day to day.

 **SylviaPritzker:** Our students love going to Northshore—a great experience and they provide for overnight if you want.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I know some students that loved Northshore and did 85% of their year there, I only went up there for 1.5 months; so you do have a lot of choice in the matter, but the hospitals are different so I think it is valuable to see it at least once.

 **PritzkerSophie:** @emunroe - Also, while rotating at NorthShore, you are given a room at the Hilton Garden Inn in Evanston for the entire time you are there.

 **emunroe:** @Sophie and Sylvia, thanks, that's helpful that you can stay there! On a related note, do most people get their first choice for rotations (order, places)?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** There is a hotel provided at Northshore. It would be about 1 hour commute despite only being 20 miles north of Hyde Park.

 **kai.qiu:** @Sophie: Semi-serious question: Any option for Starwood hotels while rotating at NorthShore? =P

 **SylviaPritzker:** Keep getting those points Kai—I understand...

 **PritzkerSophie:** @Kai - haha Oddly the first year they were doing this rotation, people managed to get some Starwood points before they realized that NorthShore was the one footing the bill. So no, unfortunately, no Starwood points for us.

 **kai.qiu:** @Sophie: Booooo. Guess I'll just have to retire my SPG card once I start school...

 **SylviaPritzker:** Don't do that—there will be travel ahead.

 **emunroe:** @Andy – Did you commute to Northshore?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** I did commute using public transportation due to family and it was actually a fantastic way to study—when I got home I was done!

 **PritzkerSophie:** I loved NorthShore. I actually ended up doing 5 months up there on various rotations. Evanston hospital (NorthShore) has a longstanding commitment to teaching and research, as it was affiliated for 75 years with Northwestern's medical school before we began our affiliation in 2008.

 **dallas:** How long do you get to study for step 1?

 **hockey07:** Does Pritzker provide any review sessions for step 1?

 **SylviaPritzker:** We have a great review session for Step 1 and our students are ready—look at the match list for the evidence.

 **Pritzker Charles:** Is that Abigail Fong? Welcome!

 **afong:** Hi

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Hello Abigail?

 **cbrown1311:** For the upperclassmen, when did you decide on your specialty? It seems to me from my very little exposure that you need to choose your specialty based on, at the latest, experiences during third year rotations. How are you sure you want to enter a specialty that you haven't rotated in?

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Specialty choice is very challenging and exciting. I think Pritzker does better than many because of the strength of our advising regarding your career choices. I was given the support I needed and was not pressured, or guided; just allowed the opportunity to make the best choice for me.

 **PritzkerSophie:** I chose ENT after doing my research with an ENT surgeon for my summer research project. Then I spent 2 weeks on the service while on surgery, and loved it!

 **SylviaPritzker:** Sophie, what are you going to match in?

 **PritzkerSophie:** Ear Nose Throat (ENT) aka Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** The first decisions to make are: kids vs. adults; medicine vs. surgery—I luckily found Urology in Feb of 3rd year and never looked back. But many classmates didn't know what they wanted to do until May or June and that was way okay too.

 **futuremdnca:** Oh wow, Urology...i had a "traumatic" experience while shadowing Urology in undergrad...I've ruled it out already! LOL


 **gtalimage:** @Andy Had you shadowed Urologists early on?


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** No, I had no exposure at all until 3rd year and it wasn't on the radar at all.

 **Pritzker Charles:** We've got about 5 minutes left...I am so excited by this wonderful turnout tonight...


 **Pritzker Charles:** ...and so many great questions!


 **PritzkerSophie:** Also the third year rotations will allow you to defer either Family Medicine or Neurology (both 1 month) to try out some specialties that may not be part of the third year curriculum, such as Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Pathology, or a surgical subspecialty you did not have time to do during surgery.


 **futuremdnca:** Is anyone in SNMA?


 **Pritzker Charles:** Robert is!


 **Pritzker Charles:** @futuremdnca - Rob could tell you about his work with SNMA...


 **futuremdnca:** Well, if Robert is able...can you talk about some of the activities that SNMA does...


 **futuremdnca:** ...and whether they send people to the national SNMA conference?


 **SylviaPritzker:** Maybe Robert has stepped away—yes we send a strong group of leaders to SNMA.


 **Pritzker Rob:** @futuremdnca - Sure thing! I can definitely talk about the SNMA activities!


 **Pritzker Charles:** @futuremdnca - I would post a question about SNMA in the Facebook group –would be great to start a conversation there!


 **futuremdnca:** Will do!


 **emunroe:** How do electives in the first year work? Can you get your choice of electives? How many do people normally take? What have you guys taken?

 **PritzkerSophie:** Just to throw it out there, our 4th year is pretty much all elective! Requirements include: 1 month sub-internship, 1 month basic science, 1 month ER. Other than that, you take what you like and learn what you want!


 **Pritzker Andy 4th year:** Yes 4 year is awesome: explore your interests, no strange requirements / or clinical work you don't think is educational for you or your future.


 **cbrown1311:** Thanks for the answers, sounds like there's plenty of opportunity to be exposed to anything I find interesting.


 **Pritzker Rob:** @futuremdnca - sorry, I stepped away for just a sec! So SNMA is great here and we have a really committed board. We have big shoes to fill though because last year the SNMA board here hosted the Midwest regional conference for SNMA and we were voted chapter of the year! Currently we're focused on community service work through our Health Professions Readiness and Enrichment Program (HPREP). We're also hosting a great discussion tomorrow that the whole Pritzker school community is invited to attend.


 **Pritzker Rob:** I really enjoy being involved in SNMA/LMSA here, the faculty mentorship is strong and our members are very involved in a lot of different parts of the school - we do community service, we're involved in academics and research groups, and we also do a great job performing at class talents shows as members of the Pritzker Dance Group too!


 **SylviaPritzker:** It is an honor to know you are all interested in Pritzker and please know our committee is certain this would be a great fit for you! Please let us know how we can help in this important decision in your life.


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Great questions and discussion. I hope to see you all on April 20th at Revisit!


 **joeyel1985:** Thanks a lot guys. Very good information!!


 **gtalimage:** @Darrell I'll be there! Really excited.


 **futuremdnca:** So excited! I can't wait to start med school lol...I hope the positive spirit will last hahah


 **hockey07:** Thanks for all of the detailed responses!

 **MeganSilas:** Thank you all so much!


 **Pritzker Charles:** We will post this transcript tomorrow!

 **caitlincolling:** Thank you


 **nitapadavil:** Thank you everyone!


 **Rupert:** Thanks again for hosting this, excited for Revisit weekend!!


 **Pritzker Charles:** Also—please feel free to keep the conversation going on the Facebook Group!

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** More first-years have been added to the Facebook group so more questions can also be answered there.


 **adam.markovitz:** Thank you so much, I really appreciate everything and cannot wait to meet all of you!


 **kai.qiu:** Thanks for sharing your wisdom everyone!


 **PritzkerSophie:** Thank you all! So great to see that so many people are interested in Pritzker!! Great questions tonight :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** We have a handful of our M1s who joined the group to answer your questions!


 **emunroe:** Thank you! This was very helpful!


 **SylviaPritzker:** The positive spirit will last! I wish you were here to see not only our fourth years but the alums who were in the office just yesterday.


 **futuremdnca:** Yes, thanks so much. @Sylvia, I'll see you at lunch ;D


 **harrisonhines:** Thanks much everyone


 **cbrown1311:** Thanks everyone see you all April 20th!


 **Pritzker Charles:** And Sophie and Kirk are very helpful!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Sophie and Kirk, you are the best!


 **Pritzker Darrell:** Sophie and Kirk rock!! What a great time they have planned for you all!!


 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Thanks everyone!


 **gtalimage:** Thanks everyone! This was really helpful.


 **Pritzker Sophie:** We couldn't have Revisit without the guidance of Sylvia, Charles and Darrell!


 **allisonlouis:** Thanks so much for doing this!! It was very informative and I love how you all are so accessible and open to answering our questions!


 **adayaal:** Thank you very much!


 **Pritzker Charles:** We can't wait to see you all at Revisit and please stay in touch with other questions!


 **JKuether:** Thank you


 **hockey07:** Thank you


 **Pritzker Sophie:** Thanks also to Andy and Rob!! What a great help you two have both been!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Good night Sophie!


 **martha.mcgilvray:** Thank you so much! I hope to see you all on April 20th! :)


 **Pritzker Charles:** Yes, thanks to Andy (M4) and Rob (M1) who joined us tonight :)


 **SylviaPritzker:** Good night Kirk


 **Pritzker Charles:** Night Sylvia!


 **SylviaPritzker:** Good night Andy


 **SylviaPritzker:** Good night Rob


 **Pritzker Charles:** Night everyone!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Thanks to Andy and Rob, Kirk and Sophie!!

 **Pritzker Kirk (MS1):** Haha goodnight everyone!

 **Pritzker Darrell:** Good night!

 **Pritzker Sophie:** Goodnight!

 **futuremdnca:** Night all.