



Health Professions Program

Meet Your Pre-Health Peer Mentors!



Maxine Smith '22

Co-Director of the Pre-Health Peer Mentors Program

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Hello! My name is Maxine Smith, and I am a '22 from the hilly and melting pot of Yonkers, NY. I find human behavior and different cultures fascinating, which has led me to major in psychology and minor in global health. I want to help others and bring awareness to mental health, so I am an aspiring pediatric psychiatrist with an open mind and desire to help local, underserved, and underrepresented communities. I have been fortunate enough to have many clinical

experiences that have confirmed my need to work in this field from talking to elderly patients as a Mount Sinai CARE volunteer to playing card games with in-patient youth at a New York City Children's Center Recreation Intern. When I am not stressing about an upcoming STEM exam, you can find me at some of my other on-campus commitments that include organizing fun activities for kids of color as president of Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color, working events as a Tucker Center Employee, and serving as a UGA for West House. In my free time, I enjoy growing my big nerd brain by watching anime, playing video games, and practicing photography and video art. If you have questions about any of this or other experiences such as life as a TA and study abroad. Please feel free to reach out, I cannot wait to meet you



Sophia "Sophie" Skallerud '22

Co-Director of the Pre-Health Peer Mentors Program

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Hello there! My name is Sophie, and I am a '22 from Edina, MN. I am a Biology major and a Religion minor. I fell into the pre-med track through an early fascination with forensic pathology. These last 3 years I have spent most of my time on the field with the Women's Lacrosse Team and in the lab researching iron deficiency in plants under Prof. Guerinot or (during the pandemic) PFAS in Dr. Romano's Epidemiology lab. I plan to complete a thesis in the Guerinot lab this year. Additionally, I have worked as a COVID-19 access screener at DHMC

for over a year now, spent an off term in SF with Close Concerns, and am a member/ exec at my sorority, Kappa. Lastly, I have shadowed amazing physicians through the NSS Program (so so cool) as well as at home in MN. You may catch me winding down with Harry Potter in a hammock, walking a foster puppy,

or baking banana bread when I need a good reset. Please reach out at the above email and I would be happy to answer questions via email/text or find a time to meet in person :)



Zachary LaPorte '22

Co-Director of the Pre-Health Peer Mentors Program

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Hi everyone! My name is Zach LaPorte, and I am a '22 from Pikesville, Maryland. I am majoring in Mathematics and minoring in Biology. On campus, I am a part of the climbing team and am a ski instructor for the Dartmouth ski PE classes. I'd be happy to go to the climbing gym or hit the slopes with anyone who wants to. In addition to climbing and skiing, I also have worked as a learning fellow and tutor through the Academic Skills Center for a few terms, and I am an active member in Phi Delta Alpha. For the past two terms I have been involved in

sports orthopedics research with Mass General, and this summer I have been volunteering as an EMT at a local firehouse back home. I like to study and work in different spots on campus for each class, so if you want any advice on a new study spot to try out, I'll have some good places in mind. If you want to grab a meal, or try out the climbing gym, or just have a chat at any point, please feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you all soon!



Alice Little '22

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I'm Alice Little, a '22 from Newburyport, MA, and I'm so excited to be seeing everyone in person again. My major is Classical Languages and Literature (CLL), and I also have a strong interest in microbiology. I like to bring together the humanities and the sciences whenever I can. On campus, I'm involved in America Reads and am an editor of The Dartmouth Apologia, a journal of Christian thought. I've also been a peer tutor and a mentor with the Women in Science Project (WISP). I get especially excited about my research on microbial biofilms and would love to talk to you about the

importance of microbes in our world. During my first off term, I worked in a Camphill Community -- an experience that eventually led me to pursue a path in healthcare. In my free time, I like to distract my friends from their studies in the Aquinas House.



Alvin Moral-Giron '23

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Hi! My name is Alvin Morales-Giron, and I am a '23 from Boston. I am majoring in Biology with a concentration in Molecular Biology. Outside of academics, I am involved in America Reads and OPAL Education. I am also a Pathways Scholar. I have had the opportunity to be a research assistant at Mass. General Hospital. I love playing soccer, so you can definitely see me in pickup games or in Club Soccer. I also enjoy spending my time with friends whether that's studying together in the NAP

lounge, Collis, or Baker/Berry...or playing spike ball in the Green. I also like watching anime (currently watching Naruto 😊) I can't wait to meet you guys!



Amarachukwu "Ami" Nwaoha '23

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Hi everyone! My name is Ami Nwaoha and I'm a '23 from Randolph MA (about 20 min from Boston). I'm pursuing a Major in Biology with a concentration in biochemistry modified with Engineering. I'm also planning on pursuing a minor in Hispanic Studies and I'm going to be studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina during 22W. Outside of the classroom, I'm a member of Dartmouth Emergency Medical Services and play Ultimate Frisbee. I conduct research at DHMC under Professor Rosato and Skorput and study the role of tissue-resident T-cells in neural signaling and the pain response. I also volunteer at DHMC as part of the Patient Support Corps. In the past, I've worked at a coffee shop at Tuck, was a note-taker, worked as a tutor with the Academic Skills Center. In my free time, I like to play pick-up basketball/soccer, watch Rick and Morty, and hang out with dogs. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns about anything!



Anahita Kodali '23

Anahita.T.Kodali.23@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Anahita Kodali; I'm a '23 from outside of Pittsburgh, PA and a double majoring in Biology and WGSS. I love research - I currently conduct research in the economics department under Dr. Melinda Petre and in Geisel Medical School in the Gilbert-Diamond lab. On campus, I'm involved in a bunch of different extracurriculars; I am the current president of the Dartmouth Undergraduate Journal of Science, the current Vice President of Dartmouth/Hanover Rotaract, and am joining the Dickey Centre's War and Peace Fellows program in 21F! When I'm not working, you can find me trying out every flavor of Monster at Novack and longboarding around campus. I would love to get to know you - please feel free to reach out to me so we can grab a meal or coffee! I'm so excited to meet all of you soon.



Ananya Alleyne '23

Ananya.R.Alleyne.23@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Ananya Alleyne, and I am a '23 from West Hartford, CT. I am majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in African & African American Studies. Currently, I am working as a research assistant in Professor Tse and Cavanagh's lab. I was matched with their lab through WISP my freshmen winter, and I have been helping code and run psychophysics studies ever since. In addition, I volunteer for Habitat for Humanity back home and here in the Upper Valley. This past winter, I took a term off and did a remote internship with Harvard Medical School's Orthopedic Trauma research team.

Outside of academics, I am one of the Vice Presidents for Club Squash and part of the planning committee for the School House's anti-racism programming for the 2021-2022 school year. During my free time, you can find me tossing a football on the green, grabbing a coffee at Dirt Cowboy, or wasting time watching random YouTube videos. If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! I am always down to grab a coffee or a meal and chat. Can't wait to meet you soon!



Anna Miele '22

Anna.S.Miele.22@dartmouth.edu

Hi! I'm Anna Miele, and I am a '22 from Atlanta, Georgia. I am majoring in Biology with minors in religion and psychology. Aside from classwork, I am a big SIB, I participate in the Patient Support Corps program, and I do Global Health Fellows. I also work in Dr. Peter Wright's lab at DHMC studying the body's immune response to COVID-19. In a past off terms, I worked at a diabetes clinic in Atlanta which conducts clinical trials for new devices and medications which need FDA approval. I have also spent an off-term working in a lab at Georgia Tech studying protein mis-folding in neurodegenerative diseases. I love to paint, spend time with friends, and travel. I am so excited to get to know everyone and would love to grab a meal with any of you! Can't wait to meet everyone!



Cormac Zachar '22

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Hi! My name is Cormac Zachar and I'm a '22 from Crested Butte, Colorado. I'm majoring in biology with a concentration in human bio, as well as minoring in environmental studies (ENVS). On-campus, in addition to being a pre-health mentor I'm a member of the men's lacrosse team. Outside of lacrosse, some of my favorite things to do are whitewater kayaking and skiing both in the upper valley and back home in western Colorado. I'm especially interested in emergency and wilderness medicine— I spent this past summer working as an EMT in CO and volunteering with my county's search and rescue team. I'm excited to get to know

you and help in any way I can. I'm always available from both my email (see above) and my cell phone at 978-495-1810.



Elina Pepper '22

Elina.L.Pepper.22@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Elina Pepper, and I am a '22 from San Diego, California. I'm majoring in Biology and minoring in Spanish, and I am so excited to share my journey in pre-health with all of you too! On campus, I work in the Undergraduate Admissions office as a Senior Fellow, I volunteer with the SIBS program, I play on the women's club lacrosse team, and I have done several research projects. In my freshman and sophomore years, I worked in clinical research studying adolescent health risks with the WISP and Sophomore Scholars programs. More recently, I have started working with a professor at Geisel on a book about public health and community wellbeing. I have a more untraditional off-term experience in the sense that I worked in finance (more specifically in healthcare investment banking), and I plan on pursuing this full-time in my gap year(s) before medical school. In my free time, I enjoy trying new restaurants, going to spin classes, and spending time in my sorority! Please reach out with any questions and I cannot wait to meet all of you!



Erin Kawakami ' 21

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Hi! My name is Erin Kawakami and I am a '21 from Palos Verdes Estates, California, majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in Human-Centered Design. Outside of class, I am a proud member of Dartmouth's Women's Varsity Soccer. Additionally, I am also a Spanish tutor through the Academic Skills Center and an active participant in the shadowing program through Dartmouth's Nathan Smith Society. I recently worked as a Neurobiology Research Assistant for an Adjunct Professor at UCLA and looking forward to discovering new and exciting projects to participate in. When I am in great need of an academic break, you can find me playing sports, hiking, reading at Still North Cafe or on the Green, cooking, or spending time with friends. I am very excited for this upcoming year as a Pre-Health Mentor, and I would love to get to know you over coffee or gelato! Please feel free to reach me at the above email.



Geneva Kwaku '23

Geneva.N.Kwaku.23@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Geneva Kwaku, and I am a '23. I moved a few times growing up so home to me is a couple of different places, but I've been just next door in Etna, New Hampshire for the past four years! At Dartmouth, I am a Biology major concentrating in Human Biology, and I am minoring in Global Health. On campus, I am a Global Health Fellow and also a research assistant with Dr. Whalen from the Geisel School of Medicine. I have been volunteering with the inpatient pediatric unit at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) for 2 years, and I am a member of the Nathan Smith Society. Last summer

during my first off term I was working full time at DHMC as a COVID-19 access screener on the overnight shifts-- meaning I became completely nocturnal for a few months! Some of my favorite things to do include going swimming or paddle boarding in the CT river and hanging out with my friends on the Green. I am really looking forward to this year and can't wait to meet you!



Gil Assi '22

Gil.A.Assi.22@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Gil Assi, and I am a '22, majoring in Biology with a minor in French. My name is actually pronounced "Jill" not "Gil." Very confusing but please try to remember. I am originally from the Ivory Coast, but I live in Hilo, Hawaii. When I am on campus, I actively work with the French department as a drill instructor. If I am not overwhelmed with pre-med courses, I tutor for the academic skills center and work for student accessibility services as a notetaker. Additionally, I did research in Professor Xiaofeng Wang's lab at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center where I learned about the SWI/SNF tumor-suppressor protein complex. Currently, I am a research assistant in Dr. Ruth Craig's lab at the Geisel School of Medicine. During my off terms, I served as a VISTA volunteer at a Title I school (schools where 50% or more of the student population comes from low-income families) tutoring high school students in core academic subjects, and a cohort intern for the Center for Social Impact in Boston working with the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program (BHCHP). When I am not in a classroom or a lab, I shadow at my local hospital. In my free time, you can find me at Fahey playing FIFA with my friends, on the tennis court or on the soccer field. Also, I love reading thrillers/mysteries so if you are a fan of the Jack Reacher novels, please talk to me!



Hailey Fox '22

Hailey.P.Fox.22@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Hailey Fox, and I am a '22 from Nashville, Tennessee. I am majoring in computer science modified in chemistry and am also pre-med. I am interested in working in the biotech industry where I hope to create technologies to make healthcare better and more efficient. I am on the cheer team and the club lacrosse team. I am a tutor through the Academic Skills Center and was a TA for CS30. I am involved in the Women in Computer Science club as well as Dartmouth's Nathan Smith Society. In my free time, I like to hang out with my friends, explore new restaurants outside of Dartmouth, go on hikes, or watch Grey's Anatomy. I am so excited to get to know you all and would love to meet up for a meal or a walk anytime! Feel free to reach me at the above email. I think this will be a fun year, and I am excited to see you all!



Jay Kang '22

Jay.H.Kang.22@dartmouth.edu

Hey y'all! My name is Jay Kang, and I am a '22 from Boulder, Colorado majoring in Anthropology modified with Global Health and minoring in Biology. On campus, I am involved with service work through Hanover Community Kitchen, Generations, and Dartmouth Emergency Medical Services. You can also catch me hanging up posters as a UGA, reviewing articles for Dr. Lisa Adam's global health methods research, or tutoring elementary school students online. I have worn many hats during my last four years as an Eichler Fellow for Healthcare Foundations, Pathways Scholar, Sophomore Scholar for an Immunology lab, and Presidential Scholar with the Center for Health Equity. For my off terms, I supported mobile shower and social service delivery to unhoused communities in San Francisco through a non-profit Lava Mae, returned to San Francisco with a company Close Concerns to develop diabetes-based public health awareness, and carried out clinical nephrology research in Chicago while shadowing healthcare professionals through Northwestern Medicine's Pre-Med Internship. These days, I've been into lifting, guided meditation, watching cartoons, laughing with friends, and anything else to prioritize my mental health (SO important as a pre-health student). Whether you need a listening ear or a person to laugh along to dad jokes, please PLEASE reach out at the above email. Can't wait to meet you!



Kamila Zakowicz '22

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Hi 25s! My name is Kamila Zakowicz and I am from Thousand Oaks, CA. I am a '22 majoring in Philosophy modified with Classics, and I am also completing the pre-medical track. On campus, I am involved in the Dartmouth Dodecaphonics a capella group, I dance with the Sugarplum dance group, and I conduct research at the Metabolic Engineering lab at the Thayer School of Engineering. One of my favorite volunteer experiences outside of campus has been working at a dog shelter - I highly recommend connecting with some pups! In my off-terms, I have worked as a research assistant in a bioengineering lab as well as a summer analyst at a life sciences transactions firm. Feel free to reach out to me if you ever want to talk about being a humanities major in pre-med, juggling science and the arts, or foco food hacks. And please, please try roasting some seasoned veggies in the toaster oven - you won't regret it.



Manuel Patiño '22

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Hello everyone! My name is Manuel Patiño and I'm a '22 from East Boston double majoring in Neuroscience and Hispanic Studies. Outside of the classroom, I work two jobs as a Spanish Drill instructor (think Spanish tutor) and a tour guide for the Admissions Office. I also volunteer with SEAD (Strengthening Educational Access at Dartmouth), which works with first-generation, low-income high school students from the Upper Valley in their journey of getting into and succeeding in college. I dabbled in neuroscience research on campus during my first year and have done 2 summers' worth of neuroscience research in Boston. When I'm not studying, you can find me reading a good book in Spanish, playing board games with friends, or face timing my family.



Marcus Chang '23

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Hello! My name is Marcus Chang and I'm a '23 from Los Angeles, California. I plan to double major in biology and music. On campus, I am involved in research in the Psychology and Brain Science Department under Professor Jeffrey Taube. I volunteer as the musical director of Hear Your Song and am involved in the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra. I even plan on studying abroad in London in 2022 as a part of the music FSP. I am also a writer for the Dartmouth Undergraduate Journal of Sciences and also participate in the Nathan Smith Society's shadowing program. Outside of these activities, I enjoy playing tennis and Smash, swimming in the river, or just hanging out with my friends on the green.



Michelle Kim '22

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Hi! My name is Michelle Kim, and I am a '22 from Tacoma, Washington, majoring in Neuroscience. I am currently a research assistant in the Hong lab at Geisel, working on a project focused on peripheral nerve regeneration with the end goal of improving the recovery process for individuals who have undergone peripheral nerve surgery. If I'm not in the lab, you can find me volunteering at ASPIRE, organizing events with the Nathan Smith Society, going for a run, or practicing at Boxing Club or Street Soul. I am so excited to meet you and answer any questions you might have about pre-health classes, my Dartmouth experience, or anything in between.



Minerva Nong '22

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Hi! My name is Minerva Nong, and I'm a '22 from Tampa, Florida, majoring in Anthropology modified with Biology. On-campus, I'm a member of Health Access For All, an active participant in the Nathan Smith Society shadowing program, and a member of the Ujima dance troupe. I'm also a tutor and study group leader through the Academic Skills Center. For my off-terms, I've worked in a translational research lab in my hometown, focused on therapies for Multiple Myeloma. While on campus, I've been lucky to explore clinical cancer research through DHMC and behavioral economics through the Center for Technology and Behavioral Health. Please feel free to reach out to me at the above email, I'd love to meet you!



Nicholas "Nic" Sugiarto '23

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Hi! I'm Nick Sugiarto, and I'm a '23 from San Diego, CA majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. I'm super passionate about research and work on bioinformatics with Professor Wang at the Wang Lab in Geisel. Though pre-health aside, I'm also a writer for the Dartmouth Jack-O-Lantern and a member of the Dartmouth Comedy Network. I'm also a UGA! For fun, I love to work out, write, and cook! So excited to meet you all, and I'm down for a meal or coffee whenever!



Reshma Rajasingh '22

Reshma.Rajasingh.22@dartmouth.edu

Hi! My name is Reshma Rajasingh, and I'm a '22 from Kansas City. I'm a Neuroscience major as well as a Biology and Chemistry minor. Outside of class, I work in Viola Stoermer's Cognitive Psychology lab. I also am one of the directors of Camp Kesem this year, which is an organization that helps fundraise for and plan activities for kids whose family members have or have/had cancer. I also actively participate in the Nathan Smith Society by attending various informative sessions and shadowing when I can. In addition, I am really involved in my sorority as the recruitment chair and a member of the diversity task force. I love teaching as well and work as a tutor in many subjects including mathematics, chemistry, and neuroscience, both on and off-campus. In my free time, my favorite thing to do is relax with a good book and a warm cup of tea. I also really enjoy running, traveling, and cake decorating - although I don't get to do it as much as I would like. I would absolutely love to get to know all of you more, and I definitely cannot turn down a cup of coffee. Do not hesitate to reach out! Can't wait to meet all of you!



Noa Phillips '23

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Hi. My name is Noa Phillips, and I am a '23 originally from California but I have been living in Louisiana for the past few years. I am majoring in Government while pursuing the pre-health track. Outside of the classroom, I am involved with the Committee on Standards, Dartmouth College Radio, and recently involved with the Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color. When I am not studying, you can find me taking an early morning walk around campus, hanging out with friends, or rooting for the New Orleans Saints. I would love to personally get to know you over coffee or a meal. I look forward to meeting you!



Sophie Kodak '23

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Hi everyone! I'm Sophie Kodak, and I'm a '23 from Simsbury, CT. I'm majoring in Anthropology modified with Global Health and minoring in Neuroscience! Besides classes, I also engage in pediatric public health research with Professor JoAnna Leyenaar who teaches at Geisel, The Dartmouth Institute, and is the Vice Chair of Research in DHMC's Pediatric Department. On campus, I am also involved with Greek life, Club Ultimate, Nathan Smith Society, the Dickey Center, and the Dartmouth Alliance for Children and Adolescents of Color. For 21W and 21S, I spent my terms working as a medical technician in the Center for Clinical Investigation at Brigham and Women's hospital, and I'm hoping to spend 22X getting more hands-on global health experience! In my free time, I love spending time with the dogs around campus, going on adventures with my pals, and dancing. I can't wait to get to know you all, so please send me a blitz at the above email to chat, grab a meal, or just say hi if you see me around!



Victoria "Tori" Bergstein '22

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Hi everyone!! My name is Tori, and I'm a '22 majoring in biology and minoring in global health from Burlington, Vermont. On campus, I am a research assistant in Professor Bing He's lab studying mechanisms of embryonic development in *Drosophila*. I've also been involved in a number of other research projects, including spending my freshman summer working on a melanoma immunotherapy clinical trial at the National Institutes of Health, and my junior summer conducting research on the phenotypic characterization of Influenza at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Outside of the lab, I've also really enjoyed getting involved in clinical opportunities, especially through volunteering at DHMC with the Patient Support Corps and the Virtual Visit Program during COVID. Most memorably, I spent my junior winter off-term volunteering at a free clinic that serves disadvantaged, uninsured patients in North

Carolina, where I organized and ran a COVID vaccine clinic. Beyond pre-med things, I'm a member of the varsity equestrian team and Alpha Phi, and for fun, I love to ski, hike, and swim out to the rope swing on the river. I am so excited to meet you all, and please don't hesitate to reach out, whether it's about course planning, MCAT prep, med school apps, or if you just want to hang out and get a meal!



Yisiara Aguirre '23

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My name is Yisiara Aguirre, and I use she/her pronouns. I am from a small town in Central Florida called Ocala. I am majoring in Biology and in LALACS modified with WGSS. I am involved with FYSEP, Dartmouth Cancer Scholars, and the Dartmouth Center for Social Impact. I am currently doing research with the Hispanic Transplant Program based in Chicago as well as volunteering at DHMC. You can pretty much always find me studying in Novack, the best study spot on campus. I love to take people to coffee and ask for their favorite orders, so please reach out to me if you would like to talk about literally anything!



Yuri Oh '22

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Hello! My name is Yuri Oh, and I am a '22 from the Chicagoland area. I am majoring in Cognitive Science with a focus in Psycholinguistics and Computational Linguistics (it's a mouthful, but I promise it's way simpler than it sounds haha). Outside the classroom, I do research in the Psychology and Brain Sciences department, am involved in Women in Science Projects (WISP), work at the library and as a tutor through the Academic Skills Center, and am a proud member of the Women's Rugby team on campus. I also really enjoy shadowing at DHMC and getting involved during the terms I have more time off rugby. I love spending time outdoors whether it be hiking, swimming, walking, or simply lounging. As a huge foodie, I also love exploring new/hidden spots for food around the Upper Valley. You can reach me at the above email if you have any questions. I'd love to chat!