

SVSU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS SUPPORT CHILDREN’S MIRACLE NETWORK



SVSU's pre-medical fraternity, Phi Delta Epsilon, includes pre-health students who annually raise over \$1,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. Here, the students met with Ryder, the 2025 Children's Miracle Network Champion for Hurley Medical Center — whose dream is to pursue police work. To make his day special, PhiDE arranged a surprise ride-along with SVSU Police. Ryder, joined by his dad and sister, is pictured here standing beside the officer who made the experience unforgettable.

SVSU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO SUPPORT A HEALTH CLINIC IN APPALACHIA



Guided by pre-health professions advisor Heidi Lang, every year SVSU pre-health professions students spend five days in the summer in rural Central Appalachia, gaining hands-on clinical experience with the St. Mary's Health Wagon, at one of the nation's largest free clinics. They assist with triage, dental and vision care, and patient support for the underserved population in Wise, Virginia. In 2025, a pre-veterinary student assisted at the new drive-through veterinary clinic.

"The partnership with Saginaw Valley State University is absolutely vital to the success of our medical mission. Every year, SVSU students bring unmatched energy, compassion and professionalism that truly helps us meet the tremendous demand for care in Appalachia. Their willingness to serve, learn and go above and beyond makes it possible for us to reach thousands of patients who otherwise would go without. Quite simply, we could not run this event without them, and their presence leaves a lasting impact not only on our patients, but on our entire team. I can truly say this partnership is vital for us to reach patients who otherwise would go without care."

— Dr. Paula Hill-Collins,
Vice President/Chief Clinical Director of the Health Wagon

SVSU will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Individuals who choose to make accommodations should contact The Conference Center at (989) 964-4348 at least three days prior to the need. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services.

CARDINALS **STAND OUT**

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS



100%

SVSU students have had a 100% acceptance rate to pharmacy and optometry schools for 10+ years.

85%

SVSU students had an 85% acceptance rate to medical schools in 2025.

83%

SVSU students have had an 83% average acceptance rate to dental school for the past 5 years.



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

The health care field is filled with opportunity, and you can take your first steps to exploring the possibilities at SVSU. As a student in SVSU's pre-health professions program, you will pair classroom instruction with experiential learning, preparing you to meet the rigorous requirements of top graduate schools. And you'll be guided along the way by people who are committed to helping you succeed.

SVSU PROGRAMS IN PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Pre-Chiropractic Medicine
Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Medicine
Pre-Optometry
Pre-Pharmacy
Pre-Physician Assistant
Pre-Podiatry
Pre-Veterinary Medicine

APPLY TODAY: svsu.edu/apply

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



SVSU pre-dental students benefit from the Dr. Jessica Bentoski Pre-Dental Scholarship, helping cover application costs and opening doors to top dental schools.



SVSU pre-veterinary students gain hands-on experience at Great Lakes Pet Emergencies, assisting with patient care and learning alongside local veterinary professionals.

A PATHWAY FROM SVSU TO MEDICAL SCHOOL WITH OUR EARLY ASSURANCE

SVSU has Early Assurance Program partnerships with medical schools at Central Michigan University, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. These partnerships allow SVSU students to apply and receive acceptance to medical school earlier than others applying across the U.S. As a pre-medical student, you benefit from MCAT study preparation, internship opportunities around the country and faculty research relationships to develop your skills for the medical field.

We have saved seats for SVSU graduates to these medical schools



SVSU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALUM



Dr. Emily (Baker) Berens, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Corewell Health, Zeeland Family Medicine

At SVSU Emily was a biology major, four-year captain of the women's golf team, president of the Student Athlete Advisory and a chemistry researcher.



Theodore Berlanga, DVM, Small Animal Rotating Intern at Cornell University Hospital for Animals, New York

At SVSU Theodore was a biology major, in the Honors Program, president of the Health Professions Association, a Roberts Fellow, a veterinary assistant at Great Lakes Pet Emergencies, intern in the theatre department and an officer with the Sexuality and Gender Spectrum Alliance.



Nathan Hankerson 4th year Medical Student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

At SVSU Nathan was a biology major, a Roberts Fellow, varsity football player, biology researcher, neurosurgery and family practice medical scribe, a peer advisor for international students, and he studied abroad.



Madison and Matthew both attended SVSU's Pre-health professions program. After graduation they married, and both are thriving in their medical and dental careers.

Matthew Thomas, DO, Academic Chief Resident Corewell Health Trenton/ Dearborn

At SVSU Matthew was a business administration major, a varsity football player and a Nexteer Automotive intern.

Madison (Shumate) Thomas, DDS, Dentist at JSP Dental, Trenton

At SVSU Madison was a health sciences major, an Alumni Relations intern and nominated Student Employee of the Year, and she was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha and a dental clerk at Great Lakes Bay Health Migrant Fluoride Program.

SVSU PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALUM



Dr. Derek Williams, OD, Director of Vision Services, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

At SVSU Derek was a biology major, organic chemistry researcher, pre-optometry senator in the Health Professions Association, intramural volleyball and basketball and a vision screener for SVSU varsity athletes.



Pre-health professions alumni from SVSU's classes of 2019 and 2020, all of whom are now physicians, entered medical school through SVSU's Early Assurance Program pathway

Left to right: Aiden Van Loo (CMU), Bayley Pfau (MSUCHM), Emily Beardsley (MSUCHM), Kathleen Murphy (CMU), Darby Richards (WSU), Tyler Sadilek (MSUCHM), Garrett Richardson (CMU), Katelyn Hartupee-Malett (MSUCHM), Caitlin Coulter (CMU) and Anh (Wendy) Pham (CMU).

EMPLOYERS AND WORK-STUDY PARTNERSHIPS:



CONTACT YOUR PRE-HEALTH ADVISOR



Heidi Lang, Pre-Health Professions Advisor hblang@svsu.edu

Heidi brings years of experience and leadership as a former president of the Central Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. Her experience allows her to connect students with graduate programs nationwide. She advises on course requirements, necessary clinical and community service experiences and helps students decide between medical fields. Heidi also coordinates mock interviews with SVSU staff and faculty to prepare students for their professional school interviews.