

The Med Ed Connection

◆ A Glimpse into Forensic Medicine: Tour of the Webb County Medical Examiner's Office

Special points of interest:

- ◆ August Highlights
- ◆ Top Ten Common College Application Mistakes
- ◆ New Med Ed Offices
- ◆ College Bound Checklist
- ◆ New Med Ed Website
- ◆ Calendar of Events

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Forty students had the opportunity to observe the career of a forensic pathologist thanks to Dr. Corinne Stern on August 16th and 23rd. It was a great privilege to learn in detail about anatomy, physiology and its relevant application in forensic medicine.

Dr. Stern is a graduate of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth and is the only practicing Medical Examiner in the border area. Dr. Stern thoroughly reviewed routine procedures with students and even allowed our group to tour the new Webb County facility.

Television shows such as CSI, Cold Case Files and American Justice have fascinated viewers about the world of forensics and technology over the last few years and as a result increased interest so much so that in just the last 5 years many universities have begun to offer masters and doctorate degree programs in forensic science. In fact, the UT Health Science Center



at San Antonio offers a Masters in Forensic and Analytical Toxicology and you can find more information about this program by logging on to: www.uthscsa.edu/sah/cls/masters.htm.

Take note, if becoming a medical examiner interests you, then 4 years of college plus 4 years of medical school followed by a residency in pathology and

a fellowship in forensic pathology as well as job shadowing before the national board certification exam would be the required career pathway.

In February 2005, the Bureau of Justice Statistics determined that over the next ten years there will be a 20 to 50 percent increase in available jobs in the field of forensic sciences.

◆ Community Service: Operation Lone Star at United South High School



Pictured Below: Maria Villarreal and Ricardo Santos assisting in the dental wing.

This summer, Med Ed students were given the opportunity to volunteer during the week-long Operation Lone Star which began Monday, August 8th. Operation Lone Star is a humanitarian and training mission for U.S. military health professionals who offer free medical and dental care to residents of South Texas. Med Ed volunteers were assigned to a variety of tasks which included taking patients' basic height and weight measures, dental assisting, processing patient registrations, Spanish translation, and child care.



Pictured Above: Norma Garza assisting with patient registrations.

Believing and Investing in your future career in the health sciences!

❖ Top 10 College Application Mistakes

Senior year is hectic, but don't let it affect the quality of your college application. Take your time, pay attention to detail and meet deadlines. The following are the top 10 responses and admissions staff shared by counselors regarding the most common mistakes seen on college applications.



1. **Spelling and grammatical errors**—This is a big pet peeve for many admissions people. If you have misspelling errors on something as important as an application, then it shows that either you don't care or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended major. But don't stop with a spell check, be sure to proofread your application for grammatical errors, too.

Take responsibility for your college planning process, and you'll be amazed by how much you learn about yourself!

2. **Applying online, but the application isn't submitted**—If you apply online, you should receive confirmation that the college or university received it. Confirmation could be an email message, a web page response or a credit card receipt. Follow through and make sure that your application has been received.

3. **Forgotten signatures**—Make sure you sign and date the form. Often students overlook that part of the form if it's on the back. Check that all spaces are completed.

4. **Not reading carefully**—For example, if the form asks what County you live in, don't misread it as Country and write United States.

5. **Listing extracurricular activities that aren't**—Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work. Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut. Make sure your activity information is accurate. Colleges may check with your high school.

6. **Not telling your school counselor where you've applied**—Let your counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask him or her to review your high school transcript before sending it to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have errors.

7. **Writing illegibly**—First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting. It will make a better impression.

8. **Using an email address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't**—Select a professional email address. Keep your fun address for friends, and create another for college admissions using your name or initials.

9. **Not checking your email regularly**—If you've given an email address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your email.

10. **Letting Mom or Dad help you fill out your application**—Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but ALWAYS do the work yourself.

Source: www.actstudent.org

❖ Laredo Med Ed Office Updates: We've Moved!

The month of August was a busy one for Laredo Med Ed as we moved our offices from the D.D. Hachar Building to the second floor office suite of the Academic Building on the UTHSCSA Laredo Campus Extension located at 1937 E. Bustamante Street.

Interested in picking up or dropping off a Med Ed application? Seeking advice for our health professional programs? Then visit us at our new offices located

above the medical library. Our phone numbers and email addresses have not changed. We can still be reached at Laredomeded@uthscsa.edu or directly by calling:

Griselda Rubio - 956.523.7437

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Adella L. Guerrero - 956.523.7440

Yolanda Chapa - 956.523.7446



❖ “To Do” This Month For 9th and 10th Graders

- ☑ Start requesting information for colleges of interest.
- ☑ Attend college information sessions held on your school campus.
- ☑ Attend the area-wide college fair held every year at TAMU.
- ☑ Involve yourself in worthwhile extracurricular activities, like Med Ed.
- ☑ Look for leadership opportunities and maintain an accurate record of your activities.
- ☑ Set a goal to keep your grades up this year. Make plans for tutoring and academic support if necessary. Remember that grades count toward your final GPA starting from the 9th grade.
- ☑ Register and prepare to take the PSAT and PLAN exams.

❖ “To Do” This Month For 11th Graders

- ☑ Set a goal to keep your grades up this year. Make plans for tutoring and academic support if necessary. Remember: junior year grades are extremely important because they demonstrate your ability to handle advanced coursework.
- ☑ Continue to request information from colleges that are of interest to you.
- ☑ Attend the area-wide college fair held at TAMU every year.
- ☑ Attend college information sessions held on your school campus.
- ☑ Try to visit the college campuses you’re interested in. Take notes and pictures to record your impressions.
- ☑ Involve yourself in worthwhile extracurricular activities, like those offered by the Med Ed Program.
- ☑ Look for leadership opportunities and update your log of activities.
- ☑ Register and prepare to take the SAT and/or ACT.



Important Web Resources:

www.act.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.applytexas.org

And check out our new Med Ed Website:

www.uthscsa.edu/meded



❖ “To Do” This Month For 12th Graders

- ☑ Set a goal to keep your grades up this year. Make plans for tutoring and academic support, if necessary.
- ☑ Find out your class rank.
- ☑ Register and prepare to take the SAT and/or ACT.
- ☑ Attend the area-wide college fairs held at TAMU every year.
- ☑ Attend college information sessions held on your school campus.
- ☑ Continue to involve yourself in worthwhile extracurricular activities, like the Med Ed Program.
- ☑ Identify careers you’d be interested in pursuing. Make preparations to declare a major that will not only relate but prepare you for that career.
- ☑ Plan visits to colleges you’re interested in and make necessary reservations with colleges for interviews, tours, etc.
- ☑ Request financial aid forms from the colleges you are applying to and check their priority deadline for financial aid and merit scholarships.
- ☑ Research scholarships on-line, or ask your counselor for guidance.
- ☑ Work on your college application essay and ask a teacher or mentor to proof-read it.
- ☑ Request letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors and mentors.
- ☑ Submit your Texas Common Application early either on or before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- ☑ Determine your need for and send on-campus housing deposits (one year in advance is common at most large state universities).

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Med Ed Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date / Time
Med Ed table display at Senior Career Night	J.W. Nixon High School Laredo, TX	October 1 6:00–8:00 pm
Med Ed participates in Laredo Chamber Mixer	UTHSCSA D.D. Hachar Bldg. 1937 E. Bustamante Street Laredo, TX	October 2 6:00–8:00 pm
Community Health Fun Fest (service project)	Gateway Health Center 1515 Pappas · Laredo, TX	October 4 8:00 am–12:00 noon
Med Ed recruiting presentation	Vidal M. Trevino Magnet Laredo, TX	October 6 8:00 am–4:30 pm
Med Ed hosts campus visit for Dr. Dennis D. Cantu Health Science Magnet School	UTHSCSA D.D. Hachar Bldg. 1937 E. Bustamante Street Laredo, TX	October 10 9:00–11:00 am
Freaky Friday for surrounding area high school groups	UTHSCSA D.D. Hachar Bldg. 1937 E. Bustamante Street Laredo, TX	October 31 8:15 am–12:00 noon

Happy
 Fall
 Y'all!

