

Enrichment Programs: Frequently Asked Questions

What are enrichment programs and why should I take them?

Enrichment programs are non-curricular, student-directed activities offered to UT southwestern students who wish to enhance their medical education beyond the confines of the traditional curriculum. The programs, which cover a wide array of topics, and often offer a unique perspective on the healthcare field, do not earn credit hours. **Completion of enrichment programs are never required during any phase of the curriculum or for graduation.** They are not part of the medical educational curriculum and students completing them do not receive academic credits. Rather, they are the products of interested students under the guidance of a voluntary faculty advisor.

Although not for academic credit, students will receive transcript acknowledgement for all enrichment programs completed. Many hours are spent preparing the programs for the benefit of students who wish to enhance their medical education and enrollment is limited. **Therefore, out of respect for others, students are expected to attend classes when they sign up.**

How do I register for an enrichment program?

When programs are open and available for registration, an email will be sent to students along with instructions about how to register for a course. Course descriptions can be reviewed at: https://d2l.utsouthwestern.edu/d2l/lms/faq/view_external_Faq.d2l?ou=6606

What's the time commitment for a typical enrichment program?

To be recognized as having completed an enrichment program, the student must complete 10 hours of participation. All offerings provide a minimum of 10 hours of participation time, with most around 12 hours. However, programs may vary in organization. For example, some programs meet for 6 sessions, each lasting ~2 hours; others for 10-12 sessions lasting one hour in duration. In addition, some courses are offered for one semester, while others are year-long commitments.

If I am enrolled in a program, but I don't finish it... will I be penalized?

No, participation is completely voluntary. Upon completion of the program, the Committee will submit your name to the Office of Enrollment Services for transcript acknowledgment. If you do not complete the required numbers of hours, your name will never reach the Office of Enrollment Services. There are no penalties; the course will **not** show up on your transcript.

However, for classes with waiting lists or a cap on enrollment, it is strongly encouraged that students only sign up if they feel confident they will be able to complete the course so they do not take away a spot from a student who would be able to fulfill the commitment.

What if I can't attend one or more sessions?

You will be marked absent, and you will not receive credit for attending that session.

Will I receive a grade when I complete the program?

These activities are not graded, and they do not receive academic credit hours. The transcript acknowledgement only verifies participation and completion of the program. If you do not meet requirements, it is not a failure and there will be no designation on your transcript.

What is a student representative?

The student representative works closely with the faculty sponsor/advisor in the facilitation and implementation of the enrichment program. Typically, a student who has already taken the course is chosen for established programs. Students or faculty may initiate proposals for new enrichment activities. The creation of a new offering requires establishment of a faculty/student partnership based on a shared interest in the topic(s) to be addressed, and review and approval by the enrichment program committee.

Who do I contact for more information about enrichment activities?

Contact members of the Enrichment Program Committee.

Enrichment Program CommitteeStudent committee member(s):

MS2026 Representatives:

- Armando Tellez Vasquez: Armando.TellezVazquez@UTSouthwestern.edu
- Alyssa Low: Alyssa.Low@UTSouthwestern.edu

MS2027 Representatives:

- Prashanth Gowda: Prashanth.Gowda@UTSouthwestern.edu
- Georgia Zepeda: Georgia.Zepeda@UTSouthwestern.edu

Faculty committee member(s):

- Dan Sepdham, M. D.: Dan.Sepdham@UTSouthwestern.edu

Enrichment Program Coordinator(s):

- Betty R. Shaw: Betty.Shaw@utsouthwestern.edu
- Deidra West: Deirdra.West@utsouthwestern.edu
- La Trelle Cambridge: Latreille.Cambridge@utsouthwestern.edu

If you are interested in creating an enrichment program, please see instructions regarding starting a new Pre-clinical Program. You may also contact an Enrichment Program Committee member for more information.