



**MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Health Careers Institute for High School Students**  
July 14 -18, 2025  
Schedule of Activities

**Monday, July 14**

8:00-8:30 AM

**Welcome to MWU: Event Center**

*Abena Patton, Manager, Special Events, Communications,  
and MWU student mentors*

**Special Welcome:**

*Kerry Mortenson, Associate Director, Admissions, Midwestern University*

**Mentor Bios and Introductions:**

*MWU student mentors*

8:30-9:00 AM

**Ice Breaker Activity**

*MWU student mentors*

9:10 - 10:10 AM

**Learning and Overcoming Challenges with Biological Research -  
Centennial Hall Lab 209**

Students will experience how laboratory research has reshaped our understanding of the brain and health. Students will interactively explore the brain and what it can do by interacting with a real brain specimen, testing how their own brain works in a cognitive test, and building neural circuits in a brain development simulation.

*Alesia Prakapenka, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Andrew Hawkey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor,  
Biomedical Sciences Program, College of Graduate Studies*

10:20 -11:20 AM

**Inside Human Bodies: A Visit to the Anatomy Lab -  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Science Hall, Anatomy Lab**

View human anatomical specimens such as a heart, arm, brain, and others in a medical school anatomy lab. No actual dissection involved.

*Sally Jo Detloff, Anatomical Lab Manager and MWU student mentors*

11:30 AM -12:30 PM

**Intubation - Science Hall 301**

Participate in intubation simulation; the process where a healthcare provider inserts a tube through a person's mouth or nose, then down into their trachea (airway/windpipe).

*Lori Marasovich, D.O., Director, Clinical Skills, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine  
MWU student mentors*

**12:30-1:30 PM**

**LUNCH - Event Center**

1:45-2:45 PM

**IV Insertion - Science Hall 301**

Practice the art of IV insertion (intravenous catheter placed inside a vein). Note: blood activities are a simulation only; no actual blood is involved.

*Lori Marasovich, D.O., Director, Clinical Skills, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine  
MWU student mentors*

3:00-4:00 PM

**Intro to Dentistry: Learning the Craft Activity – Event Center**

A brief overview into the many career opportunities in dentistry along with learning activity to help prepare you for success in undergrad and graduate school.

*Linda Benson, Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

*Ryan Incrocci Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

*Navi Singh, Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

*Jonathan Parker, Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

**Tuesday, July 15**

8:00-9:00 AM

**Suturing Skills - Event Center**

Stitch up some fun and sharpen your clinical skills as you learn the basics of suturing in this hands-on workshop.

*Naomi Rajesh, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*Dwit Shah, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*

9:10 - 10:10 AM

**Careers in Dental Medicine – Science Hall 201, Simulation Lab**

Learn about dental school and career options in dentistry, followed by a hands-on experience at different stations in our high-tech dental simulation lab.

*Mario D. Ramos, D.D.S., M.S., Associate Professor; Nastaran Foughani, D.M.D., Assistant Professor; Kaveh Adel, D.D.S. Associate Dean; Inderjit Bawa, D.D.S., Assistant Professor;*

*Ronald George, D.D.S., Assistant Professor; Jeffrey Wascher, D.D.S., Assistant Professor;*

*Dawn Arnashus, D.D.S., Assistant Professor; Daniel Sula, D.D.S. Assistant Professor;*

*Michael Jacobs, D.D.S., Assistant Professor; August Durso, D.D.S., Assistant Professor;*

*Larry Williams, D.D.S., M.P.H., Professor; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

10:20-11:20 AM

**Physician Assistant Studies + Vital Signs – Science Hall 301**

Learn about a career as a Physician Assistant. Practice taking blood pressure and listening to heart and lung sounds with a stethoscope.

*Sandy Noronha, M.D., Professor and Jocelin Sisto, M.A., M.M.S., PA-C, Assistant Professor*

*Physician Assistant Faculty, College of Health Sciences, and MWU student mentors*

11:30 AM -12:30 PM

**Speech-Language Pathology: Tools for Improving Communication – Science Hall 401**

Learn about careers in the exciting field of Speech-Language Pathology. Participate in activities to learn more about communication and swallowing.

*Miriam Carroll-Alfano, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor, and SLP Graduate Students,*

*College of Health Sciences*

**12:30-1:30 PM**

**LUNCH – Event Center**

1:45-2:45 PM

**Ultrasound Imaging – Science Hall 301**

Discover the day-to-day functions of an emergency medicine physician, including exciting case examples, and learn how ultrasound is used to view internal anatomy in real time.

*George Borrelli, D.O., Chair, Clinical Integration, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*MWU student mentors*

3:00-4:00 PM **Sports Injury Evaluation**  
Learn how to diagnose common sports injuries of the shoulder, knee, and ankle by connecting patient history with physical exam findings.  
*Daniel Reuben, Class of 2026, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**Wednesday, July 16**

8:00-9:00 AM **Through the Eyes of an Optometrist – Event Center**  
This presentation introduces the field of optometry and what optometrists do to care for people’s vision and eye health. You’ll learn about the different specialties within optometry, from comprehensive eye exams for both adults and children, vision therapy and other techniques used daily!  
*Hanna Derbyshire, Class of 2028, Chicago College of Optometry*  
*Riya Patel, Class of 2028, Chicago College of Optometry*

9:10 -10:10 AM **Clinical Psychology: A Look Inside Your Mind – Alumni Hall 153**  
Learn the role that psychology plays in a clinical setting and in everyday life; some of it may surprise you.  
*Ann Sauer, Ph.D., ABPP, Program Director, Clinical Psychology, and Clinical Psychology Students, College of Health Sciences*

10:20 -11:20 AM **Envision Optometry – White Oak Hall 116A, Optometry Methods Lab**  
A comprehensive eye exam includes examinations that evaluate a patient’s vision, eye-teaming skills, and ocular health. This session will provide a glimpse into the day of an optometry student, by participating in an interactive, hands-on laboratory where students will learn some basic optometric skills from each category of a comprehensive eye exam.  
*John Gialousakis, O.D., Ed.M., FAAO, Director of Student Achievement, Chicago College of Optometry*

11:30 AM -12:30 PM **Osteopathic Medicine Overview & Lab – Science Hall 113A, OMM Lab**  
Explore the history and principles of osteopathic medicine and tips for how to best take care of yourself. Learn to utilize touch as a diagnostic and treatment tool.  
*OMM Student Scholars: Amanda Bernett and Trent Dyle, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*

**12:30-1:30 PM LUNCH – Event Center**

1:45-2:45 PM **Precision Medicine for the Future – Alumni Hall 153**  
A look at the rapidly evolving use of genomic data in healthcare fields.  
*Rosa Ventrella, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Ying He, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Precision Medicine, College of Graduate Studies*

3:00-4:00 PM **Mentoring Hour – Event Center**  
*MWU student mentors*

## Thursday, July 17

- 8:00-9:00 AM **Pharmacy Activity – Event Center**  
Learn about the role of pharmacists in the prescription process and practice translating and filling prescriptions  
*Sana Ahmed, Pharm.D., Class of 2025; College of Pharmacy graduate*
- 9:10 -10:10 AM **Group Photos – Quad**  
*MWU student mentors*
- 10:20 - 11:20 AM **Physical Therapy in Motion – Alumni Hall 101, PT Lab**  
Explore the Physical Therapy profession and settings in which physical therapists practice. Learn and practice different assessment and therapy techniques that we use with infants, children, and adolescents. We will meet in our physical therapy lab. Come dressed in clothes you can move in!  
*Bhupinder Singh, PT, Ph.D.; Program Director; Christian Evans, PT, Ed.D., Professor, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Sciences*
- 11:30 AM -12:30 PM **Exploring a Career in Pharmacy – Centennial Hall 207-209, Pharmacy Lab**  
Discover the many career paths available to pharmacists, including the role of the pharmacist in caring for patients with proper medication management. Learn about compounding pharmacy and make a hand sanitizer gel.  
*Sheila K. Wang, Pharm.D., Professor of Pharmacy Practice; Karen Nagel-Edwards, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove*
- 12:30-1:30 PM LUNCH – Event Center**
- 1:45 - 2:45 PM **Cranial Nerve Exam – Event Center**  
Explore the function of each of the 12 cranial nerves, practice simple clinical tests to assess them, and learn how abnormalities can help identify possible neurological problems.  
*Lizzy Herr, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Clare Mielczarek, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- 3:00-4:00 PM **Sculpt-A-Tooth: A Manual Dexterity Activity – Event Center**  
A hands-on activity to help you learn tooth anatomy and develop your fine motor skills.  
*Nina Lozovnoy, Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois  
Audrey La Valle, Class of 2028; College of Dental Medicine-Illinois*

## Friday, July 18

- 8:00–9:00 AM **Student Panel Q & A – Event Center**  
*MWU student mentors*
- 9:10–10:10 AM **Clinical Skills Training – Cardinal Hall Simulation Center**  
Learn how to interview patients, practice gowning and gloving for surgery, and participate in a scenario with a hospitalized manikin patient.  
*Kelly Lempicki, PharmD, BCPS, Assistant Director; Nicol Crenshaw, MBA, NRP, CCEMT-P, Clinical Simulation Educator, Clinical Skills & Simulation Center, MWU student mentors*

- 10:20 AM -11:20 AM **Occupational Therapy Lab: Skills for the Job of Living - Alumni Hall 256**  
What does an occupational therapist do? Understand career options and practice utilizing adaptive equipment and sensory experiences to improve patient function.  
*Monika Robinson, Dr.OT., OTR/L, Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy, College of Health Sciences*
- 11:30 AM -12:30 PM **Public Health: More Than Just COVID-19- Alumni Hall 153**  
This section will introduce students to the five main areas of emphasis for public health as well as public health careers.  
*Karen Gruszynski, D.V.M., M.P.H., Ph.D., DACVPM., Assistant Professor, College of Graduate Studies*
- 12:30-1:30 PM LUNCH - Event Center**
- 1:45 -2:55 PM **First Aid Basics - Event Center**  
Patch things up and boost your confidence in emergencies by learning essential first aid skills like applying tourniquets, using EpiPens, and splinting.  
*Trevor Naser, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*  
*Naomi Rajesh, Class of 2028; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- 3:00-4:00 PM **Reflection Wrap Up and Awards Program - Event Center**  
*MWU student mentors*