



ACCEPTED APPLICANT CHAT
February 24, 2014

Pritzker Participants

Maureen Beederman, MS4, Revisit 2014 Chair
Jordan Howard Green, MS4, Revisit 2014 Chair
Karla Garcia-Huerta, MS1, Orientation 2014 Chair, SNMA Admissions Rep
Anthony Montag, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions, Professor of Pathology & Surgery
Monica Vela, MD, Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs
Charles N. Todd, PhD, Sr. Associate Director for Admissions & Financial Aid

Pritzker_Charles: Hi everyone! Thanks for coming tonight! We will be starting in just a few minutes!

Pritzker_Charles: I hope everyone has had a great day! Glad to see so many folks joining us tonight

Pritzker_Charles: Joining us tonight is Dr. Monica Vela - our Dean for Multicultural Affairs

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: Hi everyone, Dr. Montag here

Pritzker_Charles: Plus Dr. Anthony Montag, Associate Dean for Admissions

Pritzker_Charles: We also have both of our Revisit 2014 Chairs, Jordan Howard Green and Maureen Beederman

pritzker_maureen: Hi everyone! Glad you could join us

Pritzker_Charles: And one half of your 2014 Orientation team, Karla Garcia-Heurta

Pritzker_Charles: It is 6:30 so please jump in and ask your questions!

Pritzker_Jordan: Hey Everybody!

Pritzker_Karla: Hi everybody! Glad you're here!

nrabbani: Thank you for sharing your evening with us!

monicavela: Greetings everyone! I am Dr. Vela, Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Pritzker Grad from 20 years ago and primary physician (internal medicine)!

awcolo: Good evening. Thanks so much for doing this!

savas.tsikis: Thank you everyone for the time!

nrabbani: I have a housing question. Is housing at Regents Park University affiliated at all?

santiagodiaz06: Hello everyone!

mmccartin: Hello!

Pritzker_Charles: Hi Santiago! Glad you could join us! :)

Pritzker_Jordan: @nrabbani I can answer your question

santiagodiaz06: Thank you for setting this up Charles!

savas.tsikis: So I guess this question is more for current Pritzker students: What do you think of the graduate student housing option provided by the University of Chicago? Do many Pritzker students use it? How can I go about finding another Pritzker student to room with?

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: Regents is not affiliated, but they have been accommodating to our students

Pritzker_Karla: Hi @savas.tsikis I have many friends that are in the graduate student housing option. It is great because it is super affordable!

Ian Ferguson: can we talk more about what rent costs for different places? loosely

Pritzker_Jordan: Housing at Regent's Park is separate from the Graduate Student Housing mediated by the university, however many of the graduate students, from all programs, choose to live their due to its convenience.

pritzker_maureen: @savas.tsikis: in terms of finding a roommate - during revisit weekend, or using the facebook group are both great options to find a pritzker student to live with!

Pritzker_Karla: We set up a google doc that you guys can all use after revisit to find roommates. If I remember correctly, you check off boxes depending on what you're like and what you're looking for and then you can message each other to find the right people

Pritzker_Jordan: *there

Pritzker_Charles: @savas.tsikis: I lived in grad student housing when I was a grad student and loved it. very affordable

farida_e: Do most people have roommates/apartment-mates?

Pritzker_Karla: @farida_e there is a combination. Some people have roommates and others live alone in one bedroom or studio apartments

savas.tsikis: Thanks makes sense, thanks for the help!

jessicaplager: What are the best websites for finding housing in Hyde Park? Also, when would you recommend looking for leases that start August 1? I presume that there is a lot of student housing, so does this tend to open up at specific times of year?

awcolo: I have a general question about the curriculum. It seems that many schools are moving towards shortened pre-clinical curricula. Could you talk about the advantages of Pritzker's traditional, 2 year pre-clinical curriculum compared to 1 year or 1.5 year curricula?

kwe2101: Going off of Jessica's question, how early do students usually move to Chicago before school starts?

nrabbani: Research question here! Is there a good resource we could use to get a sense of the research projects medical students have been involved?

Pritzker_Jordan: @jessicaplager: The best website is probably marketplace@uchicago.edu if you're looking for an apartment that is not in Regents

Pritzker_Charles: We will have more information about housing at Revisit, but you can check out this presentation from last year's:

http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/admissions/revisit/Housing_Revist_2013.pdf

Pritzker_Jordan: *marketplace.uchicago.edu

Pritzker_Karla: @kew2101 I moved in mid July, but a lot of people waited until August. I think it depends on your lease and your summer plans!

pritzker_maureen: @awcolo: As a fourth-year, I really liked the way Pritzker does their curriculum. I felt totally prepared for going into clinical rotations during my third year. Additionally, there is a lot of patient/clinical content in the first two years, so you get practice doing presentation and write ups before you get to the wards.

monicavela: awcolo: I cannot imagine squeezing our preclinical years into a shorter time period. There is no way to cut the necessary material and still have time to 1) participate in service 2) conduct research 3) apply the material you have learned

farida_e: also in relation to nrabbani's question--what does the Scholarship and Discovery component look like during the first year? what is involved and expected?

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: There is clinical exposure in the first two years, and the opportunity for basic coursework or classes on the campus in the 4th year. I think the curriculum is flexible.

Pritzker_Charles: @jessicaplager - it is much easier to find an apartment in Chicago than in places like NY or Boston; people don't fight over places here :)

Pritzker_Karla: @nrabbani the administration puts together a booklet for us of mentors and projects that are available. You can find this year's copy here:

http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/Summer_Opps_Guide.pdf

jessicaplager: @Pritzker_Charles. That is great to hear! I am currently living in New York City so part of me expects another dramatic apartment search. Fingers crossed for an easy process!

kwe2101: Unfortunately I won't be able to come to revisit, but thank you so much for the PDF!

Pritzker_Karla: Those are opportunities for summer research, but they are not the only ones. Some classmates have found their own mentors that are not in that book.

pritzker_maureen: The curriculum at Pritzker is super flexible. I was able to spend an additional year between my third and fourth years doing research, and it was extremely easy to do so. There are so many opportunities and ways for you to do what you're interested in and have the curriculum meet your interests.

Pritzker_Charles: @nrabbani - great question! check out the 2014 scholarly opportunities guide for sure; it is not exhaustive but it is a good place to start:

http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/current/students/Summer_Opps_Guide.pdf

nrabbani: Wow thank you for the great resource!

colleensinnott: Hi everyone! Thanks so much for hosting this. I don't know the city of Chicago at all, so I was wondering, current students--how often do you venture outside of Hyde Park, and how easy is that to do via public transportation?

Eric_Whitney: For students who choose to live in the South Loop or further are there many public transportation options for getting to campus during non-day time hours? I'm thinking more ahead to 3rd year and such where that will be necessary

Pritzker_Jordan: @farida_e: During the spring quarter of your first year you are required to take a class applicable to S&D. This is followed by the Summer Research Program where a lot of students complete the bulk of their work for S&D

pritzker_maureen: @colleensinnott: we venture into Chicago all the time. I actually live in the South Loop area and many of my former classmates lived in different neighborhoods in Chicago - there is an easy bus option that takes you right from Hyde Park to Michigan Avenue!

monicavela: @farida_e Many students choose a service project instead of conducting research that first summer also

nrabbani: About how many hours a week are students in lecture during the first two years?

Nora A: Hi Maureen! Was it difficult finding funding for that extra year of research?

Pritzker_Charles: @colleensinnott - a big group of our MS1s all went together to see Phantom of the Opera last month

Pritzker_Karla: @farida_e this year we are mainly just learning about the Scholarship and Discovery tracks and the possibilities within them. During the spring quarter first years can take electives to teach them specifics about each track. I am currently thinking about taking the Medical Education elective so I can see if I want to pursue that track!

farida_e: Thank you @monicavela and @Pritzker_Jordan!

Pritzker_Charles: Hi Justin! Glad you could join us. :)

colleensinnott: @pritzker_maureen and @Pritzker_Charles Thanks for input!

farida_e: and thank you Karla!--can you take multiple electives?

awcolo: Great to hear that the curriculum is flexible and rich. Thank you!

Pritzker_Karla: @Eric_Whitney I actually live in south loop! I take the bus pretty much everyday. There is an express bus from south loop that goes straight to the front of the hospital! Its the CTA 192.

pritzker_maureen: Hi Nora! No, not at all. There are a lot of different funding opportunities available at Pritzker. There are Pritzker Fellowships for 1-year of research, and there are many external funding opportunities (HHMI, CDC, Doris Duke) that our students typically do very well in getting. I decided very late to take an additional year, and my PI actually funded my research through his grant, so I was paid as an hourly worker.

nrabbani: And are lectures recorded?

Pritzker_Charles: @nrabbani - yes they are recorded so you can listen to them again as many times as you want

Pritzker_Karla: @farida_e yes you can! That is my struggle right now haha they all look so interesting I don't know which/how many to sign up for!

Pritzker_Jordan: @farida_e: Most students take two electives, but I've heard of students taking more if they are up for the challenge. Students have also taken electives at other schools (ie law school, divinity school, etc)

Eric_Whitney: Thank you Karla!

Pritzker_Charles: Btw, if we miss your question please feel free to re-ask it!

Ian Ferguson: +nrabbani how much of the first two years is self-directed learning vs. required lecture hours?

pritzker_maureen: Wait until fourth year - there are so many electives that are interesting and great to take!

Julia_Fallon: Thank you all for doing this! Is it possible to come to Chicago the summer before the first year to conduct research (say from June- August)? Do many students do this?

Pritzker_Jordan: @Julia_Fallon: I only know of one student who did this in our class, but in general the UCMC faculty are SUPER supportive of Pritzker students!

Pritzker_Charles: @Julia_Fallon - we encourage you to enjoy the summer! You want to be refreshed and energized when you start in August so you can take advantage of all there is to offer!

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: With the early August start, the move and the adjustment, it is good to get rested

Nora A: Thanks, Maureen!

jessicaplager: For those of you that live outside of Hyde Park, do you recommend driving to campus? Is it easy to park around Hyde Park?

Eric_Whitney: for those of us who have difficulty making decisions, what sort of support structures are in place to help students choose a specialty going into their residency applications? particularly in terms of exploring the more specialized areas that may not be included in required rotations

Pritzker_Charles: @Julia_Fallon - plus, you will never get a real summer break again once you start school so do something you really want to do!

Pritzker_Karla: @jessicaplager I drive to campus some days, but honestly, in the winter it is harder to find street parking because of snow. I have classmates that park on campus though in the parking garages. You can get a parking spot for free if you carpool, but if not you have to pay for it. I personally opt for street parking when I drive!

Nora A: Can you talk a little bit about Pritzker's relationship with the surrounding community? Thanks!

nrabbani: Sorry if I missed the answer to this question! How many hours a week are spent in lecture in the first two years? And, I'm also interested in @Ian Ferguson's question "how much of the first two years is self-directed learning vs. required lecture hours?"

pritzker_maureen: @Eric_Whitney: great question! I struggled with deciding what specialty I wanted to pursue. The advising team at Pritzker is OUTSTANDING and will help you figure out what's best for you. During third year, you can defer either family medicine or neurology to see other fields that you might not get a chance to see. I wasn't able to see ENT during my surgery rotation, so I deferred neurology to my fourth year, and did 2 weeks of ENT and then 2 weeks of cardiothoracic ICU.

kwe2101: Can you also talk about the medical spanish program at Pritzker? Thanks!

edarnell: Thanks for hosting this chat! Do many students pursue global health experiences? Are there established programs/clinics through pritzker for those who chose the global health track of S&D?

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: The university is very engaged in the surrounding community, and our students continue the community engagement that we saw in their application in the community clinics and volunteering in schools, cooperative gardens, etc.

Eric_Whitney: Thanks Maureen, I wasn't aware of the deferral option. Very nice to know.

monicavela: Nora-- like many academic centers, we have been working hard over the last 15 years to connect with our community. We have established an urban health initiative, organized incredible service programs and have our physicians invested in working and addressing community health. We also have a team of community leaders helping to advise us.

Nicco: Could someone tell me about the options for those interested in Health Policy / Health Services Research? Who are the students I could talk to about this that are currently pursuing these fields?

Pritzker_Jordan: @Nora A: Great Question! Pritzker is very involved with the surrounding community via free clinics and community service organizations. We have more opportunities to interact with the community than we have time for. You will hear all about many of these programs at Revisit and all throughout your first year if you decide to attend Pritzker.

Pritzker_Charles: @Eric_Whitney - you have lots of advising support; Pritzker faculty are eager to work with our students; plus you have your academic and career advisors from your society; and you have your S&D mentor

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: I cannot give an exact figure, but in general our basic science classes are balanced between lecture and small group discussion.

Pritzker_Charles: @Eric_Whitney- then you get a residency specialty advisor once you decide what specialty to apply into

savas.tsikis: How is the third year in terms of patient contact and independence? How are the medical students treated and are they given the option to rotate at different hospitals?

monicavela: Kwe2101: Currently we contract with a local group of medical spanish educators and interpreters to deliver a tiered medical spanish curriculum. I am also in the process of exploring Canopy, which is an online service that certifies students to work with Limited English Proficiency patients.

pritzker_maureen: @Eric_Whitney: something I didn't realize about Pritzker when I started that I really appreciate now is how much support and advising you get throughout medical school here at University of Chicago - everyone truly is there to help you and makes sure you're well taken care of.

Pritzker_Karla: @edarnell if you are interested in global health there are many resources to get you involved. The summer research program at Pritzker offers options to go do work abroad with UChicago faculty. Additionally, you can always apply for funding from Pritzker to work on a project you are interested in during the summer between your first and second year. Some students even take a year off after second or third year to do research abroad.

marvitk: How would you describe the dynamics of the student body? Are there many interactions between classes?

Pritzker_Charles: @nrabbani - our faculty try to bring a variety of teaching modalities to each of the courses and to make sure that you have as much active learning as possible;

it is going to depend on the class how much time is spent in small groups vs lab vs lecture

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: Most rotations are at the U.C. hospitals in Hyde Park or at North Shore in Evanston. Students are treated as junior colleagues; the school does not have a hierarchal feel.

Pritzker_Karla: @edarnell keep in mind though that the Scholarship and Discovery Global Health track is for research. There are also opportunities to do service abroad through groups like REMEDY. We go down to a clinic in Peru to help do cervical cancer screenings.

pritzker_maureen: @savas.tsikis: I loved third year! I felt like I was a member of our patient care team, not simply "the medical student". While each rotation is a little different, attendings and residents love to work with students and you learn SO much. We rotate both at the University of Chicago campus, as well as our NorthShore affiliate (in Evanston, IL, just north of Chicago). Additionally, we also go to Mercy Hospital just south of the Loop, as well as a variety of clinics in the community. I felt that I had a very well-rounded clinical experience going to different sites.

Pritzker_Charles: @Nicco - did you know about our dual degree with Public Policy? The Harris School is one of the best in the country

monicavela: marvitk-- the student body is amazing. They are incredibly collaborative, quick to form a community that is supportive, accepting and willing to go the mile for each other.

Pritzker_Jordan: @Nicco: Pritzker recently established a relationship with the Institute of Politics here at the UofC, and as a result of this partnership Pritzker students can take part in a summer internship program centered around healthcare policy development

edarnell: thanks!

Pritzker_Karla: @marvitk I agree with Dr. Vela. My classmates are all incredible people, we have so much fun and work really well together!

nrabbani: What is the process for choosing clerkships?

Ian Ferguson:

relevant to @nicco. how popular are non-science dual degrees? are there good funding options?

marvitk: Thank you!

Pritzker_Charles: @marvitk - each fall we have our annual field day where the different societies get to compete against one another in a variety of friendly sporting competitions; you will team up with the older students from your society :)

monicavela: Hi Martha Muno! I just noticed that you are on-line!!

Pritzker_Karla: @marvitk We have the chance to interact with the other classes pretty often. This past weekend we had our formal that is open to all four classes. We also have a weekly social gathering called "Social Rounds" in the hospital student lounge where we can all hang out. You'll experience it at Revisit!

jessicaplager: Do you have access to UChicago facilities i.e. the gym, library, etc.?

monicavela: @marvitk there are also Pritker service days where the different classes come together!

pritzker_maureen: @nrabbani: you have to do certain required clerkships, including: ob/gyn, peds, internal medicine, surgery, neurology, psych, and family medicine. Beyond that, each clerkship has many different options (aka, for surgery, you can spend time with plastic surgery, neurosurgery, ENT, etc.). And there is the opportunity to defer either neurology or family medicine to see another specialty (derm, radiation oncology) that you might not otherwise get to see but might be interested in.

monicavela: Jessica--yes, the gym is state of the art, a block and a half away from the school and free to students!

Pritzker_Jordan: @jessicaplager: Yes, you have access to all of UofC buildings, even those downtown :)

Pritzker_Karla: @jessicaplager we have access to pretty much everything on campus! The multiple gyms, libraries, lectures workshops etc. It's awesome!

jessicaplager: Great! Thanks

pritzker_maureen: @nrabbani: in terms of clerkship order, there is a lottery system where you rank the order in which you want to do them

nrabbani: Thanks!

Pritzker_Charles: these are all great questions - keep them coming!

nrabbani: Do students from different programs socialize with each other?

Pritzker_Jordan: @Ian: I'm not sure of the exact numbers, but it appears that a few people from each class pursue dual-degrees in non-science fields.

farida_e: How many students end up taking an additional research year?

pritzker_maureen: @farida-e: from my class, there are 13 of us who spent an additional year doing research.

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian Ferguson - Hi Ian, I am not sure I have the % of how many do non-science degrees, but we have 20-25% per class who do some other degree extended research year

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian Ferguson - the most popular non-science degrees are the joint MD/MBA and the MD/MPP

Pritzker_Karla: @nrabbani We try to socialize with other schools. There is a graduate council that organizes events across all of the graduate schools, there is a "Graduate Gala" the first week of March.

pritzker_maureen: The additional year of research isn't necessarily basic science bench research, it can be community health, global health, getting an MBA, working at the CDC - these are all things that my classmates pursued during their extra year

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian Ferguson - there are also two great MA programs that you can do where you design your own degree, one in the social sciences and one in the humanities; both of those are a year long

awcolo: I understand that Pritzker students can take undergrad/grad(?) classes at the University. How common is this?

Pritzker_Charles: @jessicaplager - our tour committee for Revisit just met today and they are planning to show you around the gym and libraries on Friday morning at Revisit

monicavela: awcolo: very common in the fourth year. In fact, I took a graduate writing course this year and three Pritzker students were in class with me!

Pritzker_Charles: @jessicaplager - they are very excited about it!

Pritzker_Charles: @nrabbani - yes, in fact, there are regular grad mixers with Law and the business school

Pritzker_Karla: @awcolo I am planning on taking a medical ethics course that is cross listed with the law school and the divinity school!

Pritzker_Jordan: @awcolo: A handful of first year students are taking a class offered by the law school this quarter and plan to continue the sequence as one of their electives next quarter as well

Pritzker_Karla: I want to clarify that this is an additional medical ethics to the one we take our first year.

awcolo: That is awesome. Thanks Karla, Jordan and monicavela!

monicavela: Hola Miguel, welcome!

etfoo: how often do students enroll in the mba program? And how does the application process work/acceptance rate?

Pritzker_Charles: Hey Sean! Just saw you on here. How is it going?

orodriguez:

I have a somewhat complicated question, so I hope that's okay. Looking ahead to residency and the lengthy discernment process that this decision entails, I am wondering whether the smaller size of some of the departments, for example, the dermatology department or ENT, can be a disadvantage when it comes to getting the exposure, experience, research opportunities, access to faculty, etc. Especially reviewing the match list, a relatively smaller percentage of students seem to match into specialties associated with the smaller departments at UChicago, and I was simply wondering if students at UChicago find it more difficult to be exposed and make an informed decision about those specialties outside of the core rotations because some of these departments are relatively sm

orodriguez: *smaller and therefore have less faculty. I hope my question makes sense, thanks for your help!

pritzker_maureen: @orodriguez, I can answer this question

Pritzker_Charles: @etfoo - we have several students a year do the joint MD/MBA program - you do take the GMAT; Booth really loves our students and they do quite well there

Pritzker_Charles: @etfoo - we also have additional scholarship money set aside for the joint MD/MBA students which we apply to your Booth tuition in the last year

zakaria: I also had a question about the match list. It seems like most of the students end up in so many different hospitals across the country. Can anyone speak to Pritzker's success with matching students to their first/second choice?

mbarajas: @monicavela. hey there dr. vela. here we are running into each other again! ;)

etfoo: thank you for that!

monicavela: Zakaria--over 90% of our students match into their first or second choices for residency!! WOW!!

sean_mcguire: Hi Charles, its going well! :) As long as we are on the topic of dual degrees, I was wondering about MPH opportunities. I know UChicago doesn't offer an

MPH, but what is the process like for interested students to find a place to pursue that degree option?

MAIcala: Hi everyone! Thanks for taking the time to do this. Tons of good info here, we really appreciate it! :)

Pritzker_Charles: @zakaria - our students do VERY well in the match; 100% success again this past year! most of our students able to match into one of their top choices

nrabbani: Along that note, is there a way to see where students matched in program AND location?

pritzker_maureen: I'm going into a specialty that has a relatively small department (6 faculty members in the department of plastic surgery). I don't feel that this is a disadvantage for me at all. I was still able to be exposed to the same research opportunities, clinical experiences, etc., as other students. The faculty at UChicago are so accessible, no matter what department it is! In the past, our applicants have been very successful going into these fields (derm, ENT, etc), and are totally supported by the faculty. I haven't heard that any of my original classmates (who have successfully matched and are almost done with their intern years) felt that they were at a disadvantage

pritzker_maureen: @orodriguez: let me know if that answers your question!

Pritzker_Charles: @zakaria - watch some scenes from our Match Day last year -

<http://youtu.be/HRpe2gmrQd0>

mbarajas: i submitted my FAFSA recently. i'm wondering if anyone can tell me when we would have a good idea of the when complete financial aid information will be coming out.

monicavela: zakaria--our students come from across the country and are accepted into the top programs in their specialty across the country. Our students are well known to be prepared and are sought out!

kwe2101: On the topic of financial aid, what is the average amount of debt a Pritzker student typically graduates with?

Ian Ferguson: @mbarajas I finished mine (fafsa + needaccess) a few weeks ago and received my fin.aid estimate today

Pritzker_Jordan: @nrabbani: Here is a list of the results from last year's match -

http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/documents/2013_match-results_forweb.pdf

mbarajas: Ian: thanks. did you receive the information via snail mail or email?

Pritzker_Charles: @mbarajas - we are working on financial aid packages right now; we are getting caught up on the rush of applications so we should start getting out preliminary award letters very soon; we have to wait for the Board of Trustees to tell us the final tuition amounts for next year and we are also waiting on the up-to-date fees and health insurance amounts but we should have all of that soon - within the next month

Ian Ferguson: email

nrabbani: Thank you!

farida_e: How are exams scheduled? just at the end of every quarter or throughout?

camquarter: Hiya! Thanks so much for having this chat tonight. I'm not sure how relevant this question may be for most of the incoming class, but I was wondering if there are any resources available at Pritzker for students w/families? Thanks!

Pritzker_Charles: @sean_mcguire - great question! we have several students a year who pursue an MPH at another school; it is very easy to do; basically, we are going to be flexible with you to help you achieve your career goals

nrabbani: I have to go, but I just wanted to say thank you so much for taking the time to do this!

orodriguez: @pritzker_maureen I think I was wondering that a smaller department, such as plastic surgery in your case, meant that there would be fewer opportunities to get involved in research because there are obviously less faculty at work in that specific area. Despite the size of these departments, do you feel that your experience with them, whether it be through research or even just through your interactions with the faculty, have allowed you the experience to feel confident about pursuing a particular specialty. Thanks for your response, I hope I'm not being obnoxious with my lengthy questions.

Pritzker_Charles: @nrabbani - thanks for joining! we will post the transcript tomorrow

Pritzker_Charles: @kwe2101 - last year's average debt for graduating students at Pritzker was between \$100K-\$110K - much lower than the national average of \$180K+

monicavela: camquarter: the insurance plans do have options that include coverage for families

Pritzker_Jordan: @farida_e: depends on the class, but in general they are spread out throughout the quarter

Pritzker_Karla: @farida_e It depends on the course you are taking. For some courses there is only a midterm and a final. For others there are exams every few weeks. I personally have liked having exams more often because I don't get as behind!

Pritzker_Charles: @kwe2101 - we are anticipating an even lower amount for the class graduating this coming year

zakaria: Are there any additional financial aid opportunities that we should be aware of? I have seen some 3rd party scholarships awarded to students, but they are usually given to current medical students (2nd-4th years).

Pritzker_Jordan: We rarely have multiple exams in a week

monicavela: @farida_e the faculty are encouraged to cross talk to avoid multiple exams in a week and to be aware of student workload

Pritzker_Charles: @camquarter - many of our students come in with families or start families while in medical school!

farida_e: Thank you!

pritzker_maureen: @orodriguez: I do feel that I was able to get the experience necessary to make an informed decision about a particular specialty. The diversity of cases and patients you see at UChicago is amazing, and I think that every student going into one of these smaller specialties feels like they were able to make an informed decision. As for research, departments have a TON of research opportunities - even with 6 faculty members in plastic surgery, there are so many different projects to become

involved in. Additionally, you can also take advantage of the experience at NorthShore - I was able to do a plastic surgery rotation there as well.

Ian Ferguson: how is it being nested into the biological sciences department? do medical students feel like they have a home on campus? how do you feel this compares to many med-only campuses?

marthamuna: How many weeks are MS2 students given to study for boards?

camquarter: Sounds great - thanks again!

monicavela: zakaria: the financial aid office meets with every SINGLE student to provide financial health education as well as individualized attention. We do help students apply for other regional and national scholarships

Pritzker_Charles: @camquarter - our students are also very supportive of one another and help those with kids out - we are one big family :)

zakaria: wow that's great!

monicavela: marthamuna one average MS2 students get 5-6 weeks to study for boards and the student affairs office provides counseling on organizing their studies. We also provide access to one-on-one assistance for students with learning differences

marthamuna: @Dr.Vela thank you!!

Pritzker_Jordan: @Ian: I like being nested on the undergrad campus because it gives us the opportunity to take advantage of all of the state of the art facilities that UChicago has to offer

Pritzker_Charles: @zakaria - I second Dr. Vela's statement; we have enough financial aid support that you can usually get a response within a day of emailing us and it is usually possible to meet with us one-on-one the same week; we know that finances can be stressful so we try to make things as easy as possible

monicavela: Ian Ferguson--having access to other disciplines is a genuine asset to our students and faculty as well. Imagine the possibilities for research and learning!

Pritzker_Karla: @Ian I agree with Jordan. There are so many events going on on campus all of the time, it is great to be around and have access to them!

orodriguez: @pritzker_maureen Thank you, that really brings me much peace of mind. I'd love to speak to you more about your experience if you do not mind me shooting an email your way in the future

Pritzker_Jordan: @Ian: It also makes simple things like going to the gym or checking out a book for pleasure much easier than on campuses that are med only

Pritzker_Karla: @zakaria I can personally attest to Dr. Todd's comment. I have gone in and talked to financial aid about finances multiple times. They can usually schedule a meeting with me within one or two days!

monicavela: Hello Malcala!! nice to see you on board!

pritzker_maureen: @orodriguez: absolutely, feel free to contact me and we can discuss this more!

camquarter: @Pritzker_Charles - that's definitely the impression I got from my interview day as well; for me, a very important aspect and strength of the program

Pritzker_Charles: Hi Hunter! How's it going?

Eric Bland: Another family question -- would a spouse have any access to, say, the gym or the library (even if for a fee)?

monicavela: Eric: Absolutely! and the fee is minimal (and well worth it)!

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian - being on campus means so many opportunities for collaboration; our faculty and students are able to work on innovative projects because we share a campus and are genuinely interested in each others' work

Pritzker_Dr. Montag: yes, spouses have access to the gym, can probably arrange access to library as guest

farida_e: I have to leave but just wanted to say thank you again for hosting this chat!

Eric_Whitney: on a similar note, do students find that the social life of the medical students is accessible to significant others? I know we'll be very busy and have a lot of shared experiences that might make that tricky sometimes

Eric Bland: Wow, thank you! Wonderful.

monicavela: farida_e You are welcome!

MAIcala: Hi Dr. Vela! I'm glad to be here! Looking forward to the revisit!

monicavela: Eric: Significant others are always welcome to social events on campus. We love to meet them and make them a part of our family.

Pritzker_Karla: @Eric_Whitney Many of my classmates' spouses and fiancées are friends. They hang out together when we're studying :) and obviously at events as well. It was awesome seeing everyone together at Pritzker formal this past weekend!

monicavela: MAIcala: looking forward to spending more time with you. So glad you can make it!

pritzker_maureen: @Eric_Whitney: i think the social life is definitely accessible to significant others. My classmates and their significant others always joined for outings and social events and they definitely become part of the Pritzker family.

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian - check out this video about innovation on campus - <http://youtu.be/VBwPKUI1dgA>

MAIcala: Anyone know if yoga is still a possibility for the wellness part of revisit weekend?

Pritzker_Charles: @farida - thanks for joining us!

Ian Ferguson: @Charles thanks!

Eric_Whitney: good to know! your answers definitely match the vibe I got during interviews but it's nice to have hear it explicitly reaffirmed

Pritzker_Charles: we still have time for a few more questions!

colleensinnott: Do students generally appreciate the smaller-than-average class size at Pritzker?

Pritzker_Charles: @MAIcala - our wellness committee for Revisit is making plans - I think Yoga is still a distinct possibility :)

Pritzker_Karla: @colleensinnott Absolutely! There are so many resources available to us and everything is more personalized. It was amazing to me that many of the upperclassmen and faculty knew my name the first week I was here, but then I realized, that is typical at Pritzker. It really is a family and I think the smaller class size contributes to that.

monicavela: Colleen: There is such beauty to a smaller class size. I learn every student's name and their interests in the first few months. this fuels my ability to advise and also

to refer students to mentors with similar interests. With a smaller class size, resources abound!

mbarajas: can someone talk about how evaluations/grading works during the clinical part of the curriculum?

Eric_Whitney: are out of state elective rotations an option during the fourth year? If so, are they often pursued and are there pre-existing relationships with other institutions? Or do students usually have to work it out for themselves

colleensinnott: Thanks, Karla and Dr. Vela! Great to hear!

Pritzker_Charles: @collee - you can be a big fish in a small pond :)

Pritzker_Jordan: @colleensinnott: I very much appreciate our small class size. I like that I know all of my classmates and what they like to do outside of class

dje988: Are any discounted tickets available through the university for Chicago cultural/sporting events -- theater, symphony, Bulls/Cubs/Bears, etc.?

Pritzker_Charles: *colleen sorry!

colleensinnott: Thank you! :)

Pritzker_Charles: @dje988 - your UChicago ID gets you lots of discounts around the city, including free access to the Art Institute!

monicavela: Eric:Out of state rotations are definitely and option and in some specialties, highly encouraged. it is up to the institution you are visiting to provide options for housing, etc.

Pritzker_Jordan: @dje988: There are ALWAYS cheap tickets to White Sox games, mainly because the stadium is so close

Pritzker_Karla: @dje988 yes! Some people are going to a Bulls game in a couple of weeks that was set up by the Pritzker Chiefs (fourth years). I went to see Phantom of the Opera a few weeks back that I only paid \$15 for!

awcolo: Can anyone talk about the newly finished hospital and if/how it impacts students? It's such a beautiful building. :)

orodriguez: Are there discounts for events around the city? Also, is there a reduced fare rate for public transportation available to Pritzker students? And finally, will I get dirty looks for wearing my Cowboys jerseys around the city?

Eric_Whitney: as long as its not vikings/packers/lions you should be ok

kwe2101: For the night life is it common to use subways or buses or do students mostly used taxis?

Pritzker_Karla: @orodriguez You can get into the art institute for free with a UChicago student ID :)

Ian Ferguson: is there a CSA on campus? I'm from CA and, drought aside, I like my fresh veggies!

Pritzker_Jordan: @dje988: As far as other events, there are UChicago nights for all the major sports teams in the city, where you can get really cheap 300 level tickets and enjoy the game with some of your fellow UChicago students.

Pritzker_Charles: @dje988 - here is a link to some of the cultural things your UChicago ID will get you: <http://arts.uchicago.edu/arts-pass>

pritzker_maureen: @awcolo: the new hospital is wonderful to work in, and i think patients/doctors/students all love it. You will do most of your surgery rotation there, along with medicine, and various other specialties. It's a great building!

dje988: Great. Thanks!

orodriguez: oops, didn't see that dje988 had the exact same question, sorry

Pritzker_Karla: @kwe2101 it depends on where you're going/how late you're staying out. I usually take public transportation when I'm on my way and then take a taxi home.

Pritzker_Jordan: @Eric_Whitney is right. Vikings fans are not given their due respect in this city lol

monicavela: mbarajas: Grading on clinical rotations ranges from fail/lowpass/highpass and honors. The final grades depend on evaluations from faculty that you work with in addition to a shelf exam that is standardized. There is no curve on the clinical rotations, so as many students can get honors as deserve honors.

Pritzker_Charles: @orodriguez - we will make a Bears fan out of you :D

colleensinnott: @Pritzker_Karla, would you say that is because public transportation stops running at a certain hour, or because you don't feel safe using it late at night?

Pritzker_Charles: wow, it is already 7:30! the time has gone by quickly

Ian Ferguson: thanks everybody! looking forward to the transcript

Pritzker_Charles: @Ian - several good CSA options around! plus farmers markets!

awcolo: Thanks so much for doing this everyone! It was very informative.

Pritzker_Charles: thank you everyone for joining us tonight, such great questions!

Julia_Fallon: Thank you everyone !

zakaria: Thanks so much! See you in April!

Pritzker_Charles: we will definitely post the transcript tomorrow

orodriguez: Thank you all for hosting this, really helpful. have a great week!

monicavela: have a great night everyone!!

marvitk: Thanks for this chat! Everyone's questions were very helpful.

colleensinnott: Thank you all! This was so helpful!

mmccartin: Thank you for this session! See you everyone in April!

Pritzker_Karla: @colleensinnott I think it is usually because my classmates split the taxi fare with me and we all go together. Again it depends, but usually I'm not a fan of taking late public transportation anywhere--better be safe than sorry.

marthamuna: thank you everyone!

pritzker_maureen: Thanks everyone! Looking forward to meeting you all in April!

Pritzker_Charles: if we missed your question, please post it in the Facebook Group! We have lots of students there ready to help answer your questions

Pritzker_Karla: Thank you everyone for your questions! Hope to meet all of you at revisit!

santiagodiaz06: This was very informative. Even though I didn't really have any questions it was great to read everyone's questions! Thank you!

Eric_Whitney: Thank you!

camquarter: Thanks for the chat - really, really helpful and informative. Have a great night!

Pritzker_Jordan: Thanks everyone! Great Questions!

MAIcala: Thank you for hosting this! The match day video was a nice touch, by the way :)

kwe2101: Yes thank you so much for your time!

santiagodiaz06: Looking forward to meet everyone at Revisit!

Pritzker_Charles: We are looking forward to seeing you all back here in April!

sean_mcguire: Thanks everyone :)

camquarter: Thanks for the information, Dr. Montag!