



**MED SCI
AMBASSADORS:
RECRUITMENT
FAST FACTS**

CLASS OF 2019:

- **AVERAGE COMPOSITE ACT SCORE: 31**
- **AVERAGE TOTAL SAT SCORE: 1401**
- **PERCENT ACCEPTED INTO UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM: 66%**
- **PERCENT RECEIVING CININNATUS SCHOLARSHIPS: 61%**
- **REPRESENTING 24 CITIES, 4 STATES, AND 2 COUNTRIES**
- **61% FEMALE/39% MALE**

CLASS OF 2020:

- **AVERAGE COMPOSITE ACT SCORE: 31**
- **AVERAGE TOTAL SAT SCORE: 1379**
- **PERCENT ACCEPTED INTO UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM: 34%**
- **PERCENT RECEIVING CININNATUS SCHOLARSHIPS: 52%**
- **10 LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME: CHINESE, ENGLISH, HINDI...**
- **52% FEMALE/48% MALE**



Welcome, Class of 2020! The Undergraduate Program in Medical Sciences welcomed its second class of major students at the University of Cincinnati's New Student Convocation and College Day 2016 on August 19th.

**What a Start!
Medical Sciences 2016-2017**

The Undergraduate Program in Medical Sciences kicked off the 2016-2017 academic year in extraordinary fashion by welcoming the Class of 2020 at College Day 2016 on August 19th. Approximately 71 students, hailing from across Ohio in addition to Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Oregon, joined the #MedSciFam in the program's second class of major students, with multiple students from both UC and other universities transferring into the program in order to take advantage of the unparalleled academic and experiential learning opportunities. In the nine short weeks since this ceremonious welcome, the Undergraduate Program in Medical Sciences has already hosted two program-wide seminars, matched the new major students with both their medical student and undergraduate student mentors, organized a trip to Scottsville, Kentucky to continue the Medical Sciences tradition of dedicating a weekend to service of the campers of The Center for Courageous Kids, and hosted a fun-filled evening of Graeter's Ice Cream and *Zootopia*. Here's to finishing off the remainder of the fall semester in true #MedSci fashion!

Shadowing Abroad in Thailand: Witnessing Medical Marvels on the Trip of a Lifetime



Justin Dunham
Medical Sciences Major
Class of 2019

Having been out of the country once before, I knew how exciting and amazing traveling abroad could be. So, when the opportunity to visit Thailand to shadow in a local hospital and do some sightseeing presented itself, I took it. Through a program called Gap Medics, I was able to shadow physicians in a variety of different specialties for two weeks with other students from around the world. I shadowed at Buddhachinaraj regional hospital located in the small city of Phitsanulok. During these two weeks, I spent most of my time in the operating room—shadowing often in both general surgery and orthopedics. I was also able to see many other specialties, and every morning, I observed rounds in the various patient wards.

It is difficult to describe how amazing this experience turned out to be. I was blown away by the generosity and kindness of both the physicians I was shadowing and the medical students who were frequently watching along with me. Each day, the physicians would take the time to explain what was going on and why. Even in the operating room, the surgeons would always make sure I understood what it was they were doing, providing me with a front row seat to the medical marvels taking place. The two weeks I spent at Buddhachinaraj hospital were absolutely amazing; I saw so much more than I could have ever hoped for.

After each day of shadowing, the Gap Medics staff would plan small afternoon trips to local markets, temples, and neighboring towns for my cohort and me to enjoy. This allowed me to see much more of Thailand than I would have otherwise, especially the most rural areas of the country. Three times a week, a local pharmacist would come and talk about the various public health issues facing Thailand and the ways in which the country was dealing with them. I was blown away by the similarity of Thailand's public health problems to those we face in the United States. Following my time in Phitsanulok, I spent a week touring in cities such as Chiang Mai and Bangkok. My experience in Thailand was amazing, and I would strongly recommend Gap Medics to anyone interested shadowing abroad.



Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program: Preparing the Next Generation of Biomedical Investigators



Missy MacDonald & Nora Lakes
 Medical Sciences Major
 Class of 2019

This summer, thirteen Medical Sciences students participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. SURF is a summer program through Cincinnati Children’s and UC College of Medicine designed for undergraduates to gain laboratory and professional experience. Students work forty hours per week for ten weeks performing research in areas such as cancer, cardiology, neurology, immunobiology, and developmental biology. SURF is unique in that participating students could take part in workshops that focused on areas such as scientific writing, ethics in research, and bioinformatics. They also had the opportunity to attend seminars led by various departments within CCHMC, eat lunch with current doctoral candidates, and attend barbecues and ice cream socials with other SURF students hailing from undergraduate institutions across and beyond the United States. At the end of the summer, students presented their research at the College of Medicine’s annual Capstone Poster Symposium. This year, the symposium’s keynote speaker was Marc E. Rothenberg, MD, PhD. Dr. Rothenberg spoke about the importance of undergraduate involvement in the lab in order to ensure that future scientists are ready to solve the world’s upcoming problems. Medical Sciences students Akshar Kathula, Missy MacDonald, and Mohamed Elzarka all received awards at the SURF Capstone Poster Symposium. Congratulations!



Why Not UC?: Finding A Home in the Biomedical Research Laboratory



Lauren Styczynski
Medical Sciences Major
Class of 2020

As my freshman year begins to pick up and I meet more people, one big topic of interest is “why did you pick UC?” Students will often ask other students in a frenzy of awkwardness and icebreaker activities, but I was asked this before I even moved in. Whenever I would have a conversation and they asked where I was going to school, and when I told them that I was going to the University of Cincinnati, they would always ask me: “Why?” Since I’m from the Cincinnati area, I would generally hear something along the lines of “I’m not going to UC because it’s too close” or really any other statement regarding distance, or about how great “School Z” is where seemingly the majority of my high school class was going. No one seemed to understand why I picked UC.

Within the MedSci world, choosing UC is a no-brainer. The fact that MedSci is a small program filled to the brim with beaming, passionate students really drew me in. But, before I really knew that MedSci existed, I was still someone that put UC at the forefront of my brain. Prior to even beginning my Common Application to the university, I decided to get my feet wet in the world of research. I knew I was somewhat interested in doing research as a career path, so I joined a lab as a volunteer. I had decided it would be ideal to begin to figure out some of my passions before I even began my undergraduate education, potentially wasting money in an academic program that would lead me to a career I could care less about. But wow, I was in for a loop. Never did I think that I would love research so much. The environment is quiet, academic, serious... but also a lot of fun. I’ve learned that science isn’t all good times, and you can tell when someone’s day goes poorly by the way they storm out of the room, because one experiment didn’t go a specific way it was expected to. I thrive off of the passion and the energy that my fellow researchers have for science. I love the family aspect the lab has given me – when I’ve had a bad day, the grad students are ready to talk it out with me or even offer up some pretty worthwhile advice.

Even though the lab wasn’t my only reason for UC, it did play a very big role. Now when people ask me: “Why UC?” I respond with “Why not UC?: I’ve found a home in a lab.”



MEET OUR STUDENTS! HUMANS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES



SO...WHO ACTUALLY MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER?

MEDCAT JR.
MEDICAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

Interested in joining the MedCat Jr. team?



Hi! I'm Minh, and I LOVE the MedCat Jr. Join us!

Contact Scottie Emmert at emmertas@mail.uc.edu

Meet the MedCats!



Scottie Emmert, '19



Missy MacDonald, '19



Nora Lakes, '19



Justin Dunham, '19



Paul Murdock, '19



Lauren Styczynski, '20



Fan Tianhui, '20



Minh Nguyen, '19