***Dr. Robert Spears***

***Associate Dean for Student and Academic Af airs***

**Advice**

● Stay involved in Pre-Dent and come to know people in HPAC.

● What is your WHY dentistry and what makes you unique?

**UTSD**

● Part of the Texas Medical Center

● 1 of 6 schools in UTHSC-H

● Outstanding research, education, and patient care opportunities.

**Community Outreach**

○ They work with schools, and other community outreach programs.

○ They have a mobile dental clinic that D4’s do rotations on.

○ They have a “Give Back Attitude.”

● They offer housing for students, along with a recreation center.

**Curriculum**

● Biomedical Sciences Core

● System Based/Vertically Integrated

● Simulation and Virtual Patients

● Oral Biology and Clinical Applications

**Clinic**

● Group Practice to Simulate the “Real World”

● Earlier Entry to Patient Care Environment

● Increased Community Based Experiences

**Research**

● The Office of Research provides support, liaison, and guidance for all clinical, basic, and student research efforts.

● Student Research meets monthly

● There is a Summer Research Opportunity for new students to the UTSD program. **WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR:**

● Service

● Social Skills

● Cultural Competence

● Teamwork

● Communication

● DAT and GPA

● Shadowing Experience is Important

○ General Dentists are most important.

**Personal Statement**

● Way to express yourself, your goals, philosophy and motivation behind medicine. ● Provides the committee with a “snapshot”

● Tell your story, and sell yourself beyond the “numbers”

● What makes you WHO you are!

*Freshman*

● Establish Relationships with Professors

● Know how to get help, special programs or tracks.

● Begin exploring community service, school organizations, and summer programs. *Sophomore*

● Check in with professors and pre-advisor

● Pursue meaningful clinical experience, dental related activities, volunteer work, research and leadership roles, plan your summers.

*Juniors*

● Take DAT

● Apply-familiarize yourself with the application process and prerequisites, and research the schools.

*Seniors*

● Complete all Pre-Reqs

● Continue participating in activities

● Interview with schools

*Re-Applicant Process*

● What have you done in the last year to improve your application?

**FIND OUT about Each School**

● Tour the Schools

● Talk with the Students

● What are you looking for in a program?

○ Have questions you want to ask.

● In state versus out of state

● Costs

**Professional Preparation**

● Professionalism

● Ethics

● Interviewing Skills

○ Interview each other.

● Write Personal Statements

○ Let other people read it.

● Have a Resume and keep it updated.

Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP)

● Great for Freshman and Sophomores