

HCOE

Mission

To improve the medical care of Latinos in Illinois by providing programs that strengthen the pipeline and increase the number of Latino applicants pursuing health careers; enrich the education of Latino students, with an emphasis on producing linguistically and culturally competent practitioners; and build partnerships with others that share the same vision.

Goals

- Develop a competitive applicant pool of Latinos for medical school admissions, in conjunction with partners within and outside of UIC.
- Enhance the academic performance and overall experience of Latino medical students at UIC.
- Provide opportunities for faculty and student research on Latino health issues for undergraduate and medical students.
- Design curricular initiatives to increase the linguistic and cultural competence of College of Medicine students.
- Raise funds to support scholarships for Latino medical students.

Objectives

- Increase the pool of competitive Illinois Latino applicants to the UIC College of Medicine by 20% from the current baseline.
- Increase the pool of competitive Illinois Latino applicants to college by 10% from the current baseline at each Medicina Academy partner school.
- Increase the number of Latino student research opportunities on Latino health-related issues.
- Increase the Latino student pass rate on the first attempt in the USMLE Step 1 to 90%, and increase the number who graduate on time to 92%.
- Increase the number of tenured Latino faculty at UIC, and raise the number of Latino faculty on the tenure track.
- Introduce and expose students to Latino medical health issues and needs and improve resources for education.

HCOE History

The Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) was established in 1991 to increase the capacity of the University of Illinois College of Medicine by admitting and graduating a larger number of Latino physicians, that would work to eliminate disparities in access and quality of medical care for Latinos in Illinois. It has become an exceptional resource to the College and other educational institutions that are looking to improve Latino education in the health sciences.



Hispanic Center of Excellence

University of Illinois College of Medicine
Department of Medical Education
808 South Wood Street, 990CME
Chicago IL 60612-7333

To make an appointment please contact us.
Phone: 312-996-4493
Fax: 312-996-9922
Email: hcoe@uic.edu
medicine.uic.edu/hcoe

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Hispanic Center of Excellence

Strengthen.
Increase.
Enrich.

University of Illinois
College of Medicine



HCOE PIPELINE PROGRAMS



Hispanic Center of Excellence

High School Programs

Medicina Academy Apprentice Program (MAAP)

MAAP is a 3-year academic enrichment program that prepares Latino high school students for future careers in medicine and the health sciences. Students from high schools in Chicago and suburbs are invited to apply for participation, starting in their sophomore year. The MAAP curriculum is intended to increase students' awareness and preparation in the health fields, and designed to include undergraduate-type courses in medicine, higher education, intra/interpersonal development, and career development. Sessions also consist of hands-on experiences ranging from lab sessions to certifications from the American Red Cross. More details are available in the HCOE website.



Latino Health Science Enrichment Program (LaHSEP) Track 3

This is a 6-week summer academic enrichment program for UIC incoming first year pre-medicine students. The Latino Health Science Enrichment Program (LaHSEP) gives participants the opportunity to engage in pre-health workshops, develop Chemistry, Math and English skills and also learn about college transition and resources on the UIC campus.



Undergraduate Programs

Medicina Scholars

A 3-year program that guides and supports Latino undergraduate students interested in the medical profession, with the ultimate goal of preparing students to become competitive applicants for medical school admissions. About thirty students are admitted each fall and each cohort partakes in a series of professional and medical development seminars designed to expand their familiarity in the health field. The curriculum provides a strong foundation in the history of medicine, professional development, public health policy, health disparities, cultural competence, primary and specialized care, research, and medical school admissions. Additionally, Scholars are required to take part in academic advising, medical/health conferences and community service activities.



Summer Undergraduate Research Program on Health Disparities (SURPHD)

SURPHD is an intensive 10-week summer research program that provides participants with first-hand experience in research studies that aim to address persistent disparities in access and outcomes of medical care. Through this program, junior and senior undergraduates are matched with UIC research mentors engaged in studies related to Hispanic/Latino or other minority disparities such as diabetes, cancer, asthma, obesity, and kidney disease. Participants engage in their mentor's research, develop their own research project and present their findings at the end of the program. Participants also attend seminars that further expose health inequities in the health care system, and learn skills to test a hypothesis, interpret preliminary data and findings, and appraise the outcomes of research.

Family Program

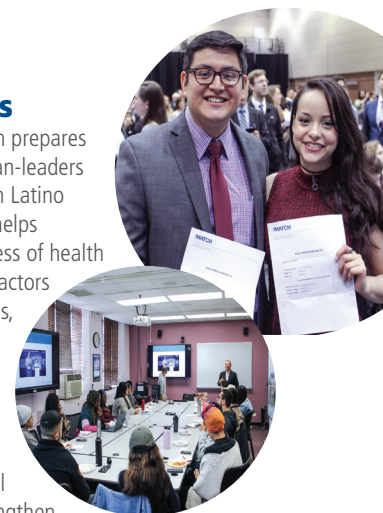
Academia de Padres Leadership Institute (APLI)

APLI is a 1-year leadership program for Latino parents/legal guardians of children interested in pursuing a health science career. This holistic support system empowers, guides, and provides participants with the necessary tools and resources to support their child's development, interests, and educational trajectory. The program achieves this by further increasing participants' social and cultural capital through the five pillars of empowerment, leadership, awareness, communication, and community outreach.

Medical Student Programs

Medicina Fellows

Is a two year program which prepares students to become physician-leaders in Latino health and serve in Latino communities. The program helps 1) increase student awareness of health beliefs, behaviors, and risk factors affecting Latino communities, 2) explore various medical specialties, 3) provide supportive services to increase competitiveness for residency programs, 4) enhance student personal leadership skills 5) and strengthen students' academic and professional networks.



Summer Medical Research Program

An 8-week program introduces second year medical students to the field of biomedical and clinical research. Participants work with UIC faculty who conduct research focused on Hispanic or other underrepresented groups. Students take part in weekly seminars presented by distinguished faculty on a variety of research topics obtain critical feedback of their work by established investigators. After the program, participants receive support to present their research at local or national conferences.

