

# NEWS RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS -- Using borrowed furniture and office space donated by a hospitable hospital, Dallas' newest institution for medical education has set up shop to begin building a high-priority program for training critically-needed professional health workers.

The Southwestern School of Allied Health Professions at Dallas, a major new branch of The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School, began functioning earlier this fall in a former student nurses' residence at Methodist Hospital of Dallas. A staff of three, headed by Dr. Richard D. Burk, dean, and Dr. Harry J. Parker, associate dean, is at work planning curriculum for the school's first six instructional offerings, which will be submitted to the University System Board of Regents and the State Coordinating Board in October.

The school is due to accept its first students next summer, and expects to grow to a student body of 70, with a fulltime faculty of 15 plus numerous part-time instructors, by the beginning of its first full academic year in September, 1970.

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first add allied health

School officials anticipate a doubling of this enrollment within five years.

Approval has been requested for coursework in four specialties which will be offered at the outset, said Dr. Parker, who has charge of curriculum development. These are medical technology, physical therapy, rehabilitation science and nutrition dietetics.

Two other curricula--in instructional media technology and medical records administration--are being submitted for board approval for tentative inclusion in the school's program beginning in fall, 1971. Another scheduled 1971 offering, in cardio-respiratory science, is in the planning stage.

Other offerings, including a bachelor's degree as physician's assistant, are part of longer range plans. Master's degrees in some areas of study will be added later.

The school generally will accept students who have completed three or more years of college, Dean Burk explained, and will award them bachelor's degrees after at least a year of intensive study in a specialized health field. One program, in nutrition dietetics, will be an internship requiring a college degree for entrance.

Dr. Burk emphasized that the school's programs will be tailored to meet specific personnel needs of medical institutions and health agencies, with a goal of upgrading allied health professions, both in quantity and quality.

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second add allied health

"We see the school as the nucleus of a cooperative area-wide approach to providing more specialists who can perform skilled functions often not adequately provided, and who can relieve physicians of many routine tasks," he said.

Dr. Burk said this concept would attain a higher quality of preparation than has been possible through preceptorships, or on-the-job-training, of individuals of varying educational backgrounds.

The need for health personnel of all types nationally has been estimated at between two and a half and three million in the next decade, he pointed out.

A major problem in starting the school was finding operating space. The parent UT (Southwestern) Medical School, itself bursting out of existing facilities, has only recently begun a building program that will provide partial relief.

Methodist Hospital solved the problem by offering rent-free use of 1,600 square feet in its former nurses' residence, now called the annex. Methodist's diploma nursing program is being phased out in favor of a baccalaureate program in alliance with Dallas Baptist College.

The School of Allied Health Professions set up offices at Methodist and plans to utilize classroom space at various cooperating institutions, including Parkland Memorial Hospital, Methodist and other affiliating hospitals.

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third add allied health

Furniture, ordered months ago, failed to arrive on schedule and Methodist officials again helped out, lending surplus desks and chairs, Dean Burk said.

Plans call for eventual construction of a permanent home for the new school on the medical school campus adjacent to Parkland. Officials said the new School of Allied Health Professions will use the mailing address of its parent medical institution at 5323 Harry Hines.

Dr. Parker explained that health professions students will divide their time between classwork and extensive clinical training in an actual work environment, in the appropriate facilities of such institutions as Parkland, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Caruth Memorial Rehabilitation Center and others.

The school expects to draw many of its students from those studying liberal arts and social sciences, particularly psychology and sociology.

"Some degree holders in these areas find that their degrees are not marketable," Dr. Parker observed. "Students who transfer to our school and receive a degree in one of the health professions will be snapped up immediately" by help-short agencies.

First classes to get under way next June will be in physical therapy. The headstart will be required because of the program's length, requiring the equivalent of two summers and two long semesters to complete.

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fourth add allied health

While all coursework initially will be at the fourth-year college level or beyond, plans call for expanding into third-year and fourth-year programs later, permitting enrollment of junior college graduates who can go on to receive a baccalaureate degree.

Two proposed areas of instruction are new to this region, Dr. Parker pointed out. They are rehabilitation science, to be offered next fall, and instructional media technology, due to bow in 1971.

"Rehabilitation science attempts to fill a substantial void in Texas," he said. "This will train a person working at the 'entry level'-- as an interviewer for a health agency, for example, or as a vocational counselor aide."

Instructional media technology will train persons in the preparation of visual aids including posters, slides, films and other photographic and graphic arts for instructional use by hospitals.

Student workloads in health professions will parallel those of medical students, Dr. Parker said, requiring an average of 40 hours per week in class, laboratory and in-agency training, to receive from 30 to 45 semester hours of academic credit.

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