

On Wednesday, September 30th, we hosted a chat for prospective and current applicants. Present at the chat were:

- PRITZKERSylvia: Sylvia Robertson, Assistant Dean of Admissions/Financial Aid
- PRITZKERDavid: David Owen, Director of Admissions/Financial Aid
- PRITZKERJoni: Joni Krapec, Director of Admissions and Outreach
- PRITZKERBen: Ben, a current MD/PhD student
- PRITZKERMary: Mary, a current MSIV
- PRITZKERCooper: Cooper, a current MSII
- PRITZKERSophie: Sophie, a current MSII

Message
(PRITZKERJoni): Welcome to the Chat! We are eager to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to jump right in! If you see your question "fall off" the screen just ask it again!
wmartanto: Hi all, I am an applicant from Portland, Oregon.
(PRITZKERJoni): Hi wmartanto! Welcome to the chat! How's things in Portland?
(PritzkerDavid): Hi all, I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West
(PRITZKERSophie): Hi, I'm Sophie. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for our entering class. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Duke University.
(PRITZKERBen): Howdy wmartanto.
(PRITZKERMary): Hi wmartanto! I'm a fourth-year student from Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
(PRITZKERBen): Howdy Bkausen.
(PritzkerDavid): Hi wmartanto
(PRITZKERMary): What's up guys?
wmartanto: thanks for all the welcome :)
wmartanto: PRITZKERJoni: Portland is nice..it's cloudy today :)
(PRITZKERJoni): We're a welcoming people :-)
(PRITZKERJoni): We actually have tons of sun here today!
(PRITZKERJoni): Do you have any questions we can help with?
(PRITZKERBen): I hear it's snowing in Utah today...
wmartanto: haha...that's nice :)
(PRITZKERMary): hello bsolomon00!
bsolomon00: hi
(PRITZKERSophie): if any of you have any questions for us, we'd be happy to answer them! :)
(PRITZKERSophie): Hi bsolomon00! how are you?
(PRITZKERJoni): I am a Director of Admissions and Outreach. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Northeast and South.

(PritzkerDavid): I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West

wmartanto: I was wondering what the typical percentage of an incoming class with non-traditional background (few years of employment after school)

(PRITZKERMary): Generally it's 40-60% depending on how you define nontraditional. I'm a nontrad myself and would be happy to answer any other questions about it.

wmartanto: Thanks Mary for the information. I was referring to couple years of work after school.

(PRITZKERMary): Then, yes... that would count. There are lots of people who worked say 2-5 years and a few of us who were out a bit longer than that.

wmartanto: cool :)

(PRITZKERJoni): What are you up to now wmartanto?

(PRITZKERBen): Lots o' people with additional degrees after college as well, not necessarily related to medicine.

bsolomon00: Do you think there is any disadvantage in going to medical school immediately after graduating college?

wmartanto: I currently work at Intel Corporation

wmartanto: Ben, that's good to hear

(PRITZKERMary): I don't think it's a disadvantage per se... if you are with it enough to know that this is what you want to do, then I don't think waiting just for the sake of waiting would be beneficial.

(PRITZKERCooper): I agree with Mary. Don't wait just to wait. But if there's something you want to do outside of school, this may be the one time to do it.

(PRITZKERBen): I'm a traditional student and I think there are plusses and minuses for each.

bsolomon00: Do you regret being a traditional student, Ben?

(PRITZKERBen): Some of the life experiences my fellow students had were enviable, but it was nice not to have lost the sense of the pace of school.

(PRITZKERJoni): Welcome to the Chat everyone!! Feel free to jump in with your questions!

(PRITZKERBen): Overall, no, no regrets. :)

bsolomon00: That's good to hear.

(PRITZKERMary): Hey new peeps! I'm a fourth-year student from Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

wmartanto: Hi Mary, for all the current Pritzker students: how is life/study balance there?

(PRITZKERCooper): Hi, I'm Cooper. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for the entering class. I am originally from Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University.

elementKr: Hello everyone, thank you for hosting this chat event

(PRITZKERBen): Hey element.

(PRITZKERJoni): Hi element! Our pleasure! Let us know if you have questions!

elementKr: I do have a question about admissions.

rachaelms: Hello All-- I have a question about the Pritzker's focus on diversity. How do you all, as representatives of Pritzker, interpret this statement and how does it tie into your experience with the Pritzker community?

(PRITZKERJoni): wmartanto--our students are furiously typing responses to you

(PritzkerDavid): you are welcome Element

(PRITZKERBen): Go for it, element!

wmartanto: Thanks Joni.

(PRITZKERSophie): Wmartanto, I would say that it is very easy to balance studying and life outside of academics...

(PRITZKERMary): wmartanto: I think it's pretty decent (for med school). That is to say you'll work your tail off and it's a struggle sometimes but you can definitely make time for the things that are most important to you.

elementKr: Given that Pritzker does rolling admissions, how "late" is too late to submit the secondary.

(PRITZKERSophie): We certainly have enough time to explore the city, participate in extracurriculars, hang out with classmates, see family members, etc. No worries there

wmartanto: Sophie & Mary: thank you for the insights.

(PRITZKERSophie): It really comes down to time management, just like any other stage of life :)

(PRITZKERJoni): Rachael, we define diversity very broadly---academic background, life experiences, age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc. We feel that our students learn so much from each other--it's great to have a lot of perspectives represented.

(PRITZKERBen): One of the things that consistently impresses me most about Pritzker students is their ability to continue their life passions during med school. Totally not what I expected.

elementKr: I agree

bsolomon00: Going along with the life/study question, how is it living in Chicago? I hear it's cold.

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Element, we are furiously reading applications now. Our AMCAS application deadline is midnight, Eastern Standard Time, October 15th. In order to have all the elements of an application (verified AMCAS application, secondary application, and letters of evaluation) included for review, they must be submitted or post-marked by midnight, Central Standard Time, December 1st. All applications will be read and considered even if elements are not submitted. However, applications missing either the letters of evaluation or secondary application, or unverified AMCAS applications are at a significant disadvantage. Moreover, being early in the application process is advantageous since we operate using rolling admissions. Please also be aware that web sites may be heavily trafficked and

(PRITZKERBen): Agreed with Sophie: You make time, and you prioritize.

(PRITZKERMary): Chicago is great! Love it here.

(PRITZKERBen): Not too cold...has been 60s/70s for the past several weeks.

(PRITZKERBen): Actually quite nice.

wmartanto: Good to hear that Ben,

(PRITZKERJoni): bsolomon--the four seasons are wonderful!! Yes, winter gets cold, but

summer is HOT and most people don't know that :-)

rachaelms: I curious about this partially because I have a long-term partner and I would like to end up in an environment that will be most comfortable for the two of us.

(PRITZKERSophie): Bsolomon00: I love Chicago! Granted I was raised here, and came back to the area for med school, but it is truly a diverse, large city with a small city feel

rachaelms: Pritzker does offer domestic partner benefits, right?

(PRITZKERJoni): Rachael, yes, we do

(PRITZKERCooper): of course it's cold in the winter. but the spring/summer/fall on the lake definitely make up for it. Also, because of the winters, Chicagoans know how to celebrate warmth. There are always neighborhood block parties around the city, almost every weekend

(PritzkerDavid): may slow down. That said, if you apply now your can make up time if you attend to your secondary right away--we automatically send secondary's to applicants.

NJacks85: Hey everyone! Â I had an admissions question. Â I am currently on Hold for re-review in December. Â I was wondering what the likelihood was of being invited for an interview once placed on Hold.

(PRITZKERJoni): NJack, it's definitely possible!! We encourage applicants who are placed on hold to send us any updates that they have had since the time of their application. We start re-reviewing hold applicants in November/December.

elementKr: I feel the essays are especially important to the Admissions Committee at Pritzker, so I figured that if I spent more time putting together a polished response, then it would benefit me more than submitting it earlier. What would you say?

NJacks85: Thanks!!

(PRITZKERJoni): Element, I would say that depends and needs to be within reason...

(PRITZKERJoni): for example...waiting until Dec 1st puts you at a big disadvantage because most of our interview slots would be offered already..

elementKr: Right

(PRITZKERJoni): so I would try to go for the next 2 weeks to give yourself the best shot. Obviously we don't want huge typos but there are only so many interview slots you know?

elementKr: I understand

rachaelms: Are there any students in the chatroom? Has anyone in the chat participated in the summer research program between their first and second year? What research opportunities await future Pritzker students?

(PRITZKERJoni): Yes there are students here Rachael--4 of them! They'll be responding!

(PritzkerDavid): I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West

Bkausen: Hello all!

(PRITZKERCooper): Hi, I'm Cooper. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for the entering class. I am originally from Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University.

<p>elementKr: How would you describe a typical student in this year's entering class?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERSophie): Hi, I'm Sophie. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for our entering class. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Duke University.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): NJacks, check out this link for a more thorough discussion: http://pritzkerpodcast.com/2007/12/12/8-listener-questions-part-1/</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Hi Rachel! I'm a fourth-year student from Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I did summer research and it was an awesome experience.</p>
<p>Chicano85: Hello everybody! Thanks for this opportunity</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Your research opportunities here are really limited only by your imagination.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERJoni): Element....so there isn't really a "typical student" or a model that we're looking for. We look at...</p>
<p>(PRITZKERSophie): Rachael, I'll answer your question about the summer research program</p>
<p>Chicano85: I was wondering if you tell me a bit about the community initiatives Pritzker is involved with?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): Hello everyone who just came in!</p>
<p>(PRITZKERJoni): academic strength, motivation for medicine, intellectual curiosity, other-orientation, experience with diverse populations, etc.</p>
<p>NJacks85: Thanks! I'll check out the link after the chat</p>
<p>Bkausen:</p> <p>Thanks for hosting this chat. I am hoping to get more of a feel for the student body and how you guys work together. Would you say that the Pritzker student body works together to manage the workload?</p>
<p>rachaelms: Thanks. What are some of the exciting research projects taking place? I'd love to know more about any particular areas that have made a name for the school...</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Chicano85: Students are REALLY involved in community service here. There are countless ways to get involved, from free clinics to school-based health programs to mental health or AIDS awareness groups. You can check out the many student groups and organizations at http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/organizations/orgs.shtml</p>
<p>Chicano85: Thank you</p>
<p>Chicano85: Seems like you have a lot of organizations!</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Rachael -- there's so much going on that your question is really hard to answer. What particular areas of research are you interested in?</p> <p>(PRITZKERSophie): Research: I participated in the summer research program (SRP) this past summer and had a wonderful experience. It is a great opportunity to make connections and form friendships with faculty members here, as well as get involved in all types of research. personally, i love clinical research, so I did my project with the ENT department, but many of my classmates did bench research, translational research, ethical research, and community projects.</p>

(PRITZKERBen): BKausen...
Bkausen: Hi ben
(PRITZKERJoni): Hi Rachael, we do a LOT of research here so there is a lot that our students are engaged with, and that our faculty are working on. As a part of the main university of Chicago there is a lot of interdisciplinary work as well!
(PritzkerDavid): elementkr, they are a pretty enthusiastic, bright and deeply committed lot. They have all identified something really important in their life, along with medicine, and pursued it with energy. They are mature, insightful, caring and team players. They are great!
(PRITZKERCooper): Also, this summer we had the first year of the Summer Service Partnership. A program in which medical students partnered up with local high school students to design, implement, and plan for the sustainability of a community enrichment program in their community
(PRITZKERBen): Absolutely. People here are extremely collaborative. Study groups, review sessions, etc. going on all the time. Literally.
rachaelms: Well my background is in physics so many of my interests are physics-related--oncology, rad. onc., nuclear medicine
(PRITZKERJoni): Rachael, the summer research program project guide is at: http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/SRP_Guide.pdf It's not all-inclusive of the work that goes on here, but it can give you some ideas!
(PRITZKERBen): Rachael, there are active Medical Physics and Rad-Onc departments here...tons of research.
rachaelms: Well that's helpful.
(PRITZKERMary): Ah, well I would be the wrong person to ask about those areas, but I know several people working in rad-onc and on medical imaging projects.
snsanders: How much emphasis is the admissions committee on INTEREST in research? I was involved in research for two years, but I found out it's not where my heart is.
rachaelms: Yes and I saw that there is a cancer biology elective too
Bkausen: Good to hear. I have also participated in and love doing medical missions and such abroad. Does Pritzker offer any programs to aid populations in third world/developing countries?
(PRITZKERJoni): Bkausen: Many students will go abroad. The Remedy student group has a trip each year to take medical supplies to a Caribbean country. Students will also do clinical or research experiences abroad in their first summer, during 4th year elective time, pursue the Global Health Track in Scholarship and Discovery, and/or take a year leave to do so: http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/international.shtml . University-wide international opportunities are organized under the Global Health Initiative: http://news.uchicago.edu/features/liberia2.php
(PRITZKERCooper): for all of those out there who are scared off by all this research talk.....I have not and will not be doing research during my time at Pritzker. But I am still very active in the Pritzker community
(PRITZKERBen): Yes, there is Rachael...cancer research is HUGE here. Many summer opportunities as well.
(PRITZKERSophie): Rachael, actually a classmate of mine took the cancer biology elective last spring and loved it. Its a graduate course offered outside of the medical school, and a great opportunity to learn alongside some of the PhD students here at the U of C.

(PRITZKERCooper): and I do not feel that a lack of research interest puts you at a disadvantage here
(PritzkerDavid): snsanders, we really value the qualities that research tends to foster--creativity, diligence, strong analytic skills...
Chicano85: Is anybody pursuing an MPH degree as well as an MD?
snsanders: Fantastic, thanks Cooper!
snsanders: And David**
elementKr: For the medical students, how well are you able to balance your studies with other activities?
(PRITZKERJoni): Chicano--we don't have a school of public health here...
(PRITZKERCooper): For starters, I just signed up to captain the Pritzker Bowling IM team
(PRITZKERCooper): on top of path and pharm studying
(PritzkerDavid): sanders, so about 20% of our class each matriculates without having done research, and a portion graduates without having done research here. But they all honed those skills.
(PRITZKERJoni): but in each graduating class there are always a couple students who have done an MD/MPH--they take a leave of absence to do so. One of our students is at Emory right now doing his MPH, and we've had students at Hopkins, Columbia, etc.--wherever you choose to go!
(PRITZKERMary): elementKr: Balance is very possible to achieve here. You can make the time to do the things that are most important to you.
(PRITZKERCooper): so balance is what you make it
(PRITZKERSophie): element, I would say that the vast majority of people here at Pritzker are incredibly well balanced and are involved in many other extracurricular and community activities
Chicano85: Would it be possible to pursue an MPH at another institution after your 3rd year?
uma_v06: Hi, my name is Uma. I'm from New York and have never been to Chicago. Can you tell me what it's like and what the campus is like?
(PRITZKERMary): Hi Uma!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Sylvia is our Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
elementKr: Excellent :)
(PRITZKERJoni): Chicano--yep--I think we were typing at the same time--did you see my answer about away stuff?
(PRITZKERMary): Chicago has a lot of the perks of a big city with a small town feel at the same time.
uma_v06: Hi Mary! Nice to meet you! Thank you guys for doing this..it's great !
(PRITZKERCooper): Hi Uma, Chicago is an amazing city, vibrant community scenes, great music opportunities
(PRITZKERSylvia): Hi Uma, Chicago is an amazing, wonderful city, made up of very special, unique neighborhoods
(PRITZKERMary): Hyde Park is a great place to live and the campus is just lovely.

rachaelms: Yes, it all sounds very fascinating. I worked in a physics research lab for two years as an undergraduate student, so I'm hoping that the summer research program will be a nice way to transition to clinical research. Thanks for the information everyone.

(PRITZKERBen): Chicano: UIC has an excellent program...a girl who I work with in clinical research is studying there currently between 3rd/4th years.

elementKr: Hi Sylvia, are there any scholarships available or other financial aid resources?

snsanders: For the medical students, can you describe how the first two years of lecture consist of? Are you spending time in a classroom with small group discussions on the side? Or is it very group-orientated? If I remember correctly, Pritzker dropped grades so it would favor a more cooperative atmosphere. How has that affected the learning experience?

(PRITZKERSylvia): Everyone keep your fingers crossed that we get the Olympic bid and then come here for medical school to celebrate with us -- the main arena will be right next to us

(PRITZKERJoni): Uma--the campus is gorgeous--we're a part of the undergrad campus and it has a very close-knit feel to it--great gothic architecture and beautiful landscaping!

Chicano85: Thanks Joni I just saw your answer!

(PRITZKERJoni): During the first two years of medical school, along with Clinical Skills, we aim to teach the Scientific Foundations of Medicine. Updates to this curriculum have focused on several principles: to temper the number of lectures with small group discussions and relevant clinical case presentations; to reduce redundancy in lectures among courses; and to promote student self-learning. In addition, courses on related themes and approaches will be integrated as far as possible: Cells and Molecules; Tissue Biology; Response to Injury; and Neurobiology, each to occur in one of four quarters. Our current MSI schedule is found on the Pritzker website at <http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/md/curriculum/calendar.shtml>

Bkausen: How far is Pritzker located from Downtown ?

(PRITZKERSylvia): Yes, ElementKR we have a robust need based and merit scholarship program and just as important we help our students learn to manage their finances well

uma_v06: Thanks for your input. I really hope I get to at least interview there!

(PRITZKERBen): It definitely is, Rachael. Lots of translational research going on. This is a major national center for translational studies.

(PRITZKERSophie): Chicago is a large city, just like New York City. Hyde Park as a neighborhood itself is a bit set apart from the downtown area so it has a nice suburban feel within a larger busy urban area

(PRITZKERJoni): Bkausen--about 5-7 miles from downtown, it's a straight shot up Lake Shore Drive (and a beautiful view of Lake Michigan!)

(PRITZKERCooper): the first two years are lecture heavy, but there is a decent amount of group work. More importantly, as you noted we are pass fail. This definitely fosters an environment in which we cheer for each other to succeed

(PRITZKERMary): Pass/fail is the best thing ever.

(PRITZKERMary): Like, seriously, ever.
Bkausen: Ha
(PRITZKERCooper): as well as participate in numerous group study sessions outside of the curriculum
(PRITZKERCooper): ditto on Mary
snsanders: Awesome, thanks so much!
(PRITZKERMary): I cannot imagine how stressed I would be if I had to worry about getting that 0.45% more on a test
uma_v06: How soon can medical students interact with the patients?
(PRITZKERBen): I AGREE WITH MARY.
(PRITZKERJoni): Uma--you start working with patients right away during our Health Care Disparities course and then throughout the first year you are doing Clinical Skills where you will be working with patients as well. A lot of our students start shadowing physicians right away too!
bsolomon00: How are your professors? Are they aware of individual students?
(PRITZKERMary): The faculty is fantastic!
(PRITZKERMary): I've developed some really great relationships with them
(PRITZKERBen): We are sitting right in front of them!
bsolomon00: Haha... are you in class?
(PRITZKERCooper): I recently had dinner with Dr. Stephen Meredith. Our pathology prof. so yes
(PRITZKERJoni): Bsolomon--we have a small class size (88) so there is great interaction between our faculty and our students.
(PRITZKERMary): There's a yearly faculty auction where you can bid on opportunities to go out and do fun things with the professors.
(PRITZKERSophie): For instance, in the faculty auction this year, I went bowling and dinner with two of the faculty members
(PRITZKERSophie): it was tons of fun
(PRITZKERMary): The money supports the REMEDY group, which takes supplies to 3rd world medical facilities.
(PRITZKERJoni): Welcome to the Chat! We are eager to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to jump right in! If you see your question "fall off" the screen just ask it again!
wmartanto: Mary, that's wonderful initiatives you guys took
(PRITZKERJoni): I am a Director of Admissions and Outreach. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Northeast and South.
uma_v06: Thanks Joni. I know you guys previously mentioned the study abroad opportunities, but can you please elaborate on them? Can students choose where they can go? For example, I'm interested in working in a eye-care hospital in South India. Would that be possible at all?
Bkausen: That sounds like so much fun. You guys seem to bowl a lot :)
(PritzkerDavid): I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West

(PRITZKERCooper): it's the official pastime of pritzker
(PRITZKERBen): I bowl as infrequently as possible. I'm terrible.
Bkausen: Great maybe I can break 150 someday
(PRITZKERCooper): just joking on the pastime bit
Chicano85: Where do students do their clinical rotations?
(PRITZKERSylvia): Cooper is joking but there is a great bowling alley close to campus -- if you come to our revisit we will take you there for dinner
(PRITZKERBen): I finished my first two years of med school, and am now working on my PhD through the Growth and Development Training Program. I am from Illinois and went to the University of Illinois.
(PRITZKERJoni): Uma--yes, students may choose where they want to go--we just want to be sure there are people/facilities in place to make sure you aren't solely on your own somewhere. We have a program that goes to India each summer for a month with current students, faculty, etc. and visits several clinics while there.
Bkausen: Revisit?
(PRITZKERJoni): Your clinical experience will begin the first week of medical school. Our students also frequently shadow our physicians at the UC hospitals, and volunteer in one of our three student-run free clinics. The majority of your clinical training will occur at the UC Medical Center. You also have opportunities for clinical training at the NorthShore University Health System (a 3-hospital suburban setting) and Mercy Hospital (an urban community hospital).
snsanders: When do the first wave of interviews occur for admissions?
(PRITZKERCooper): also Uma, many of our classmates went to Peru, Tanzania, Ecuador, etc. this summer
elementKr: Could anyone please describe the Medical Education track of the "Scholarship and Discovery thread" more fully?
(PRITZKERSylvia): We began interviewing on 8/27 and will continue until the end of January
uma_v06: I second that..what is a revisit?
(PritzkerDavid): Element, Beginning with the Class of 2013, all Pritzker students will participate in a four-year experience in scholarship and discovery, with opportunities ranging from basic and clinical research to scholarship in teaching or quality improvement or community-based service learning or global health. Our goal is to provide all of our medical students, both current and future, with the best possible experiences and opportunities to help them become the next generation of leaders across the spectrum of medicine. We believe the encouragement through faculty mentorship, funding support, and ample opportunity of collaborative scholarly student projects will be an exciting and vital part of the Pritzker curriculum.
snsanders: Thank you Sylvia!
(PRITZKERJoni): Bkausen, we invite our accepted applicants back for a 2-day "revisit" in the spring to give them another look at Pritzker and meet future classmates.
FluffyRabbit: Speaking of revisits and interviews, how early would one have had to have interviewed to possibly hear back on October 15th?
(PRITZKERMary): The revisits are really fun!

NJacks85: Ben, for the GDTP what was your research involvement prior to applying for the program? How competitive is it to get into GDTP?

elementKr: Thank you, David, but do you have information on the Medical Education track specifically?

snsanders: Is Pritzker selective for what students get the secondary application?

(PRITZKERSylvia): FluffyRabbit, I think mid September and before will hear on 10/15 but if you are after that you will hear before long

(PRITZKERBen): A. Not too competitive because very few people apply from year to year. B. I had a lot of lab experience, but not much to show for it. You don't have to have published a lot or done groundbreaking work to be admitted.

(PRITZKERJoni): snsanders--everyone who submits an AMCAS will receive a secondary

snsanders: Thanks Joni!

Chicano85: Thank you for your time. Have a nice afternoon!

NJacks85: Thanks Ben!

(PritzkerDavid): Element, that track is designed for students who want to enrich the way medicine is taught...

(PRITZKERSylvia): By Chicano85 -- all the best!

rachaelms: Have students been getting together on campus in recent times to discuss healthcare reform? What efforts are there on campus to get involved?

FluffyRabbit: Thanks Sylvia!

(PRITZKERBen): It's also nice to not have to lock yourself into an MSTP without being absolutely sure about doing a PhD or without having made some good research connections here.

snsanders: How is the diversity of the matriculates? From undergraduate college to ethnicity?

(PritzkerDavid): Element, whether that be in the scientific foundations of medicine or the clinical education. You begin by...

(PRITZKERCooper): a number second years just went to a townhall meeting to stay abreast of situations, so yes

FluffyRabbit: Knowing how many students at Pritzker do research regardless, how common is it for students to do other tracks of the Scholarship and Discovery program?

(PRITZKERMary): rachael: there are also elective classes you can do dealing with health care economics, research in health care disparities, and all sorts of informal ways to get involved in the discussion.

(PritzkerDavid): Element, thinking through what you would like to do along with faulty mentors, and take course work that will develop the skills you need to ask the sort of question you want, and evaluate the data you get.

(PRITZKERSylvia): Hi snsanders, Our entering class represented 26 states and 55 colleges, 40 women, 48 men, 14 students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, age range from 19 and 32, all of them extraordinary, wonderful people who will be outstanding leadership in science and medicine

snsanders: Thank you Sylvia!

Bkausen: So what is your percentage out-of state matriculants?

elementKr: Thank you, David. I really appreciate the information.

rachaelms: Great. Thanks, Mary.

(PRITZKERJoni): Fluffy--this is actually our first year of Schol and Discovery so we can't totally answer that question right now :-)

mpmedstudent: Hello, what would you say are the three best things about attending medical school at Pritzker and what's one thing that you think could be improved in the near future?

(PRITZKERSylvia): We had 26 states represented, about 70% out of state -- we are not a state medical school

(PRITZKERMary): mpmedstudent: i'm working on an answer for you

Bkausen: Great! Thanks Sylvia

mpmedstudent: thanks

(PRITZKERBen): mp: 1. Pass/Fail. 2. Pass/Fail. 3. Pass/Fail.

snsanders: For the medical students, what is one thing you did or wanted to do in your undergraduate time that you feel has helped you or would have helped you in medical school?

(PRITZKERJoni): Oh Ben! We know what your favorite thing is!

(PRITZKERMary): mpmedstudent: the best things about Pritzker are the students (amazing), the faculty (outstanding), and our patient population (I learn so much from them). Something to improve in the near future is decreasing the amount of pure lecture time, which is happening right now with the new curriculum.

mpmedstudent: cool, thank you for the response

Bkausen: So are you moving towards an integrated approach?

FluffyRabbit: How will that decrease work out? If I recall correctly, Pritzker isn't moving to PBL just yet

(PRITZKERSylvia): Bkausen, we are taking advantage of the great interdisciplinary resources available here

(PRITZKERJoni): Bkausen--yes--our basic science courses are now taught in a systems-based way.

(PRITZKERSophie): snsanders: i would say that leadership experience is key. its a way to really stand out in something you are passionate about outside of academics

(PRITZKERMary): No, we're not going to PBL. But we are moving towards more small group work and less massive lectures.

snsanders: Thanks Sophie!

(PRITZKERMary): There are also lots of technological advancements in having the lectures available online which is super exciting

(PRITZKERJoni): What else are you guys wondering about?

uma_v06: I'm sorry..what is PBL?
(PRITZKERSylvia): Sylvia is our Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
mpmedstudent: Does the Chicago weather make it difficult for you guys in the winter, particularly if you don't live near campus?
(PRITZKERJoni): Uma--PBL is problem-based learning...it's a style of teaching medical school that has very short lecture and a lot of small group time where the students are kind of self-directing their learning of the topic
(PRITZKERBen): No, not too bad mp.
(PRITZKERMary): Snowplows and salt. :-)
(PRITZKERBen): They manage the snow extremely well for the most part.
(PRITZKERSylvia): I love the changing seasons in Chicago -- I grew up in North Carolina and have come to treasure the seasons.
Lauren: Are there opportunities to pursue other academic interests at the same time, such as Spanish?
snsanders: What does it take to truly stand out as an applicant? I feel as though a majority of those applying to a school of Pritzker's standards will have the GPA & MCAT scores a long with a string of extracurriculars.
(PRITZKERJoni): Yeah, I've lived in Iowa, Connecticut, Michigan, etc. and now in Chicago and I can tell you Chicago clears the streets and keeps us moving like no other place I've ever been.
(PRITZKERCooper): absolutely Lauren, there are nighttime medical spanish classes
(PRITZKERCooper): as well as informal, Friday spanish lunches
rachaelms: That's a relief. In Alaska we drive on the ice all winter!
(PRITZKERCooper): lunches are where a group of us get together and converse only in spanish
(PRITZKERMary): You can also choose to do many of your third year clerkships in predominantly spanish speaking areas
Lauren: that sounds awesome :)
(PRITZKERBen): Can you see Russia from your house?
(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders--You're absolutely right! We see a ton of great applicants--what we look for is who do we think is the best fit for Pritzker. We ask you to tell us why YOU think you are a good fit for Pritzker, too!
(PRITZKERSylvia): One of our graduates wrote a great book Spanish for the Medical Interview -- Pilar Ortega -- check it out
rachaelms: Haha
(PRITZKERSylvia): Alaska! I love Alaska -- where do you live?
Lauren: will do
(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders...we have podcasts, too, where we talk about these issues in greater depth than we can on a chat like this and you can find them on our website and just download them to your IPod!
rachaelms: Maybe not from MY house
rachaelms: It's in Fairbanks, Alaska
snsanders: Okay, thanks Joni! I'll look into that.

rachaelms: in the interior
(PRITZKERSylvia): What a magical place
(PRITZKERMary): Keep the questions coming, people! I'm looking at you, lurkers!
mpmedstudent: Does Pritzker have any ties with the WHO?
(PRITZKERBen): My father-in-law once went hunting in Chicken, Alaska.
(PRITZKERCooper): talkin' bout my generation?
rachaelms: I had a roommate that lived there for a summer.
(PRITZKERBen): So named because they couldn't spell Ptarmigan.
rachaelms: Exactly!
(PRITZKERJoni): mpmedstudent--David will ACTUALLY answer your question :-)
(PritzkerDavid): mpmedstudent, one of our did an internship there this summer as a matter of fact.
(PRITZKERSylvia): We have a very strong commitment to global health issues and regularly we have students do fellowships at WHO
Bkausen: Is there a big athletic community at Pritzker?
bkumley: i know one of their cross country runners!
(PRITZKERMary): Lots of IM competition
(PRITZKERSylvia): Yes, Bkausen -- our students regularly win the IM university championships -- come help - but if you have played a professional sport you cannot play that in the IM competition
rachaelms: My mother is from New York and when she came to visit me we went to Denali National Park. When she saw a Ptarmigan for the first time she even said, "Hey look at the chicken."
(PRITZKERJoni): Bkausen--oh yes! We are often accused of recruiting for IMs because Pritzker dominates those sports! And we're one of the only schools who does in-person interviews!
(PritzkerDavid): mpmedstudent, we don't have a formal relationship but students here have great opportunities for developing analytic skills and policy background that makes them attractive to WHO and others.
(PRITZKERCooper): we just had field day, which is interschool competition in such inane sports as water balloon toss, three legged race and kickball. As well as soccer and ultimate frisbee
FluffyRabbit: That is hilarious, especially since Pritzker has a small class size
rachaelms: So it fits.
(PRITZKERJoni): Rachael--where in NY is she from?
Lauren: would you say the cost of living in Chicago is comparable to Washington, D.C?
uma_v06: This has been great..so many of my questions have been answered! Time for class for me..thanks again!
rachaelms: Plattsburgh and Albany
(PRITZKERSylvia): Chicago is cheaper than D.C.

Lauren: haha, excellent
snsanders: How much weight does your undergraduate institution play in the admissions process?
(PRITZKERSylvia): All the best uma
(PRITZKERMary): Thanks for coming, Uma! Good luck to you!
(PRITZKERJoni): Oh wow, Rachael--my brother in law's family is from Plattsburgh!
Bkausen: I played tennis in college and really love sports so three legged races sound right up my alley
(PRITZKERSophie): Rent in Chicago, particularly in Hyde Park, is a lot cheaper than DC
(PRITZKERSylvia): Sanders, we had 55 colleges represented so clearly we have a wide range of colleges in the class
rachaelms: Yeah, I was born there actually.
snsanders: Thanks Sylvia!
rachaelms: And in the summers I usually visit my grandmother in Albany and make my annual trek through the Adirondacks
(PRITZKERJoni): Small world Rachael!
rachaelms: It's gorgeous.
rachaelms: Indeed.
rachaelms: Is Chicago bike friendly?
(PRITZKERBen): Absolutely.
rachaelms: Currently I bike about thirty miles a day to and from work.
(PRITZKERBen): Among the top-ranked in the country, just below Portland usually.
(PRITZKERSophie): Chicago is very very bike friendly...many people bike to class every day (those who like in hyde park)
(PRITZKERSophie): and biking by the lake front is one of my favorite activities... Lake Michigan is absolutely beautiful
rachaelms: Are there bike lanes on every street? Places to put bikes on campus? Bike lockers?
(PRITZKERCooper): and one of our classmates rides a bike in from Evanston on nice days
(PRITZKERCooper): 15 miles....
rachaelms: Very impressive
(PRITZKERSophie): There are bike lanes on the busier streets downtown but in hyde park traffic isn't bad
(PritzkerDavid): 30 miles would get you down town six times!!!
(PRITZKERBen): No bike lockers, but plenty of racks on campus.
KenWong: I've heard that Cook County General Hospital is a legendary part of the city's medicine. Does Pritzker send students for rotations there?
(PRITZKERSylvia): There is a bike the drive Sunday each year while Lake Shore Drive is closed only to bikes
snsanders: Since Pritzker is pass/fail, when it comes to placement of residencies, what other factors are looked at besides the board scores?

rachaelms: Sounds great.
(PRITZKERMary): KenWong: you can do away rotations there during your fourth year as well as experience some stuff there in first year as part of the emergency medicine elective. It's called Stroger now, though. KenWong: Thank you, Mary.
(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders...it's a lot like the application to med school to be honest--yes, they look at board scores and grades (you will be graded on your required clinical rotations), but also your letters of recommendation, your clinical experiences, your extracurricular involvements, research (for some specialties), etc.
rachaelms: Okay, I'm signing off. Thanks for your time everyone!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Bye Rachel!! All the best
snsanders: Ok, thanks Joni!
(PRITZKERJoni): Bye Rachael! Thanks for coming! Inez Leal: Hello!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Hello Inez
(PRITZKERJoni): Hello Inez!! And everyone! Feel free to jump in with your questions!! (PRITZKERMary): Hi Inez! Bye Rachael!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Sylvia is our Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
(PRITZKERBen): I finished my first two years of med school, and am now working on my PhD through the Growth and Development Training Program. I am from Illinois and went to the University of Illinois.
(PRITZKERMary): Hi! I'm a fourth-year student from Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
(PRITZKERJoni): I am a Director of Admissions and Outreach. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Northeast and South.
(PRITZKERSophie): Hi, I'm Sophie. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for our entering class. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Duke University.
(PRITZKERCooper): Hi again I'm Cooper. I'm a second-year student and was one of the Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs for the entering class. I am originally from Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University.
snsanders: I'm at UW-Madison too Mary! Go Badgers!!
(PRITZKERBen): What questions do you peeps have?
bkumley: Hi, I have a question: I read somewhere that the med school is situated within the greater sciences faculty. How does this affect the medical education at Chicago?
(PritzkerDavid): I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West
sdemar: I have a question about volunteering in the free clinics: (PRITZKERMary): Whoo Badgers! I just got back from doing an away rotation up in Madison. (PRITZKERMary): Go for it sdemar.
sdemar: Can we start helping out our first year in medical school?
(PRITZKERCooper): first years are already actively volunteering at all 4 clinics
snsanders: Away rotation? Cool! Can you elaborate on how that works?

<p>(PRITZKERCooper): they have been for the past 4 weeks, school has been going for 7 weeks. So you can get into the clinics pretty early</p>
<p>sdemar: Oh really!? That is great. What type of clinical experience are they getting? Are they learning how take blood and give vaccines and such?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): bkumley, from a student perspective, it makes things incredibly easy if you want to take classes in other departments...much less red tape overall.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Depending on which specialty you decide to apply in, you may be encouraged or required to do away rotations (2-4 weeks) at different institutions.</p>
<p>Inez Leal: within state of out of state institutions?</p>
<p>bkumley: ohh ok. how much freedom do you have with your schedule?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): It's a way for you to evaluate programs you may be interested in and for them to get to know you on a much deeper level than an interview day would allow.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERSylvia): Inez, students can go all over the world for away rotations</p>
<p>(PRITZKERJoni): Bkumley--there are a couple of distinct advantages--1, we are able to share faculty which allows our students to be taught by experts in each field, 2, the Pritzker Dean is also the CEO of the medical center so there is continuity between the clinical experiences and the basic science curriculum, and 3, you will be with students who are doing PhDs in biological sciences, and undergrads in biological sciences so you aren't just surrounded by med students all the time :-)</p>
<p>Lauren: is the student responsible for finding and financing a place to stay for those 2-4 weeks?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): Not much during the first two quarters, but there is a ton of flexibility during the spring, which is when most electives are taken.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): Lauren: don't worry about it yet. :-) But it's institution specific -- some places have programs in place for housing and some do not.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERCooper): the main free clinic experiences are taking vitals, taking histories (one of the most important diagnostic tool for any physician), presenting to physicians, distributing medicine. there is also a children's clinic that focuses on giving vaccines</p>
<p>snsanders: Fantastic, thanks! Is there a list of specific program for the away rotations or are you able to pick a program and see if it works?</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): But, certainly it's up to you when or if you take electives throughout the year.</p>
<p>sdemar: Thanks Cooper, that sounds great. Do most of the students become involved in community service?</p>
<p>Inez Leal: Ahh, the clinic experience sounds sweet.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERJoni): Sdemar--oh yes. I would say the vast majority of our students are involved in community service!</p>
<p>(PRITZKERMary): snsanders: you are pretty much able to pick a program and contact their clerkship director. There is reciprocity amongst all the US med schools so it's fairly easy to arrange.</p>
<p>(PRITZKERBen): It is awesome, Inez. Great environment in which to get your feet wet.</p>
<p>snsanders: Good to know, thanks Mary!</p>

Inez Leal: Do you have many out of state students attend pritzker?
bkumley: ok, cool. thanks, ben and joni
(PRITZKERBen): Word.
Lauren: Thanks for the information guys! I've got to go to class.
(PRITZKERBen): Bye Lauren!
sdemar: And how about research? Is it recommended that students do some research during medical school, even if they don't like it that much?
(PRITZKERJoni): Bye Lauren! Thanks for coming! (PRITZKERSylvia): By Lauren! All the best (PRITZKERMary): Bye Lauren!
Inez Leal: i am from a small catholic university from san antonio and was wondering how that fits into your student population.
(PRITZKERSophie): have fun at class lauren! thanks for stopping bye!
Inez Leal: bye lauren!
(PritzkerDavid): Inez, about 70% of our students come from out of state. Inez Leal: thats good to hear.
(PRITZKERBen): sdemar, not recommended necessarily, but most do. If you have other interests, then you do those and don't look back!
(PRITZKERCooper): community service is one of the new threads offered in the Pritzker Initiative, so many people we be involved. Also, this summer we began the Summer Service Partnership, a 10 week program in which 6 medical students paired up with 6 high school students from South Chicago neighborhoods to design and implement community enrichment programs in their neighborhoods.
(PRITZKERJoni): Sdemar--no, you don't have to do research. But keep in mind that we define research as anything you choose to question. So lots of our students who may not be that interested in basic science research might get involved in clinical research or community based projects, or economics research, etc. We just want you to pursue your interests!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Hi Inez, We had 55 colleges represented in the first year class and many students from small schools and many students from Catholic schools -- come check us out -- Pritzker is a wonderfully diverse place where you learn so much from your classmates, faculty and patients
FluffyRabbit: How many students stay for a research year? What kind of funding is available for that?
(PRITZKERBen): There are a ton of research opportunities here, so most people end up just taking advantage.
(PRITZKERCooper): so there are many community service opportunities, though a majority of our students do Summer Research
sdemar: Oh, that makes sense. I would probably like to become involved in a community based project or clinical research or something.
(PRITZKERCooper): it is totally up to you

Inez Leal: I'm glad to hear that. I come from a very close knit school, and I would to have that same type of community feeling in the medical school i attend.

mpmedstudent: how much freedom do students have to guide the course of their education at Pritzker?

(PRITZKERJoni): Fluffy--I would say probably 10-12% of each graduating class will do a full year of research (extending med school for 5 years). There is funding available to do so.

(PRITZKERSylvia): Inez, you would find that close knit environment here

snsanders: For the medical students, who was the draw of Pritzker that you didn't find from your other choices?

12763186: good question i was about to ask that

(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders...not to be arrogant, but I think it's the friendliness of the admissions office :-). We rule.

(PRITZKERBen): sn: For me, people were happiest here. They seemed not to be overwhelmed, and it surprised me.

(PRITZKERMary): mpmedstudent: there is a certain amount of flexibility for electives, research projects, and other less formal involvement in the first two years. There is somewhat more opportunity in the second two years to tailor your education as far as rotations, electives, etc.

Inez Leal: Someone mentioned community service, which is something I love. How would that fit into our learning about medicine. Through the clinics?

snsanders: Fantastic, thanks Joni and Ben!

mpmedstudent: Ah, cool. Thanks for the response.

(PRITZKERMary): snsanders: it was definitely the people I met on the interview day. I really felt like they were interested in me as a person and wanted me to come to Pritzker.

(PRITZKERSophie):

snsanders:For me, it was the small feel of the Pritzker community. The small class size is great, the faculty members really know you, and the deans and admissions staff are always friendly faces who really know who you are as an individual, not just a face in a crowd of med students!

(PritzkerDavid): Inez, Students are REALLY involved in community service here. There are countless ways to get involved, from free clinics to school-based health programs to mental health or AIDS awareness groups. You can check out the many student groups and organizations at <http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/organizations/orgs.shtml...>

(PRITZKERCooper):

Pritzker is clearly a rigorous institution, but when I came here everyone was very relaxed. It's a great atmosphere in which to live and learn

sdemar: What are the first two years like, in terms of exams? How often are they? And are there

cumulative final exams? My boyfriend is in med school and has an exam every 3 weeks, and he constantly seems overwhelmed.

snsanders: Thanks Sophie and Cooper!

(PritzkerDavid): Inez, so the skills they are building in the community service they are using in the clinics, and the clinic education begins right away here and goes through all 4 years.

Inez Leal: thanks! im really glad that you have the community service/ community feeling to the school. thanks for the website.

(PRITZKERBen): sdemar, others are typing answers too, but you can find the full class schedules on the Pritzker site.

(PRITZKERJoni): Sdemar--so the MSI students do a condensed intensive anatomy right off the bat in August and Sept (so they learn it all in about 8-10 weeks) so then there is about 1 exam a week....

(PRITZKERBen): <http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/md/curriculum/calendar.shtml>

sdemar: oh ok, thank yoU!

(PRITZKERSylvia): In our P/F system the exams really are to help you know what you know -- not something to be dreaded

snsanders: Of those students who are interviewed, what percent of those students get accepted?

(PRITZKERJoni): then when the rest of the curriculum gets underway there is probably an exam about once every 2 weeks or so, but not in the same class (if that makes sense--they are staggered in the classes).

FluffyRabbit: I imagine it gets a little better later, also another reason why P/F is awesome. :)

kayoung2: Since the clinical experiences start right away do any of you feel a little overwhelmed when you first go in there?

(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders--we interview about 600 applicants and accept about 200.

rjsmit2: On a research note, has anyone at Pritzker ever combined medicine with neurolinguistics-type work?

sdemar: Oh alright- his exams are all on the same day

snsanders: Thanks Joni!

(PRITZKERJoni): Oh yipes sdemar--that sounds a little scary

(PRITZKERBen): rjsmit, not that I know of...

Bkausen: Ok I have to get back to work! I really appreciate all of you taking the time to answer my questions. Have a great day

sdemar: yeah, i think i would prefer to have it staggered like at Pritzker, but it doesn't make too much of a difference to me

(PRITZKERMary): Bye Bkausen! Good luck!

sdemar: What about taking notes in class? Do most people bring a laptop to lecture?

rjsmit2: k, thanks PBen

(PRITZKERSylvia): Yes, everyone feels overwhelmed when they begin medical school and often you will wonder if you are going to succeed -- we encourage you to have confidence in our curriculum and our faculty and student support programs and know you will be successful -- we have a very, very high graduation rate -- ask schools about that during your interviews
(PRITZKERCooper): clinical experiences for the first few months are completely voluntary, but before we bring you to the clinics we give a brief training on all of the aspects. mandatory clinical experiences come later in first year, after more extensive training
(PRITZKERBen): Look up Susan Goldin-Meadow.
rjsmit2: k
(PRITZKERSophie): Lots of students bring their laptops to class...probably about 2/3 of the class will have their laptop, but professors will typically provide ample note packets and and print outs of the slides for those who prefer to take notes by hand
(PRITZKERSophie): its really up to personal preference
sdemar: o great! thanks sophie
(PRITZKERSylvia): check out information about our TIME project -- your entire curriculum will be on line for the rest of your career you will be able to access it
sdemar: how is the anatomy lab? does it smell very bad? or is there a pretty good ventilation system?
(PRITZKERSophie): In undergrad I never used my laptop in class but now in med school its great to have
kayoung2: Thanks Cooper and Sylvia
(PRITZKERSophie): the anatomy lab is very very well ventilated
(PRITZKERBen): Oh man, the anatomy lab was BY FAR the best I'd ever seen.
NJacks85: What % of the class would you estimate goes to class?
sdemar: really?? that is good news to me, because I have a very sensitive sense of smell! =)
Clanglo: Any other things to make sure to ask about during interviews?
(PRITZKERSylvia): It is so good that we could be sitting there right now
(PRITZKERCooper): we have one of the nicer anatomy labs across the nation. very well ventilated. Also, giant windows on the walls. very well lit
Inez Leal: thats good to hear.
(PRITZKERCooper): not a depressing basement lab
(PRITZKERMary): sdemar: even with great ventilation, you will smell it. and people will smell you. but you adjust to it pretty quickly.
Inez Leal: the med school here doesn't have any windows and its a bit dark in there.
sdemar: haha
sdemar: how many students are assigned to each cadaver?
(PRITZKERMary): 4
wying16: For current students, what has been your favorite aspect of Pritzker so far?
Inez Leal: oh- here, san antonio. sorry.
(PRITZKERJoni): Clanglo--I always think it's good to ask your interviewers about why they are

at Pritzker and what they like about it and anything they could change if they could. Then if there is something important to you (research, community service, curriculum, whatever) then ask how that medical school handles it.

rjsmit2: how does the financial stress weigh on you? Loans for tuition are obviously inevitable, but what is it like to take loans out for living?

(PRITZKERMary): My favorite part is the friends I have made here amongst the students, residents, and faculty

Clanglo: Thanks!

sullivan789: I understand that there is a diverse student body but do you have many students from rural states? Are there any programs that focus on rural medicine? I ask this because I am from Wyoming (quite rural)

(PRITZKERCooper): a very large percentage of students go to classes such as clinical ethics and clinical skills. a lesser % go straight science lectures, mainly those that feel they can learn science better from a text book

(PRITZKERMary): rjsmit2: I am 100% dependent on scholarship/loans and I have managed to make it work.

(PRITZKERSylvia): When you go on your interviews ask the interviewers to describe students who thrive there -- this helps see if you are a good fit

(PRITZKERSophie): rjsmit2: i take out loans for living expenses and get a little help from my parents but its totally manageable

(PRITZKERMary): One of my classmates is from Idaho.

12763186: how does the MD/PhD curriculum fit into the MD one?

Inez Leal: i am a bit nervous about paying for medical school also.

rjsmit2: k, thanks Sophie and Mary

(PRITZKERJoni): Sullivan...we have students from all over the US, and many come from rural backgrounds whether in the Midwest or throughout the country. For example, Cooper sitting right here is from a rural town in Illinois. It would be hard to find rural opportunities here in Chicago (we have a lot of parks...but we're not rural!) but you can do away rotations in rural settings during your 4th year.

(PRITZKERBen): 12763186: Most go through the first two years with everyone else, and then break away to finish the PhD.

(PritzkerDavid): rjsmit, we have about \$10 million in scholarship money for each class we take in to help with tuition.

Inez Leal: do many of the students live off campus or do they live in graduate housing?

(PRITZKERSophie): also the financial aid office here is great about helping you manage all your finances and making it work for you individually

mpmedstudent: My grandparents live in Elmwood Park. How far is Elmwood Park from the UC campus? Would it be difficult to commute from there to school?

sullivan789: Pefect, thanks!

(PRITZKERSylvia): Inez, it is good to approach the financing of medical school in a thoughtful, well planned manner. We are here to help at each stage of the process though. Our budgets are generous and our students are able to manage the debt after their residencies.
(PritzkerDavid): that is for each "class" we take in
(PRITZKERBen): Most also take some grad school courses during first year in lieu of biochemistry, etc., and as of recently, they break away during second year before CPP, which is our pivotal pathophysiology course.
wying16: Thanks! Also, how competitive is the 3rd year at Pritzker?
rjsmit2: David, that's so great to hear! :)
(PRITZKERJoni): mpmedstudent: Elmwood Park is about 20 miles from here...but in Chicago you always have to consider traffic. So it could take 30 minutes to 45 or longer to get back and forth. Inez Leal: thanks miss sylvia.
(PRITZKERSophie): as a second year student, we have about 100 people in my class. 2 lived in graduate housing, and the vast majority lived in hyde park during the first year. there were about 10-15 people who lived in other neighborhoods of chicago and commute in. the commute varies depending on which neighborhood obviously. mpmedstudent: Thanks, Joni
(PRITZKERMary): wying16: there is definitely an increase in the level of competitiveness, especially for those students who are interested in derm, plastics, rad-onc, ortho, etc. however, there is still a strong team atmosphere and a lot of students helping students. Inez Leal: how is living in hyde park?
(PRITZKERBen): mp: There is a Metra line that goes from Elmwood Park to near Hyde Park. Might be more convenient.
sdemar: How does Pritzker compare to the state school, University of Illinois at Chicago? I am an instate applicant, so it might be difficult to decide because of the cost of tuitions
snsanders: What are the most popular extracurriculars that medical students take part in? I know bowling was mentioned previously...
(PRITZKERMary): sdemar: we obviously are vastly superior in every respect. ;-)
sullivan789: how is the student mentoring program set up?
(PRITZKERBen): UIC is a good school, but it's very different in many ways...
(PRITZKERSylvia): Mary is clearly unbiased :) Univeristy of Illinois at Chicago is one of the largest in the country and be careful about thinking state schools will be cheaper -- private schools often have much more scholarship to reduce the costs
(PRITZKERBen): Being a large public school with large classes and public hospitals...
(PRITZKERMary): snsanders: you can do whatever you like. IM sports, salsa dancing, pottery classes, acapella singing, yoga, oh my gosh, if you can dream it, you can do it. snsanders: Great to know, thanks Mary!
snsanders: How are the workout facilities on campus?
(PRITZKERBen): Ratner is amazing. It's in very good shape...built pretty recently.
(PRITZKERMary): they are great if you are into voyeurism.
(PRITZKERMary): p.s. this is a joke.

Inez Leal: haha
(PRITZKERSophie): sullivan: when students arrive at pritzker, they are divided up into 4 societies, each of which are led by 2 career advisors who are also physician faculty members. they help you out throughout your time at pritzker with career and academic decisions
(PRITZKERMary): the exercise machines are all arranged in a circle
(PRITZKERBen): There's also an older facility with weight rooms and squash/racquetball courts.
shan.k.fitzpatrick: For the current students, do you feel like Pritzker has prepared you to not only be a researcher and an academic but to also be a physician that can easily relate to their patients? How has Pritzker promoted the development of your bedside manner?
(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders--we have a beautiful and relatively new gym called Ratner. Olympic sized pool, bball courts, track, machines, etc.
snsanders: Thanks Ben!
sullivan789: Thanks Sophie, it sounds great
snsanders: Thanks Mary and Joni!
Inez Leal: in addition to shane's question, are there ethics classes?
(PRITZKERMary): fitzpatrick: one of the biggest reasons I came here was because of the unparalleled clinical training. I feel extraordinarily prepared to be a skilled, compassionate clinician.
(PRITZKERBen): sn: http://athletics.uchicago.edu/facilities/facilities-ratnercenter.htm
snsanders: Thanks Ben!
(PRITZKERMary): The faculty here have provided me with fantastic role models.
(PRITZKERCooper): also, living in hyde park is fantastic (biased opinion of course). The food varieties range from mediterranean to thai to deep dish pizza, there are at least 4 parks in the immediate vicinity, there is a 57th street book fair, a hyde park jazz festival, etc.
(PRITZKERSophie): sullivan: apart from that, many shadowing/networking opportunities are available just simply by contacting faculty members. the summer service and summer research programs also helps set you up with faculty mentors and allows you to work closely with faculty members for a few months
(PRITZKERBen): Absolutely. This is one of the premier ethics programs in the world.
(PRITZKERJoni): Inez--yes, you will take medical ethics as a part of your curriculum. We also have a fantastic MacLean Center for Medical Ethics that hosts a lot of talks and does great research
Clanglo: This may be a bit of a different question, but are there many med students you know who are married?
(PRITZKERSophie): there are several married students in each class
sullivan789: thanks
(PRITZKERBen): A handful. Some are married to each other!
rjsmit2: So, slightly unrelated, but who's excited for the Olympic vote on Friday? I hope Chicago takes the bid!
Clanglo: haha thanks
(PritzkerDavid): Me too!
(PRITZKERSylvia): The state of the school address last night ended with a preview of the Pritzker class of 2036 -- slides of the new Pritzker babies

(PRITZKERJoni): Rjsmit--we're excited about the Olympic bid!!
(PRITZKERCooper): our class just had 2 summer weddings and at least 2 more coming up in the next few months
(PRITZKERBen): I'm ready to be done hearing about the Olympics.
Clanglo: (Me too Ben)
(PRITZKERSylvia): Ben, WHERE is your spirit!!!! Go Chicago
(PRITZKERBen): I have spirit, but it is taking a rest right now.
(PRITZKERMary): 15 minutes left! Get your questions in!
mpmedstudent: Is it hard to get 7-8 hours of sleep during medical school?
(PRITZKERMary): mpmedstudent: years 1 and 2: no. year 3: yes.
snsanders: How much sleep do you get on average year 1-2?
(PRITZKERMary): year 1-2 you can get as much as you want, pretty much.
(PRITZKERMary): depends on how much you need to study and how much outside stuff you want to do
Clanglo: Are classes more difficult for students who majored in something not life sciences related as an undergrad?
(PRITZKERBen): Unless you sleep 18-20 hours a day. Might be tough to do that.
snsanders: Oh, sorry, I meant years 3-4!
Inez Leal: I am at the start of my junior year of undergrad. Besides MCAT prep and MCAT, what else should I be doing in getting ready to apply to med school?
(PRITZKERMary): Year 4 it just depends on your rotation. Year 3: it can go from 3-4 up to a normal 6-7.
snsanders: Thanks Mary!
(PRITZKERMary): NP
sullivan789: How are the student lectures typically setup?
(PRITZKERSylvia): Hi Clanglo -- sometimes the first year is a bigger transition for students who have majored in the sciences but they quickly catch up -- about 40% of our class majors outside of the sciences -- just take the basic requirements and biochemistry and you will be fine
(PRITZKERJoni): Inez, it's important to be involved in extracurricular activities too, and to have shown that you have explored the medical profession. It's also good to pay attention to any deadlines your school might have for writing a prehealth advisor's letter (if you have that) and to be sure you're on top of that.
rjsmit2: Does Pritzker offer student sponsors during interviews?
(PRITZKERBen): sullivan, not much different from your typical lecture. Large lecture hall, hour lectures, Powerpoint slides...
Clanglo: Well I am a physics major, but a lot of the other pre-meds here have a lot more biology/physiology than I do
(PRITZKERJoni): Rjsmit--yes, we have a student hosting program. If you're invited to interview you will receive a link to this.
(PRITZKERSylvia): Sorry everyone -- we are having a great time talking -- forgive our delays
(PRITZKERBen): Does that answer your question?

Inez Leal: thanks. here i am really involved in university ministry (im actually sitting in umin right now ;)) Is there a umin at the university that i can get involved it?

snsanders: I shadowed a physician for a full year during my junior year of HIGH SCHOOL. That's when I realized I wanted to go into the profession. Would you advise that I still include that, in addition to my other shadowing experiences, since it was for a full year, on my application even though it was in high school?

(PRITZKERSylvia): Yes, Inez, there is a great Campus Ministry program! And, there are religious groups at Pritzker

Inez Leal: yes!

(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders--no, I wouldn't. The application asks you to only list post-secondary experiences (college only!)

sullivan789: Yes it does, thanks, are notes/powerpoints provided/is there access to them?

mpmedstudent: I have to go now, guys. Thank you to all for answering my questions.

(PRITZKERMary): Thanks for coming mpmedstudent! Good luck!

snsanders: Thanks Joni!

(PRITZKERBen): Yes, absolutely. Depends on the prof for whether it's before/after class, but yes.

(PRITZKERSylvia): Yes, Sullivan, Check out the TIME project -- all of your lectures will be on line for searching and you will be able to download them to your IPOD

(PritzkerDavid): Inez, there a Catholic Center on campus and various other faith/service organizations.

snsanders: How important is shadowing experience to the application if you have other clinical experience...?

(PRITZKERSophie): bye mpmedstudent!

sullivan789: That sounds great!

(PRITZKERBen): Audio/vidio recordings are in the works too.

toishi: I've been listening in on some great questions so far...when do most students turn in their secondary apps?

(PRITZKERBen): Video, rather.

sullivan789: Thank you all for answering my questions. This has been extremely helpful

(PRITZKERJoni): Snsanders--there is not a set script of what you "have" to do clinically--we just need to know that you understand the profession and have pursued your passion for medicine. However you do that (shadowing, volunteering at a clinic, etc.) is up to you.

(PRITZKERMary): You're very welcome sullivan!

(PRITZKERBen): There is a student portal where everything is available pretty much indefinitely.
snsanders: Wonderful, thanks Joni!
(PRITZKERSylvia): You are welcome sullivan Clanglo: Yes thank you all!
(PRITZKERSylvia): All the best Clanglo
(PritzkerDavid): tosihi, now is a good time. Our admissions is rolling, so the sooner the better. But make sure that the secondary is presented professionally, and thoughtfully.
wying16: Is there a simulation center where students can practice their procedures and/or patient interview skills?
Inez Leal: Does pritzker have the pass/fail grading? I heard somewhere it does, though i might be mistaken. If so, how does that work in the curriculum of the school?
(PRITZKERSophie): Inez: we are ENTIRELY PASS FAIL!! it is wonderful
(PRITZKERSophie): The first two years are completely pass fail
Jetowner: Hey everyone. How do students get involved in research? Is it a structured process or more casual?
(PRITZKERCooper): yes, we are 100% pass fail in the first two years
snsanders: How does the grading work for years 3 and 4?
Inez Leal: whoa, thats crazy!
(PRITZKERMary): wying: we have a standardized patient center that you will spend a TON of time in. also, there is a great sim lab up at our NorthShore affiliate that all students spend time in during their Emergency Medicine clerkship.
(PRITZKERBen): Jetowner, check out http://pritzkerpodcast.com/2009/09/17/23-summer-research-program/
(PRITZKERCooper): year 4 is also completely pass fail
(PRITZKERSophie): then in the third year you are graded on your required rotations. . the fourth year is entirely pass fail again
snsanders: Thanks Cooper and Sophie!
(PRITZKERJoni): We offer a funded summer research program to rising 2nd year students. About 2/3 of the class will elect to participate in this program and will participate in a basic science or clinical research project of their choosing. The summer concludes with a symposium where participating students present their research. Students will also find research projects on their own during the academic year, and you can choose the research track in our "Scholarship and Discovery Thread" which would then be quite structured.
Inez Leal: When we are in the early stages of learning and have standardized patients, are we still able to volunteer at clinics?
(PRITZKERCooper): Year 3 is the one year in which you receive designations of Honors, high pass, pass, low pass, fail
sullivan789: I read about your REMEDY project and it sounded that a great opportunity, could anyone elaborate on that?

(PritzkerDavid): And all the years are uncurved.
(PRITZKERMary): yes, Inez
snsanders: Good to know.
(PRITZKERSophie): Our students just got back from REMEDY...there were about 15 of them and they went to Peru this year to deliver medical supplies and visit some local hospitals and clinics
(PRITZKERSophie): They spend the academic year fundraising and collecting medical supplies
PRITZKERJoni): Here is the description of REMEDY: We are a medical student organization at the Pritzker School of Medicine dedicated to relieving the health disparities of developing countries. Our focus is to recover and collect medicine and medical supplies in the US and to distribute these goods to needy populations in lesser developed countries. In doing so we witness the health disparities in these countries, and understand these issues in order to ultimately become health advocates by educating our community. www.remedyuchicago.org
(PRITZKERCooper): Inez, the first years right now have not yet seen a standardized patient. Yet a number of them have already seen real patients in the free clinics
wying16: Wow, the REMEDY program sounds great. Do you know approximately what percentage of students are able to spend time abroad without taking time off from the medical school track?
Inez Leal: really? thats great.
Jetowner: Ok, great.
snsanders: Thanks so much for the info everyone! This was extremely beneficial. Have a great day!
(PRITZKERMary): Thanks for coming snsanders! Good luck!
(PRITZKERSylvia): Great snsanders -- glad you joined us -- all the best
(PRITZKERBen): Take care, sn! Thanks for coming.
Jetowner: So most students do not conduct research during the academic year?
Inez Leal: thanks you guys!! i really enjoyed talking to yall. thanks for your patience.
rjsmit2: Thanks a bunch!
Inez Leal: bye!
(PritzkerDavid): You are welcome, Inez! Bye
(PRITZKERSylvia): Bye Inez -- all the best
(PRITZKERJoni): Wying, there was about 20 students who went away on REMEDY (during the summer) and then several went to Israel over winter break, and then also to India so if I had to guess I would say about 50%+ of the class have spent SOME time abroad during their summers or break.
sullivan789: REMEDY sounds like an amazing opportunity
(PRITZKERBen): Bye Inez!
(PRITZKERMary): Bye Inez!
wying16: Sounds great! Thanks to everyone for all your help!
sullivan789: Thanks for the extra info

(PRITZKERSophie): jetowner: some students do find research mentors early in their med school career and continue working with that mentor. I know that lots of my classmates after this summer are continuing their work as much as they can between classes
sdemar: Hi my computer kicked me off before I saw the answers to my last questions! Is there a way I can see the entire chat?
(PRITZKERSylvia): All the best wying16
(PritzkerDavid): See you wying
wmartanto: sorry if I ask very specific question (i.e., pertaining to my application) in this webcast: I applied for course waiver request during the application process; will I receive an email with regard to its status?
(PRITZKERBen): Jet, many do research throughout the year, but summer is by far the most popular and easiest time to do it.
(PRITZKERJoni): Sdemar--we will post a transcript of the chat on our website in about 10 days
(PRITZKERJoni): Wmartanto: yes, you will hear back with regard to your status. Usually within 2 weeks of submission. Have you already submitted your waiver?
sullivan789: If you could choose one aspect of Pritzker that sets it apart from all others what would it be?
wmartanto: yep I did Joni on Aug 20 :)
sdemar: ok, thank you
FluffyRabbit: Since Pritzker is actually P/F (no scores recorded), how would AOA work? Does that make students competitive?
(PRITZKERMary): sullivan: I really think it's the people
(PRITZKERBen): Sullivan, the students. They are awesome and friendly and chill and smart.
(PRITZKERCooper): absolutely the relaxed atmosphere
(PRITZKERJoni): Oh wow--ummm...maybe send that again--that's not right. Send it to pritzkeradmissions@bsd.uchicago.edu and say on it "ATTENTION JONI" and it will get to me. I'll be in touch.
sullivan789: Great to hear, it sounds like the class is really cohesive
(PRITZKERSophie): Sullivan: i would say that its the entire environment and the community that the pritzker school of medicine really fosters for its students. all the fellow students, faculty, and staff are incredibly supportive.
(PRITZKERCooper): as a second year student, I can tell you that thus far there has been no talk of AOA
wmartanto: thanks a lot Joni.
(PRITZKERMary): FluffyRabbit: AOA is determined based on your third year clinical grades and your leadership, service, and scholastic qualities.
(PRITZKERJoni): Ok, guys...we're going to get booted out of the Chat really soon (it ends at 2 Central) so we're done!!
(PRITZKERSophie): bye everyone!
(PRITZKERCooper): hasta luego
(PRITZKERBen): Gotta run folks! Take care. Thanks for coming.

(PritzkerDavid): Sullivan, the philosophy and structure that leads to amazing interdisciplinary educational and research opportunities embedded in a community where you learn to serve patients

(PRITZKERJoni): Bye everyone!! Thanks for coming!!!

toishi: thanks a lot!

(PRITZKERSylvia): Bye everyone -- Come to Pritzker!

(PRITZKERMary): Bye everyone!

(PritzkerDavid): Bye all !1

FluffyRabbit: Great! Sure hope I get to come for revisit weekend! =P

sdemar: Thank you!

(PRITZKERMary): Pritzker rules!!!

FluffyRabbit: Bye, and thanks a lot!

sullivan789: Thanks to everyone!!

Jetowner: Thanks for the information!