

PROGRAM:

U-DOC at University of Washington

OBJECTIVES:

U-DOC is a high school summer enrichment program that seeks to foster, affirm and encourage students' interest in the healthcare professions. It is offered at the University of Washington Seattle and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Objectives include:

1. Provide sophomore and junior high school students an opportunity to explore health care professions.
2. Introduce high school students to the college application process and to campus life. This includes classroom time, study time, assignment deadlines and dormitory living.
3. Provide exposure to pre-med and pre-dentistry curriculum (such as pre-calculus, bio-chemistry, writing, test taking strategies, research techniques and field experience).
4. Provide an opportunity for high school students to explore who they are and how they can achieve their goals and that affirms that they can indeed go to college.
5. Provide a connection to the university's support network, so that it is readily available if they happen to enroll as a college student later.
6. Provide mentorship by health professions, college premed/dent students, program instructors and staff.
7. Connect U-DOC students with community service opportunities that continue career exploration in the medical field, once they have completed the summer program.

LOCATION:

College or University

DESCRIPTION:

Each summer, the UW School of Medicine's Office of Multicultural Affairs offers a unique opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors who are interested in medicine and dentistry to experience health professions. U-DOC is an intensive 3-week summer program provided to 16 high school students who successfully complete the extensive application process.

Since 1994, the U-DOC residential three-week summer enrichment program seeks to foster, affirm, and encourage high school sophomores' and juniors' interest in health careers. Students are exposed to community services, clinical, and academic activities. The program serves to introduce students to college life and health careers. There is no cost to attend the program.

U-DOC is intended for students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (economic, geographic, education) and/or students who are underrepresented in medicine (racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population).

This program is dedicated to eliminating barriers in order that youth can achieve their educational and professional goals.

Students live on campus the duration of the program. Therefore, applicants and their families must be prepared for the responsibility that living independently on a college campus requires.

As of 2003, 527 students have attended U-DOC. 263 of program participants are actively pursuing a college degree, 120 are in pre-med/health professions, and 14 are currently in medical school.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Be a U.S. citizen or hold a permanent resident visa.
- Be a resident of Washington State.
- By June, completed freshman or sophomore year of high school.
- Demonstrate an interest in medicine or dentistry.
- Come from a disadvantaged background (economic, geographic, education) and/or from a background underrepresented in medicine.

Stipends cover housing, travel, and meals. There is no additional cost for attending this program. Daily attendance is mandatory. Students may not hold a summer job or participate in other programs or activities which may conflict with the three week U-DOC summer program.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Each student must submit an Online application by March 1st. U-DOC will only accept paper applications from students who have no access to the internet. Paper applications need to be postmarked by March 1st (Link is under attachments.)
2. Provide a current official high school transcript in a sealed envelope from the school. (Ask your counselor how to obtain one.)
3. Print two (2) completed recommendation forms. Two forms must be completed by a Science Teacher, Academic Advisor, Employer, Volunteer supervisor or Mentor who know the student is hoping to become a health professional (Link is under attachments.)
4. Gather sealed transcripts and recommendation forms into one envelope and mail to the U-DOC office.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

Once a 3-week U-DOC session concludes each summer, planning begins for next summer's U-DOC. It takes a full-year to coordinate a 3-week U-DOC campus exploration experience. What is helpful at the University of Washington, however, is the fact that similar programs are offered by numerous programs and departments each summer. Therefore, a centralized office is available to coordinate these programs and campus structure is in place.

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

- Determine program budget and assign program coordinator
- Determine staffing needs and/or volunteer needs.
 - Write clear job assignments.
- Review staff and/or volunteer recruitment process. Make changes where needed.
- Evaluate program needs (i.e.: facilities, food, supplies).
- Reserve use of facilities needed for the program.
- Review student application process and application announcement process. Make any changes needed.
- Process contracts where applicable (for example: food service).
- Begin announcing program and program application expectations.
- Begin recruiting staff and/or program volunteers.
- Screen all applicants, students, staff and volunteers.
- Select students and begin notification process.
 - There is a high demand for programs like this, along with a shortage of opportunities like this. Therefore, referral to other programs and opportunities are a part of this process.
- Select staff and/or volunteers. Complete paperwork.
- Complete paperwork and orientation process with students.
- Facilities and logistical set-up.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- Student follow-up.
- Complete paperwork for staff, including pay.
- Complete paperwork for volunteers, including thank you letter and confirmation of service.
- Bills.
- Reports.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Staff for planning and implementation.
2. College and high school staff providing event support.
3. U-DOC advertising and application processing.
4. Event facilities and maintenance fees.
5. Event meals and supplies.
6. Travel for students.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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ATTACHMENTS:

U-DOC 2009 Calendar Grid (pdf provided):

<http://depts.washington.edu/omca/leadership/UDOC2009Sch.pdf>