



The University of Oklahoma

JOE C. AND CAROLE KERR MCCLENDON HONORS COLLEGE

Greetings from the University of Oklahoma Honors College!

Thank you for your interest in the Medical Humanities Scholars Program (MHSP), now in its twentieth year. The program is one of the few seven- or eight-year programs that emphasizes preparation for a medical career through study in the basic sciences and the humanities, the arts, the social sciences, and the study of western and non-western medical traditions. Our graduates are clinicians and clinical scholars across the country in primary practice, specialties, and sub-specialties. Some are the first in their families to attend college, let alone medical school. They are an extraordinary group.

The MHSP gives students great flexibility. You can major in any area at the university: biology, history, sociology, English, music performance, anthropology. All of these are open to you. You will also complete a Medical Humanities Minor that you design according to your interests. Some of our students focus on cross-cultural perspectives on health and disease; others focus on history of medicine, on bioethics, on spirituality and medicine, on health disparities, on any area of the medical humanities that interests you. There are also abundant research opportunities (in biomedicine, life sciences, social science, and the humanities) and study abroad opportunities for our MH Scholars and all honors students at OU.

Our online application is available in the fall each year. We receive over 200 applications from around the country, and we review them holistically. Here's what we look for: bright, talented high school seniors with outstanding academic records and strong test scores; people who have genuine interests in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and the social determinants of health. People who want to make the world a better place. Our applicants have diverse extracurricular experiences: some play sports, others play instruments, sing, or dance; some are junior EMTs or have volunteered in hospitals. Some conduct biomedical research, and some write poems. Each applicant is different, and we embrace this diversity. Most applicants are aware of the challenges facing clinical medicine and population health today.

Because our medical school is a state-funded institution, we must take people who are U.S. citizens or resident aliens (green card holders).

Also, we can only accept students who complete the OU and Honors College applications and are accepted into the Honors College. Apply early! There is a link in the Honors application to the MHSP application. We do not under any circumstances consider late applications, nor do we have an early action program for the MHSP. However, the sooner you are accepted at OU and the Honors College, the sooner you will be eligible for consideration. We notify all candidates of their status—whether or not they get an interview—in late February. Interviews are held in late March.

There is no secret to success in applying to our program. If you have a desire to be a physician and obtain a well-rounded liberal arts education that helps you understand the human side of medicine as well as the scientific side, we think the Medical Humanities Scholars Program is a great program for you to consider. We also have a Medical Humanities Minor for those not accepted into our BA-MD program.

I wish you the best of luck wherever your college and medical school experiences take you!

Sincerely,

Sarah W. Tracy, Ph.D., Director, Medical Humanities Program