NU Docs Frequently Asked Questions

What is NU Docs?
NU Docs is a selective, cohort-based pathway program designed to support Northwestern undergraduates who are exploring and preparing for careers in medicine. The program emphasizes structured exposure, mentorship, and guided learning to help students better understand medical training and practice and to make informed decisions about their future paths.

Who should consider applying to NU Docs?
NU Docs is intended for sophomore and junior year, undergraduate students who have a strong interest in exploring careers in medicine and who would benefit from a structured, cohort-based experience that complements academic coursework and advising. Students may be at different stages of exploration and preparation

How selective is the NU Docs program?
NU Docs has limited capacity and receives many strong applications each year. Not all qualified applicants are able to be accommodated due to cohort size and program design.

How are students selected?
Applications are reviewed holistically. Selection decisions reflect multiple factors, including program capacity, cohort composition, and alignment with the goals of the program for a given year. The review process considers a range of academic, experiential, and reflective elements.

If I am not selected, what does that mean?
Not being selected for NU Docs does not reflect a student's ability, potential, or commitment to pursuing medicine. NU Docs is one of many pathways students may pursue, and many students continue successfully toward medical careers through other academic, clinical, research, and service experiences.

Can I receive feedback on my application?
Due to the volume of applications received, individual feedback is not available. Students are encouraged to work with Northwestern's Health Professions Advising Office to reflect on their experiences and plan next steps.

Can I apply to NU Docs more than once?
If you remain eligible, you may apply again in a future application cycle. Selection decisions are made independently each year.

How does NU Docs fit with health professions advising?
NU Docs is designed to complement, not replace, health professions advising. Students are encouraged to engage regularly with the Health Professions Advising Office before, during, and after participation in NU Docs.

Does participation in NU Docs guarantee admission to medical school?
No. While NU Docs provides exposure, mentorship, and structured learning, admission to medical school depends on many factors beyond participation in any single program.

What should I do if I am still exploring a career in medicine?
Students are encouraged to continue exploring medicine through coursework, advising, clinical exposure, research, community engagement, and other experiential opportunities available at Northwestern and beyond.

Please visit the Office of Health Equity website for program updates: NU Docs Pathway Program : Health Equity: Feinberg School of Medicine