

Northwest Dental Health Aide Program



Dental Health Aide Program

Updates 4-2024

Dental Health

Aides



DHAs are primary providers that focus on prevention and basic oral health procedures. There are four categories of DHAs.

DHAs receive a federal CHAP certification to work in tribal communities under supervision of a licensed dentist or Dental Health Aide Therapist

Dental Health Aide/Therapist (DHA/T)



Dental Health Aide Program

PDHA I & II

- OHI, motivational interviewing
- Polish, antimicrobials, fluoride
- Dental Assisting
- Coronal prophylaxis

EFDHA I & II

- PDHA I & II Skills
- Simple and Complex Restoration
- Coronal prophylaxis

DHAH

- RDH Procedures including Local Anesthetic

DHAT

- PDHA and EFDHA Skills
- Prep teeth and place restorations
- Non-surgical extractions
- Exams

Benefits of CHAP Certification

- Allows tribes to provide care in a culturally responsive manner
- As a federally sanctioned program, DHAs have a larger scope of practice that may be outside of state practice acts, allowing them to provide more care to Tribal communities
- Many procedures are done under general or indirect supervision
- DHAs services are Medicaid/Medicare billable
- Increase
 - Career options in the community
 - Educational opportunities
 - Access to oral healthcare
 - Providers

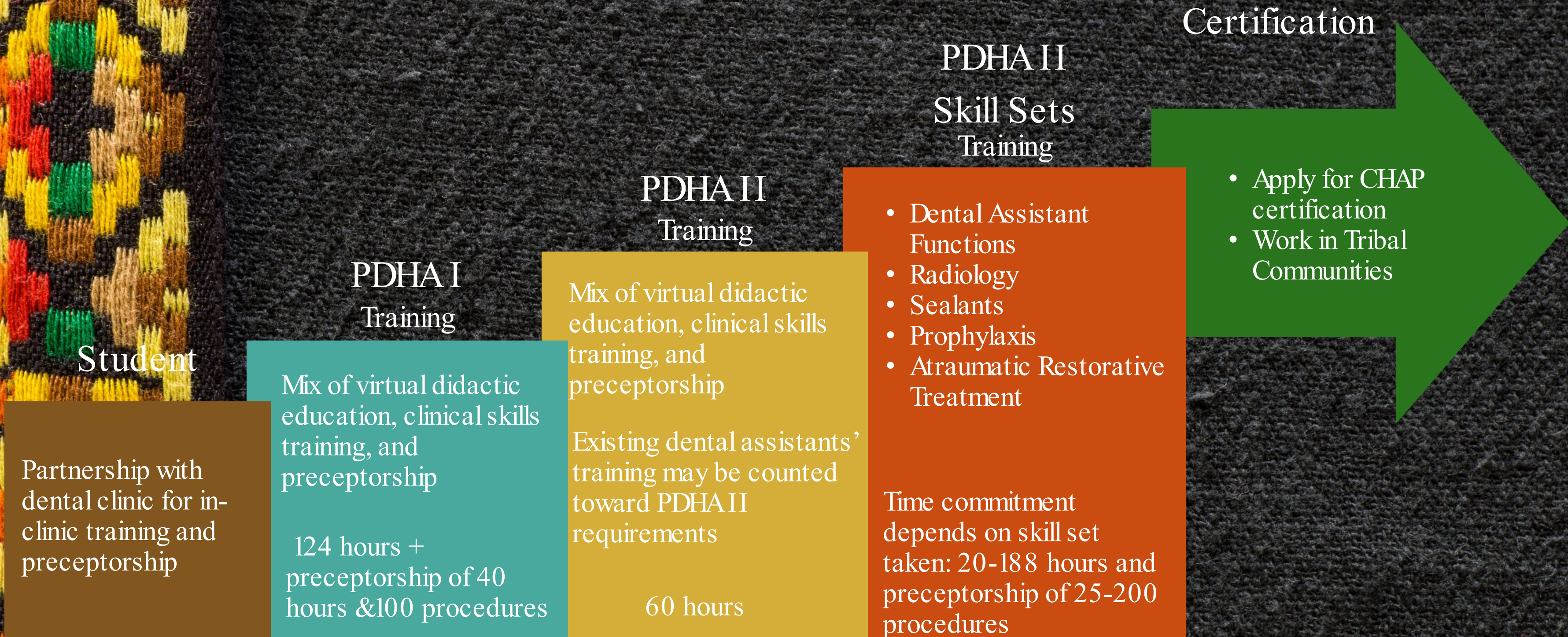


A photograph of two women in a dental office setting. They are both looking at a laptop screen. The woman on the left is wearing a pink shirt and has her hair in a bun. The woman on the right is wearing a blue denim shirt and has her hair pulled back. The background is slightly blurred, showing dental equipment and a clean, professional environment.

Who can become a Dental Health Aide

- Community Members serving a Tribal Community
- No dental experience needed
- Existing dental assistants who wish to add to scope of practice

How to Become a PDHA



NW DHA PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Where are we
now?



Secure Funding

Identify the gap

Provide awareness

Governing Processes

Advisory Workgroup

Develop content

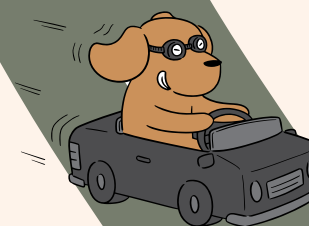
Partnership with tribes

Establish pilot sites

Partnership with higher education institution

Develop guidance for the tribes

Sustainability



FINISH

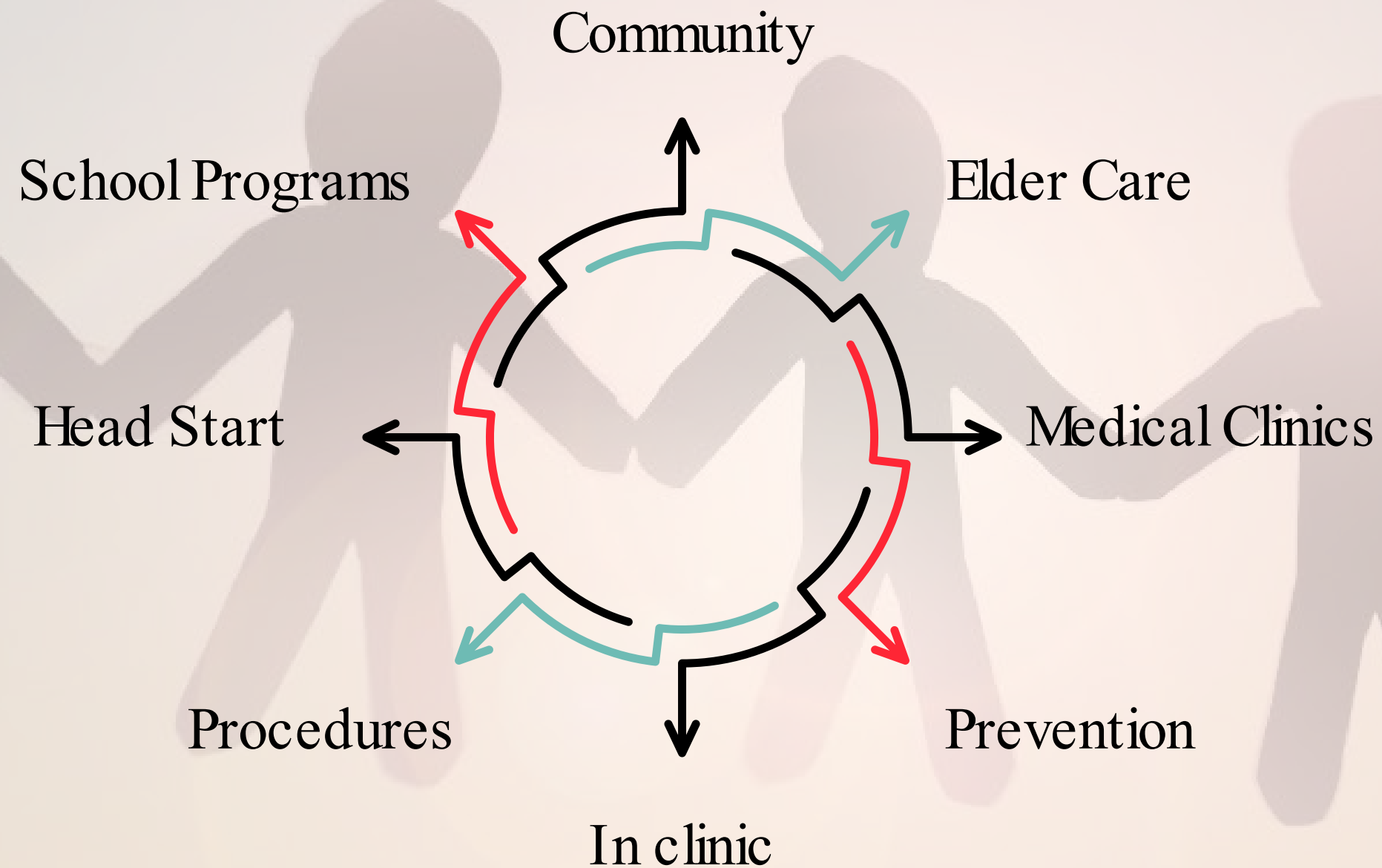


Opportunities for Dental Clinics



DHAs Support the Dental Team

Tribal Health Organization or Indian Health Service Clinic implementing the CHAP and employing a DHA



CHAP certification provides broader scope of practice

Under supervision of a dentist or DHAT

DENTAL CLINIC CONSIDERATIONS

Supervision of PDHAs

- Direct supervision of PDHA during preceptorship, may be done by dentist, DHAT or DH, depending on the procedure
- Continuing supervision of DHA will be direct, indirect or general. General supervision is under a dentist or DHAT
- A supervisor may impose a higher level of supervision than required in PASP

Skills Instructors

- Must hold credentials in the skill they are teaching
 - Can be provided by the Tribal community or
 - NPAIHB Contractors
- Responsible for skills training and education
- Student will have a mentor from NPAIHB for check-ins
- Site visits from NPAIHB

Preparation & Responsibilities

Employers/ Sponsoring Tribe



- Be knowledgeable in CHAP & PASP
- Have the capacity to train supervisors
- If providing the person clinic training, provide a qualified staff member for instruction
- Continuing supervision of DHA
- Update clinic policies and procedures

CHAP Certified DHATs in PA



1st CHAP Certified
DHAT in PA
2023



2024-Applications sent to Alaska for review April



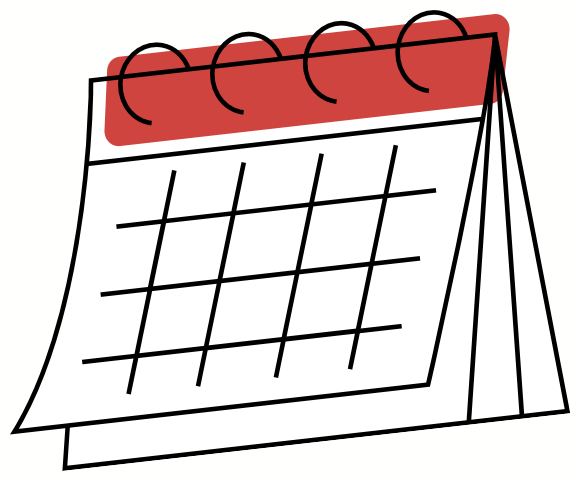
NW Dental Health Aide Advisory Workgroup



Dental Health Aide Program

DHA Advisory Members can include:

- Tribal and Federal Service Unit Dental Directors & Clinic staff
- Tribal Health Directors
- Northwest Tribal Leaders
- NPAIHB Tribal Delegates
- Additional NW community partners



MAY 14TH, 2024 12 PM PT

For more information contact

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WWW.TCHPP.ORG

The Dental Health Aide (DHA) Advisory Workgroup consists of community members and professionals dedicated to the development of the Portland Area Dental Health Aide Program, a discipline of the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). Members provide guidance, oversight and expertise on how to best align the DHA program to fit the needs of NW Tribes.



NPAIHB

Thank you!



Alaska Pioneers



Chloe Craig DMD, MPH
Cherokee Nation

**WE BELIEVE IN A NEW
GENERATION OF
INDIGENOUS HEALTH
LEADERS**



OUR MISSION

The Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACoE) works to sustainably address the health care needs of all people by increasing the number of AI/ANs in the U.S. health professions workforce.



NNACoE Affirmations

Native youth are curious & knowledgeable

Natives are drawn to STEMM fields

Natives are qualified applicants

Natives are the future health leaders



Our Approach



RECRUIT

Inspiring Native youth to nurture their identity as future healers

We use digital stories, mentorship, and clinical shadowing to explore health careers.

TRAIN

Preparing the Native health leaders of tomorrow

We equip students for medical, dental and nursing education through pathway initiatives.

RETAIN

Creating an Indigenous learning community for Natives to ascend in medicine and beyond

We provide opportunities for students and faculty to connect and excel through innovative coursework and career development.



TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

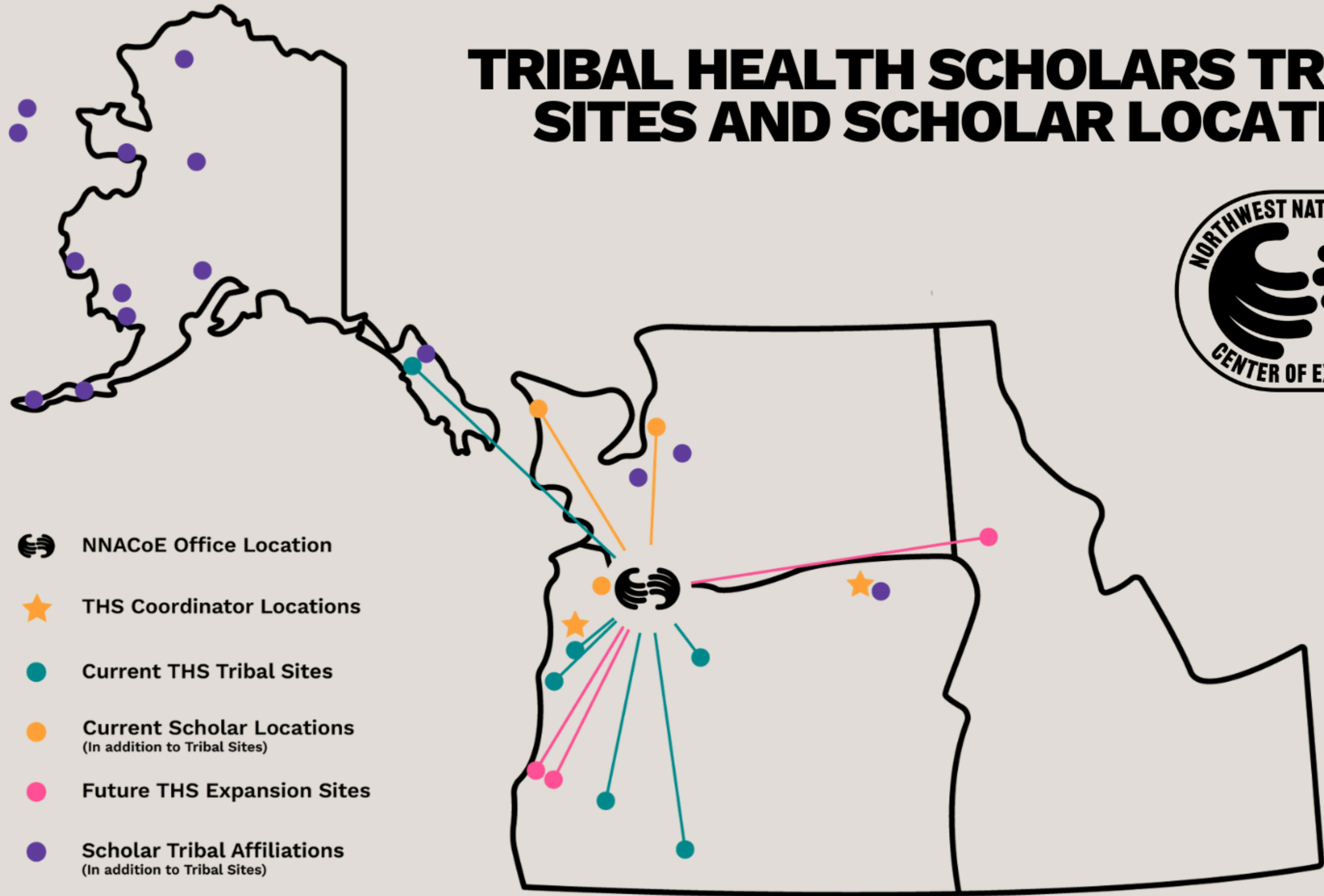








TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

Tribal Health Scholars (THS) is a paid externship program that supports and inspires AI/AN high school students to envision themselves as healthcare professionals and to pursue education required for a career in healthcare.

<https://www.nnacoe.org/tribal-health-scholars>

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS TRIBAL SITES AND SCHOLAR LOCATIONS



-  NNACoE Office Location
-  THS Coordinator Locations
-  Current THS Tribal Sites
-  Current Scholar Locations
(In addition to Tribal Sites)
-  Future THS Expansion Sites
-  Scholar Tribal Affiliations
(In addition to Tribal Sites)



HEALTH PATHWAY COACHING

**OFFICE HOURS WITH
COACH CHRISTINA**

**WEDNESDAYS
3 - 4 PM PST**



TEXT HEALER TO 94449 TO SIGN UP

**INTERESTED IN MEDICAL
SCHOOL BUT DON'T
KNOW WHERE TO START?**

**WONDERING WHAT
RESOURCES ARE
AVAILABLE?**

**LOOKING FOR EXTRA
SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGEMENT?**

**COACH CHRISTINA IS
HERE TO HELP.**

**TEXT
HEALER
TO 94449**

**LIVE OFFICE HOURS
WEDNESDAYS FROM
3 - 4 PM PST**





FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

[NNACOE.ORG/DENTAL-SCHOOL-APPLICANT-WORKSHOP](https://nnacoe.org/dental-school-applicant-workshop)

AI/AN DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICANT WORKSHOP

A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP DESIGNED FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE (AI/AN) PRE-DENTAL STUDENTS.

HOSTED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



School of
DENTISTRY



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

*For more information or questions please email
Chloe Craig, DMD, MPH at craigch@ohsu.edu*



**WY'EAST
MEDICINE**

WY'EAST MEDICINE



10 month pathway

Tuition free

Living stipend provided

EARN conditional acceptance

OHSU – WSU – UC-Davis

5 Cohorts

n=57

75% matriculated into health program (MD, PA, PhD)

n=43

72% matriculated into MD School

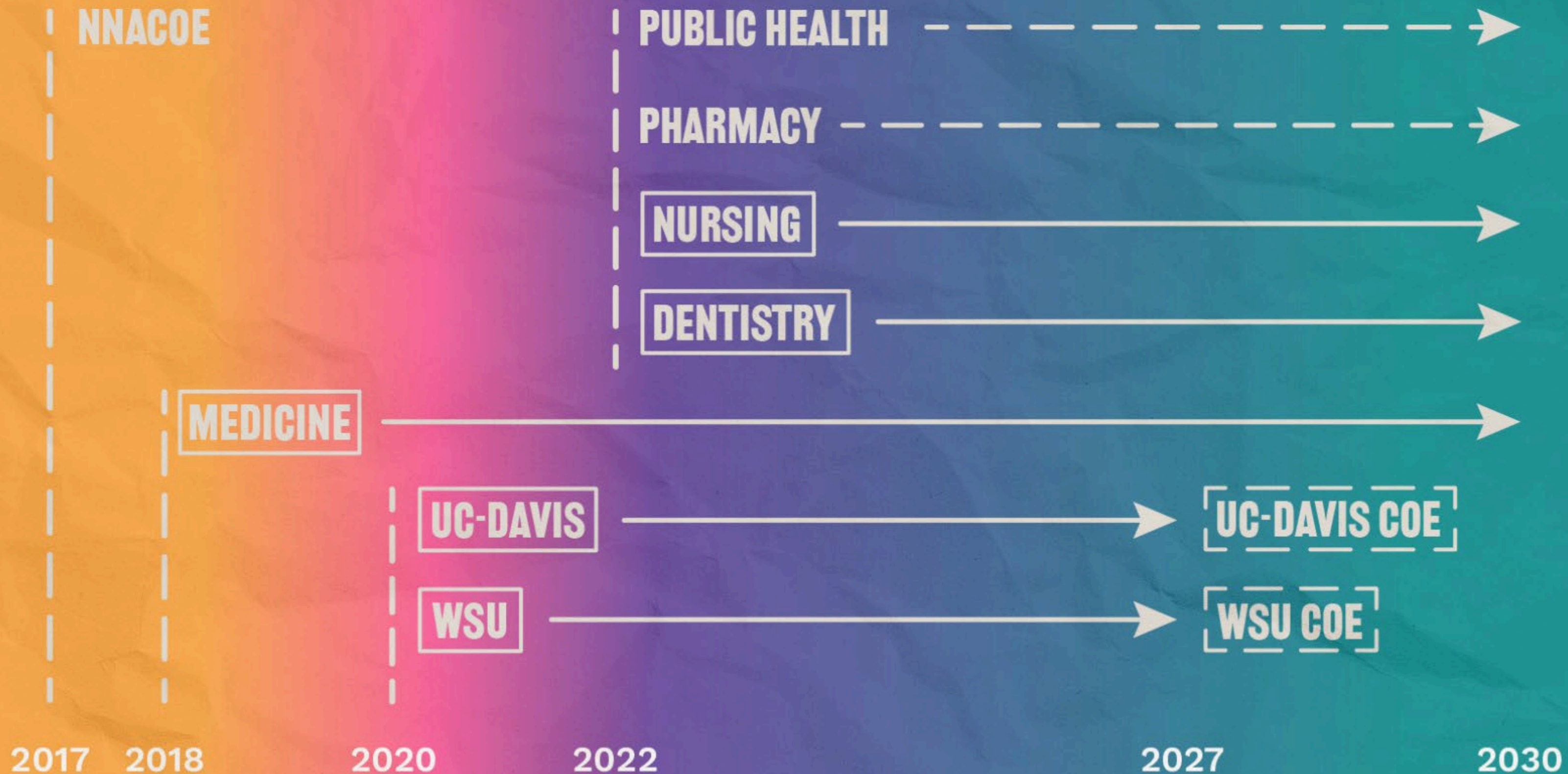
n=41

93% retention to date in MD School

n=38



WY'EAST PATHWAY TIMELINE





**WY'EAST
DENTISTRY**



School of
DENTISTRY



11 month pathway (August-June)

Tuition free

Living stipend provided

EARN conditional acceptance at OHSU School of Dentistry

Application cycle opens Spring 2025

Eligibility

Wy'east Dentistry is intended for individuals who were not accepted to dental school or who do not possess a qualifying DAT score for dental school.

To be eligible for the Wy'east Dentistry Pathway, the following criteria apply:

1. Be a citizen or descendant of a federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native Tribe
2. Degree Requirement: Although OHSU does not require a baccalaureate (B.A./B.S.) degree for admission, it is highly recommended that you plan to complete a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation.
3. Grade Point Average (GPA): It is recommended that you have a minimum of 3.0 in both your cumulative overall GPA and required science/BCP (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) GPA.
4. Applicants are strongly encouraged to:
 - Have previously applied to dental school, and/or
 - Have previously taken the DAT

Required Prerequisite Courses

- General Biology w/labs
 - General Chemistry w/labs
 - Organic Chemistry w/labs
 - Physics w/labs
 - Biochemistry (lab recommended, not required)
 - English Composition
 - Math/Statistics
- * All courses must be completed for a grade of C or higher





**WY'EAST
DENTISTRY**

COMING SPRING 2025.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US AT WYEASTDENTISTRY@OHSU.EDU





AI/AN LEARNING AT OHSU

AI/AN LEARNING AT OHSU

The Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACoE) is based in Portland, OR at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). We offer cultural programming and support for American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) learners across OHSU's 5 schools.



CULTURAL SUPPORT

NNACoE offers programming to foster cultural wellness and support student retention. We aim to build a supportive community for all Native learners to thrive.

Naik'uksha Learner Gatherings

- Naik'uksha - (Pronounced Nye-COOK-sha) is an ichishkiin word (Warm Springs language) that means "Gathering". In this area, people would gather at the Columbia River to exchange goods and nurture intertribal relationships.
- These gatherings are for the exchanging of ideas and nurturing a community space among learners
- Gathering activities include:
 - Moccasin Making Workshops
 - Yarn Basket Making Workshops
 - Beading Workshops
 - Native Health Seminars with Native speakers

Local Native Community Connections

- Fostering relationships with local Native organizations
- Sharing information about local Native Community events





Join us in accelerating the dreams & possibilities of Native American youth.



nnacoe.org