Health Professions Advising Center at UT Dallas

Contacting HPAC

UT Dallas students and alumni, call 972.883.6767 for a half-hour discussion of in-depth questions, or drop in with a brief question from 1:30-4:30 pm weekdays. Drop ins are limited to 10 minutes or less. (Frequently Asked Questions)

Prospective students and parents are served by Enrollment Services, and can also look for the pre-health events and staff at recruitment events like Scholar’s Day. (Frequently Asked Questions)

The Health Profession Advising Center is found at:
UT Dallas - Health Profession Advising Center
800 West Campbell Rd., FO30
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
prehealth@utdallas.edu
phone: 972.883.6767
fax: 972.883.6806

The HPAC Office is located at UT Dallas in FO 2.210 (Founders Building, 2nd floor). The UT Dallas Visitors page has maps and directions to campus. Operating hours are 8:00 AM-5:00 PM weekdays.

HPAC Personnel

Dr. Karen de Olivares – Director and Advisor
karen.deolivares@utdallas.edu

Dr. Karen de Olivares joined the Health Professions Advising Center as Director in 2012. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, in Educational Foundations and Policy Analysis, Educational Studies. From 2000 to 2012, she directed Pre-Med/Pre-Health advising at Southern Methodist University and was an Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Sociology. Her distinguished contributions to U.S. pre-health advising include editing the Pre-Health Advisors' Reference Manual and New Advisors' Reference Manual, and serving the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (TAAHP) as Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair. Dr. de Olivares also participates in the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center Girls Services Committee. Her publications include “From Pigs Eyes' to Mouse Ears,” “Unframed Photo: Some Wore Blue and Some Wore Gray,” “The Real Cost of Measuring Effectiveness,” and “A Participant-Observation Course in Applied Adolescent Development,” as well as numerous book reviews. In addition to leading HPAC, Dr. de Olivares sponsors AED, Molding Doctors, and Miracles for Kids.
Margaret Swigert – Front Desk

On the phone or in person, Margaret Swigert is students' main point of contact at HPAC. Margaret joined UT Dallas in February 2004 and joined the HPAC team in September 2016. She attends the reception desk, provides support services to students, and directs them to their advisors in the HPAC office and resources around campus. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling, cooking and walking her dog.

Doyen Rainey — Asst. Director and Advisor

doyen.rainey@utdallas.edu

Doyen Rainey joined the HPAC team in the 2007 with several years of experience as an author and educator. A UT Dallas alum, Doyen was a McDermott Scholar and campus leader, active in Student Government and as Speaker for the Collegium V honors college. He earned three Teacher Certifications and a Master's in Teaching, bachelor's degrees in Literary Studies and Psychology, and a national Scholastic Art and Writing award. His contributions to pre-health advising include developing courses and presenting at national, regional, and state conferences. He currently serves as an officer of the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (TAAHP) and National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions.
We know Mr. Rainey for sensitive and patient advising and as teacher of HLTH 4108 Verbal Reasoning. He currently sponsors the Pre-Optometry Professional Society (POPS) and Pre-Dental Association (PDA), and is the Health Professions Advising Center's primary contact for technologies development.

Mr. Rainey's interests outside HPAC include writing and storytelling, photography, music, martial arts, and his wife and four children.

Shirley Y. Anderson — Advisor

shirley.anderson@utdallas.edu

Shirley Y. Anderson earned a Master's in Higher Education Administration & Supervision from the University of Houston, and a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Higher Education. From 2010-2013, Shirley served as a College Advisor to an inner-city Biomedical Sciences high school, assisting many low-income and first-generation students with college and financial aid information and application guidance. She joined the HPAC team in 2013 as a full-time advisor of UT Dallas's pre-health students. Shirley serves as the primary contact for the Certificate in Biomedical Sciences program, JAMP, Dallas China Care, and the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Society. She is currently a Member at Large for the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (TAAHP) and has presented at state, regional, and national conferences. Outside of work and classes, she enjoys spending time with her son and husband, especially checking out new restaurants and going on walks.
Thuy Luong – Advisor

ttl140130@utdallas.edu

Ms. Thuy Luong provides administrative and financial support at HPAC, advises international students, and coordinates Pre-SOMA (Student Osteopathic Medical Association). Ms. Luong earned her master's in Development Economics, the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, the Netherlands and a bachelor's in International Business from Hanoi Foreign Trade University. She worked in the Luxembourg Office for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs a few years before she moved to the United States. Ms. Luong joined HPAC in the Fall 2013 after 5 years working in the University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business. Her hobbies include reading, watching TV and spending time with her family.

Jeanna Sanchez – Advisor

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Jeanna Sanchez joined the HPAC team in October 2014. As a UT Dallas Pre-Health Advisor, she has a strong desire and commitment to assist students in their aspirations of working in the healthcare field. Her goal is to provide useful resources and help guide students to successful solutions that enable them to achieve their goals for the future.

Ms. Sanchez earned a degree in General Studies and has a certificate in Early Childhood Education. She is also a certified Medical Office Assistant and studied Elementary Education at New Mexico State University, and is a certified fitness instructor. She is currently a co-facilitator of JAMP, participates in Pre-Health LLC events, is the primary advising contact for the Texas A&M College of Dentistry post-bacc program, coordinates campus activities, and handles our partnerships with MCAT and DAT prep companies.

Outside of work Ms. Sanchez spends time watching her daughter play soccer, taking care of her cows and 3 dogs. She also has one son who attends college in Missouri, so Face Time is one of her favorite activities. Ms. Sanchez loves the outdoors, going to concerts, traveling, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family.
Ricardo Garza – Advisor
rxg171630@utdallas.edu
Ricardo Garza joined the HPAC team in December of 2016 as a full time advisor. He holds a Bachelor's from Prairie View A&M University in Criminal Justice and Sociology and a Master's from Texas State University in International Studies.
Ricardo comes with extensive knowledge in advising college students. As a community assistant in undergrad, Ricardo worked with over two hundred students; his duties included administration, advising, mentoring and the safety of his residents. In graduate school, Ricardo worked as an academic coach with over three hundred freshmen. Similar to an athletic, musical, or financial coach, as an academic coach he pushed students to reach their academic potential. Ricardo made sure to help students become self-advocates for their education while guided by a positive supporter. Ricardo worked with many different student populations during that time: first generation students, international students, academic probation students, Rising Star, and dual admitted college students in Texas State and the Austin Community College. He advises the UT Dallas chapter of HOSA, the Health Occupation Students of America. Ricardo's Hobbies include videography and photography. Ricardo has been covering his undergraduate marching band for the past few years and is in charge of video production. He also enjoys traveling and spending time with his family.
Col. (ret) David Murchison, DDS, MMS

david.murchison@utdallas.edu

Colonel Murchison graduated from U. Arkansas in 1977 with a BS Zoology, where he served as ROTC Cadet Corps Commander. In 1980, he graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry and was selected for a one-year Dental General Practice residency at Keesler AFB. He subsequently completed the 2-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

Col. Murchison is a diplomate of the Federal Services Board of General Dentistry and the American Board of General Dentistry. Selected for a Dental Biomaterials Fellowship, he completed this certificate program at the University of Indiana School of Dentistry in 1991 and earned a Master of Medical Science with emphasis in Research Methodology and Test Design in 2003. A Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry since 1984, he achieved Master status in 1995.

Col. Murchison's assignments include four tours as a full-time faculty member in Air Force AEGD residency programs, program director of the AEGD-2, and Military Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General for General Dentistry as well as for Graduate Dental and Continuing Education. He commanded the 35th Dental Squadron located at Misawa Air Base, Japan, and the 59th Dental Training Squadron at Lackland AFB, TX. In 2007, he accepted directorship of Air Force Dental Operations under the Office of the Surgeon General, responsible for 350,000 Air Force members at 80 dental clinic locations worldwide.

In 2010, Col. Murchison retired to Dallas after 30 years in the USAF. He currently advises HPAC, teaches Oral Histology & Embryology at the University of Texas at Dallas, and holds an appointment as an Adjunct Professor, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School.

Former Directors

Dr. Scott Wright

Dr. Scott Wright served UT Dallas as associate dean and director of the Health Professions Advising Center from 2006 through 2011. His twenty years of higher education experience,
including ten years as the director of admissions at UT Southwestern Medical School, shaped the personality of HPAC's advising and services. During his time at UT Dallas, Dr. Wright held prestigious positions in many state and national professional organizations, was elected president of the National Association of Advisors of Health Professions (NAAHP), implemented the pre-health minor, Certificate in Biomedical Sciences, and UT-PACT, and oversaw the state's most rigorous Health Professions Evaluation Process. Dr. Wright currently directs the Texas Medical and Dental Application Service, overseeing all applications to Texas medical, dental, and veterinary schools.

Dr. Joseph Wood

Dr. Joseph G. Wood served as HPAC Director and professor of neuroscience from 1996 until his retirement in 2007. Over his 45 year career, Dr. Wood shaped the founding of University of Texas medical schools in San Antonio and Houston, and served as chairman of the anatomy department at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. He received many state and national honors during his tenure. Since 2007, the University of Texas at Dallas has honored his legacy with the Joseph G. Wood Award and scholarship, presented each year to the university's top medical or dental applicant.