BACKGROUND
The goal of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) is to recruit and provide special support to disadvantaged high school and college students from Hawai‘i and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands to enter and graduate from health and allied health professions schools, and return to serve their home communities. Since 2002, 375 students have participated in the program. Participants have obtained degrees in medicine, medical assisting, medical technology, nursing, public health, speech pathology and audiology, and social work. The success of the program is a result of the collaborative efforts of educational, community, and health organizations to build a seamless health careers pathway.

"Before my HCOP experience I had little knowledge of what life at a University was like and what career path to take. Through HCOP I was able to realize my self-potential and forge lifelong relationships with individuals who share common interests. It was through HCOP that I realized that my goal to become a health care provider was attainable."
-Scott Serrano, UH-Mānoa, third-year medical student (HCOP College 2005)

Explore your health career options, contact us:

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"Building a diverse health care workforce and a healthy community."

Cindy Tà with her parents on her graduation from UH John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
What is HCOP?

HCOP provides an educational pathway to health careers at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC), and Leeward Community College (LCC). High school students explore various health career fields and learn about college entrance requirements and campus life through a summer residential program. College students receive academic advising, individualized counseling and other support services as they pursue and complete their health degree programs.

SUMMER HEALTH CAREERS & COLLEGE ENRICHMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Participate in an intensive summer enrichment and residential program focusing on critical thinking, writing, and communication skills.
- Utilize the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) method to study about various health care professions and issues.
- Explore health careers through community and health center tours, and interaction with health professionals and students.
- Learn healthy lifestyle behaviors through guest speakers’ presentations and health and wellness activities.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE:

- Academic advising.
- Career exploration, personal counseling, and financial aid information.
- Study skills enhancement, preparation for health related college majors.
- Opportunities to shadow and be mentored by health care professionals.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any U.S. citizen, U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islander, or resident alien who is interested in a health career and meets both of the following criteria:

- Any high school student attending a Hawai‘i public school or any college student who is attending UH-Manoa, Leeward, or Kapiolani. Priority is given to, but not limited, to students or graduates from Farrington, Nanakuli, Wa‘anae, or Waipahu high schools.
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA.