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NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
(SOUTHWESTERN)
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--The School of Allied Health Professions at Dallas formally opens its doors this week with 57 students enrolled in four programs for training badly-needed health care specialists.

The school, a branch of The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas, has accepted students for training in physical therapy, rehabilitation science, medical technology and nutrition and dietetics. Dr. Richard D. Burk is dean of the school.

Seven full-time faculty members and 42 part-time instructors will conduct training which includes classwork and clinical experience in laboratories, hospitals and health agencies. Basic classes are conducted in the Weiss Memorial Educational Bldg. at Methodist Hospital. The new school's administrative offices are located in the adjoining hospital Annex.

Except for dietetic internship, which requires a college degree for entrance, the allied health study programs generally constitute study at the fourth-year college level, explained Dr. Harry J. Parker, associate dean. Students in these programs have completed three years of college work at other institutions and will be awarded a bachelor's degree after completion of a year of intensive study in a medical speciality.

Eleven students in rehabilitation science are scheduled to begin classes at the Weiss building Tuesday (Sept. 8). Graduates in this program will work as rehabilitation agency interviewers, counselors and similar positions. This program is the first of its kind in the state designed to train personnel to aid disabled persons.

Eight trainees are scheduled to begin work Thursday (Sept. 10) in the one-year dietetic internship program, which will be conducted at Parkland Memorial Hospital. This new program is the second such offering in Dallas (Baylor Hospital has had one in operation for several years) and one of only four in the state, said Marilyn Haschke, chairman of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics for the new school.

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first add allied health

A reception for the eight new dietetic interns will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 8) in Dining Room A of Parkland, hosted by the Dallas County Hospital District.

Largest program in the new health professions school is in physical therapy, in which 24 students have already begun their study at Methodist Hospital.

Classes in this 14-month program began this summer, and students resumed work for the fall term on Aug. 31. This program supplants a similar one that had been conducted at Baylor Hospital since 1952.

A fourth study program, in medical technology, also is being conducted at Parkland. The School of Allied Health Professions is assuming administrative responsibility over an existing training course at Parkland for laboratory technicians, with plans to expand the scope of the program and unify it within the new school. Fourteen students currently are enrolled in the one-year program.

As the school formally opened, Dr. Burk announced appointment of faculty members for the Department of Physical Therapy. Named were Doris E. Porter, acting chairman and assistant professor; Alice M. James, assistant education director and assistant professor; Dr. Alexander D. Raptou, assistant professor; Donald E. Woerz, instructor. Dr. Burk will serve the department as medical director.

Other faculty appointments were announced previously. Most teachers are professionals in their specialized field or members of the parent medical school's faculty.

The new school was authorized by The University of Texas System Board of Regents last year in a move to help relieve the critical and growing shortage of specialized medical assistants. Dr. Burk said the school anticipates a growth rate of at least 15 per cent per year, with additional degree programs planned for the future.

Interest in the new programs was very high, Dr. Parker reported, with the most applicants--some 180 --seeking to enter the physical therapy course. Other programs received four to five applicants for each opening, he said.

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