

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school • graduate school of biomedical sciences • school of allied health sciences

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DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School will accelerate its timetable of training more doctors by accepting 150 freshman medical students for the coming fall class.

In announcing the biggest per-class increase in school history--22--Dr. Charles C. Sprague, president of the UT Health Science Center at Dallas, praised the willingness of the school's faculty in accepting the additional load ahead of time.

SWMS has planned to accept 200 persons per class contingent on completion of its \$40 million construction program in the fall of 1974.

In order to take the 150 per class, the school is counting on use of part of its new 1,200-seat auditorium by next September's start of classes. The building program contractor has been requested to concentrate on completion of this unit as a priority ahead of three other major facilities.

Currently, the school has only one classroom capable of accommodating 150 persons. Some departments will be converting library and conference space into laboratories for use by the first-year class. This arrangement is expected to suffice until four new classrooms are completed, hopefully in 1974.

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Dr. Bryan Williams, associate dean for Student Affairs, noted that "the faculty determined this increase could be handled without compromising quality.

"The admissions committee was particularly anxious to admit more students this year with the large number of unusually qualified applicants," he added.

While a few out-of-state students have been accepted, the school is not admitting the allowed quota of 15% due to the large number of Texas applicants with unusually high qualifications.

More than 2,000 persons applied to Southwestern this year and more than 500 of these were interviewed, Dr. Williams noted. This compares to some 1,600 applicants the previous year.

The school raised its first-year class size to 128 last September. It had been 120 the year before and 105 in the fall of 1970.

Currently, counting all four classes, Southwestern has 471 medical students and 90 graduate students. By 1979 it is expected that there will be 800 medical students and 175 graduate students--representing a student body which will have doubled in size.

In addition, the third component of the Health Science Center, the School of Allied Health Sciences, currently has around 123 students enrolled. The head count this coming fall is expected to be 177.

Some additional faculty will be required to meet the needs of the big first year medical class in September, according to school administrators.