



Choosing a Strategic List of Schools: Worksheet

1. MISSION:

Which one (or more) of the following mission statements best fits your own values and aspirations?
Circle or highlight the statements that you find most appealing:

- A. Our mission is to educate caring, technologically adept clinicians who become community and educational leaders serving those in need, and:
- To be the leader in the lifelong education of community-responsive clinicians
 - To prepare graduates with a strong foundation of critical inquiry, evidence-based practice, research, cultural competency, an orientation to prevention, and interdisciplinary healthcare experiences
To promote the delivery of optimal patient care and for the transfer of newly acquired knowledge, skills, and technology to the profession and to the community
- B. To be a premier, research-intensive school that improves health through leadership, diversity, and a collaborative approach to discovery and innovation in patient care, education, and research.
- C. Our school is committed to providing humanistic education in the art and science of the practice of ____ within a scientific and scholarly community in which inclusivity, excellence in patient care, innovative teaching, research, and service to our community are valued. Our core values include a commitment to: diversity, personal mentorship, professionalism, collaboration and mutual respect, civic responsibility, patient advocacy, and life-long learning.
- D. Our school is committed to excellence in patient care and the education of health professionals. We believe that our Catholic heritage and Jesuit traditions of ethical behavior, academic distinction, and scientific research lead to new knowledge and advance our healing mission in the communities we serve. We believe that thoughtful stewardship, learning and constant reflection on experience improve all we do as we strive to provide the highest quality health care. We believe in God's presence in all our work. Through our care, concern, respect and cooperation, we demonstrate this belief to our patients and families, our students and each other. To fulfill our mission we foster an environment that encourages innovation, embraces diversity, respects life, and values human dignity. We are committed to going beyond the treatment of disease. We also treat the human spirit.
- E. Our program is dedicated to the advancement of ____ education and emphasizes service to the medically underserved. The program is committed to preparing students from diverse backgrounds to practice _____. Emphasis is placed upon understanding and appreciating diversity. The program aims to prepare its graduates to practice and promote primary health care of the highest quality as part of an interprofessional team.
- F. Our program leads discovery and innovation to improve ... health and wellness for individuals and society, through excellence in education, research, clinical care, and service. This mission is fulfilled through the following educational, clinical care, research/scholarship, and service roles:
- Education – through educating and preparing competent and ethical _____s who will assume the multifaceted roles of clinical practitioners, educators, scholars/researchers, administrators, consultants, and advocates.
 - Clinical Care – through providing [patient care] across the lifespan in general and specialized areas of clinical practice.
 - Research and Scholarship – through engaging in collaborative professional and inter-professional research and scholarly endeavors to support, utilize, and broaden the scientific basis of [our field].
 - Community Service – through contributions of time, expertise and knowledge to enhance the broader community, including our affiliated institutions, other clinical institutions, other health care professionals, our professional organization, and the citizens of Colorado.

2. CURRICULUM

Which of the following curricular approaches sounds most appealing? Circle or highlight the statements that most interest you:

1. Our program features a learner-centered environment that supports students as they work in collaborative groups to solve challenging, patient-based problems. The expert faculty encourages evidence-based, critical-thinking, and problem-solving strategies that aid students in the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and values needed to excel in the delivery of comprehensive oral care.

The School remains committed to keeping the curriculum flexible and integrated across the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences, with the cases studied continuously changing. Student input into ongoing curricular changes is encouraged.

2. Our curriculum is academically challenging, rigorous, and integrates all basic science and clinical components in a flipped classroom method, without lectures. It is learner centered, competency based, and requires mastery of academic content. It requires that the applicants demonstrate organizational and time management skills, self-regulated learning and the ability to perform well in an academic, small group setting focused on problem-based learning. Candidates should apply creative and critical thinking/reasoning to develop and solve solutions to a problem's complexities, anchored around clinical cases; comprehend and rapidly absorb new information; interact and work well in a team based setting with the ability to communicate and negotiate with varying opinions and ideas to reach well-founded conclusions.
3. The first year (semesters 1 to 3) is referred to as the didactic phase. A significant portion of the credit hours involve foundational ___ science coursework, however; students also gain clinical experience in both the skills/simulation lab and the hospital. This combination of classroom and clinical learning is an integral component of the program.

Classroom instruction includes advanced coursework in [subjects such as] applied anatomy and physiology, physics, and pharmacology. Simulation labs are incorporated early to emphasize patient instrumentation and monitoring, as well as technical skills required for the profession. Students will receive more than 100 hours of training during their first year in our state-of-the-art skills/simulation laboratory. Clinical work begins in the first semester, with incremental increases each semester.

Semesters 4 to 7 are considered the clinical phase of the program. One-on-one supervision by a _____ is provided. During the clinical rotations, students apply the medical knowledge and clinical skills gained during the didactic phase and gain competence in providing direct patient care. Rotations during the clinical phase will include some out of town and/or out of state clinical training sites of an affiliated hospital.

4. Our innovative curriculum provides all students with a broad biomedical and clinical foundation in the comparative aspects of each discipline. Recognizing the diversity of backgrounds, skills, interests, and talents among our students, the curriculum is presented in a variety of formats that include small- and large-group exercises, lectures, laboratory exercises, and discussion. It allows students to develop clinical skills, beginning in the first week. And, it offers ample opportunities for students to pursue individual interests in depth, and to tailor their learning to meet specific needs.

Students are actively engaged in learning, working with faculty, peers, and independently. Cooperation is stressed over competition, and learning for understanding is emphasized over rote memorization. In this environment, students are viewed as future colleagues, and they are encouraged to consult often with faculty experts and to explore a range of educational resource materials that have been developed to support their learning.

Faculty members work together to offer the interdisciplinary Foundation courses that comprise the majority (70%) of the curriculum. Frequent interactions between faculty and students create a rich educational environment that is stimulating and intellectually vibrant.

3. SPECIAL TRACKS OR PROGRAMS

Are you interested in participating in any special programs/tracks while in professional school?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic science research | <input type="checkbox"/> Bioethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical research | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Translational research | <input type="checkbox"/> Global health | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban underserved track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complementary/alternative medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical humanities | _____ |

4. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES:

Are there student organizations/activities that you will seek in professional school (e.g., religious, cultural, musical/artistic, athletic, social)? These may or may not be activities in which you are currently active.

5. GEOGRAPHY

Where in the United States have you spent significant time in the past? Are there other areas where you have strong connections to family or friends? Are there other location factors that you are considering (e.g., urban vs. suburban vs. rural, climate, access to certain patient populations, etc.)?

6. SCHOOLS OF INTEREST

Are there school that you are already interested in, based on personal experience or advice from others?

7. OTHER FACTORS

- **Class size:** Do you have a strong preference for large vs. small?
- **Institution:** Do you prefer campus with undergraduates or graduate-only health professions campus?
- **Timing of clinical training:** Is it important to you to start clinical training early on in professional school or are you content with focusing on academics for the first year or two?
- **Grading system:** Do you have a strong preference for letter grades vs. P/F?
- **Interprofessionalism:** Would you enjoy taking classes with other health professions students or do you want to take classes only with students enrolled in your specific program?

Feel free to list additional factors here.