



Office of Health Career Pathways

The UCSF Fresno Office of Health Career Pathways, established in 2022, builds on more than 35 years of programs that support student success and exploration of research and health careers. UCSF Fresno has trained physicians through its School of Medicine Regional Campus since 1975.

Mission

Improving health by nurturing and supporting health pathway students in the San Joaquin Valley

UCSF Fresno Doctors Academy (DA)

The Doctors Academy operates in partnership with local school districts to support students interested in health careers—especially those who will be the first in their families to attend college. DA is offered at Sunnyside High School (Fresno Unified School District) and Caruthers High School (Caruthers Unified School District). Students gain college preparation, mentoring, and career exploration opportunities to launch their path in healthcare.

See website for eligibility. | Applications open October 1 – December 1.

Visit: <https://doctorsacademy.ucsf.edu/>

UCSF Fresno Junior Doctors Academy (JDA)

The Junior Doctors Academy engages students early in their journey toward health careers through hands-on activities, academic support, and college visits. JDA is offered at Kings Canyon, Sequoia, and Terronez Middle Schools (Fresno Unified School District) and Caruthers Elementary School (Caruthers Unified School District). The program inspires students to see themselves as future health professionals while building skills and confidence for success.

See website for eligibility. | Applications open February 1 – April 1.

Visit: <https://doctorsacademy.ucsf.edu/>

CMSP SJV-MedBridge

The CMSP SJV-MedBridge program serves as a regional hub for the California Medicine Scholars Program, dedicated to supporting aspiring medical professionals in the San Joaquin Valley. Focused on enhancing access to medical workshops and streamlining the transfer process from community colleges to four-year institutions, CMSP SJV-MedBridge is committed to helping community college students with an interest in medicine. The program provides valuable networking opportunities with premedical experts and fosters a collaborative, community-oriented environment for those passionate about pursuing careers in medicine.



Visit: <https://sjvmedbridge.ucsf.edu/sjv-medbridge>

Contact: Fresno-SJVMedBridge@ucsf.edu

UCSF Fresno (SJV) Mentoring to Medicine Program

The UCSF Fresno San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Mentoring to Medicine Program, led by the Office of Health Career Pathways (OHCP), is designed to support the development of aspiring health professionals who have roots in the San Joaquin Valley through mentorship and meaningful community engagement. Currently, this program is only open to individuals who have completed the full 4-year Doctors Academy program (Caruthers, Selma, or Sunnyside High School graduates) or have actively participated in the SJV-MedBridge Program (California Medicine Scholars Program).



Visit: <https://sjvmedbridge.ucsf.edu/>

Raices (Roots) in the SJV (San Joaquin Valley)

Raices in the SJV is a grant-funded initiative by the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative Project, designed to enhance educational and technical support in health pathways. Drawing on 25 years of experience, strong partnerships, and best practices, it aims to boost the healthcare workforce's supply, diversity, and distribution. By addressing Social Determinants of Health—such as poverty, housing insecurity, limited access to higher education, and psychosocial challenges—it supports young people in the Central San Joaquin Valley in pursuing careers in healthcare.

Visit: <https://raices.ucsf.edu/>

UCSF Fresno Mini-Med School

Mini-Med School is a hybrid public lecture series that provides an opportunity to learn about local trends in medicine and health sciences from faculty at UCSF Fresno. Mini-Med School is open to high school and college students, as well as community members.

Visit: <https://fresno.ucsf.edu/events/2025-mini-med-school>

UCSF Fresno Reaching Out to Aspiring Doctors (ROAD) Conference

The Reaching Out to Aspiring Doctors (ROAD) Conference is an annual spring event that equips students with the information, resources, skills, and networking opportunities they need to achieve their educational goals, with the broader aim of encouraging them to return to the Valley to provide culturally responsive care. Over the past year, we have expanded our offerings to also support pre-health educators in the Valley who are committed to uplifting premedical students. This two-day conference brings together pre-health educators, partners, and pre-medical students from high schools, community colleges and universities across the San Joaquin Valley. Post-baccalaureate students from the Valley preparing to apply to medical school are also invited to attend.



Visit: <https://sjvpremed.ucsf.edu/road>

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid equips you with the knowledge and skills to identify, understand, and respond to mental health and substance use challenges in adolescents aged 12-18. You will gain the confidence and abilities needed to provide initial support to young people who are struggling and to help connect them with the appropriate resources. UCSF Fresno trainers are available to schedule. Costs may be applied for seat cost and certification. To request a Mental Health First Aid overview or certification training for your department/unit:

Visit: <https://sjvpremed.ucsf.edu/YMHFA>



SJV PRIME+ | BS to MD Pathway

The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) PRIME + BS/MD program opportunity is an 8-year educational pathway partnership between UC Merced, UCSF Fresno, and UCSF. This critical pathway will educate and support the SJV's future physicians in advancing health equity and the health of communities in the SJV. SJV PRIME+ is a 15-student cohort workforce development model for newly incoming, first-time freshman to become a doctor for the San Joaquin Valley of California. An SJV PRIME+ scholar completing this medical education pathway receives their medical degree (MD) from UCSF School of Medicine, after obtaining a Bachelor of Science from UC Merced and finishing medical training at UCSF Fresno. Students must apply during the Fall of their senior year of high school.



Visit: <https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/SJVP-BStoMD>

UCSF Fresno Summer Biomedical Internship

The Summer Biomedical Internship Program was established in 1988 to provide a quality biomedical research experience for high school students—the first of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley. The program matches high school students in the summer between their junior and senior year of high school with faculty members who have or are developing a research project. Over the last 30 years, over three hundred students have participated in the SBI program and many of them are finishing their medical residencies, are working in the biomedicine or bio-technical industries, or are in medical school or doctorate programs at various universities. Students must meet eligibility requirements to apply.



Visit: <https://fresno.ucsf.edu/summer-biomedical-internship-program>

UCSF Fresno Pre-Medical Surgical Internship

This seven-month program prepares pre-medical students from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged backgrounds for medical school. Interns gain hands-on experience with UCSF Fresno's Surgery Department and the Central Valley's underserved patient population. The program builds skills in networking, professionalism, communication, time management, personal statements, and interviewing, and includes one year of Kaplan MCAT prep. Students also develop mentorship connections to support their medical school journey.



Visit: <https://fresno.ucsf.edu/intentional-recruitment-coalition/internship>

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UCSF LCOE Aspiring Physician Program (APP) Fresno State

The UCSF Latinx Center of Excellence's Aspiring Physicians Program (APP) is an intensive summer program where selected college students participate in medical school preparatory workshops, collaborate with local community based organizations to create research-driven fact sheets, engage in intensive health policy workshops, introductory MCAT preparation, and partake in mentorship aimed at building their exposure, access and confidence in attaining a career in medicine. Applicants must be students at Fresno State or UC Merced. All students selected will receive a \$3,000 stipend during the summer program. The academic year provides mentorship activities, professional development seminars, and medical school readiness workshops. Students must meet eligibility requirements to apply.

Visit: <https://latinx.ucsf.edu/lcoe-app-fresno-state>

UCSF Fresno Academic Research Associates

The Academic Research Associates (ARA) Program offers premedical undergraduate students a unique opportunity to observe clinical medicine and participate in biomedical research. The program takes place within the UCSF Fresno Departments of Emergency Medicine and Surgery at Community Regional Medical Center. Participants may join the program through Fresno State as an elective course. Students must meet eligibility requirements to apply.

Visit: <https://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/emresearch/ara/>

Fresno County Health Youth Corps

The Health Youth Corps, launched in 2019 by UCSF Fresno, Fresno County Public Health, and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, empowers historically marginalized youth to be health champions in their communities. Students learn about social determinants of health, develop advocacy skills, and gain positive life experiences. Over two semesters, teams of high school students from across the county explore health and mental health topics, build resilience, and create community health projects. They present their work at an annual showcase for local leaders and can mentor the next cohort of students.



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UCSF does not use race, gender, sex, or other protected categories or proxies for protected categories in the selection process of any programming affiliated with this project.