

My name is Sarah Goolsby; I studied abroad in Denmark my junior year in the spring of 2007. I was in the Medical Practice and Policy program offered by DIS. The courses for that program that I took were Complexity of Cancer, Human Health and Disease, and Biomedical Ethics. At Wofford, the first two counted as biology electives while the latter gave me a philosophy credit. Here are my impressions of the courses:

The Complexity of Cancer course could not have been more interesting. The two teachers for the class are very mellow and are both clinical oncologists. After the first couple weeks of understanding the foundation and wording used in cancer discussion, the class is not terribly difficult. Wofford's classes for biology are definitely more challenging. Still, I thoroughly enjoyed the class. Though the tests were relatively surface level, the class content was quite deep. Because there is no book, the text comes from different chapters of various books. Each of the major cancer types are addressed. To better understand the details of cancer treatment, stages, and protocols, the class visits a lab where mice testing is done, and there are numerous group projects that focus around specific treatments options. The amount of information you are exposed to is incredible, and it really allows you to develop a good understanding of all the different aspects that go into cancer research and treatment.

The Biomedical Ethics course was also wonderful. The teacher is brilliant and really forces the class to engage in the tough decisions surrounding medical ethics. The papers were challenging and the reading is long, but I feel well-prepared to answer any questions an interviewer might ask about ethics. The only drawback to the course is that the principles of biomedical ethics are the European principles not the American, but the ideas are similar.

The Human Health and Disease course is the core course of the MPP program. This is the course that solidified my decision to become a doctor. The course is good because it expounds on what you learn in physiology at Wofford, especially the systems that time wouldn't allow the class to cover in depth (such as the genitourinal tract). There are different sections, all with clinical physicians teaching them. My teachers were especially good at varying each class. Some days, we would go over assigned reading, and many times we would be presented with random patient cases or make our own to go along with the system we were studying. In this class, we learned how to give gynecological exams, stitch a wound, insert an IV in each other, make a cast, and perform a lung function test. We were frequently in the hospital, understanding how the equipment helped diagnose or treat a disease. My favorite parts of the class were the real patient cases. We were presented with an actual hospital patient and had to take the patient's history along with current complaints. After, we would do research based on the patient's symptoms, offer a diagnoses, and then find out if we were correct. Not only was this probably the most useful part of the semester, but it was the most humbling. It's quite an experience talking to a patient and realizing that they probably have lung cancer and have maybe a year to live.

Once in the program, there are several trips that you take with all the students in it. The small trip introduces you to various hospitals in Denmark, how they run, demographics,

main procedures performed, etc. The big trip takes you to Poznan, Poland and Berlin, Germany to visit some major hospitals there. On the trip, we saw patients, an autopsy, and several outpatient procedures. Additionally, we saw some medical museums with amazing displays of preserved diseased organs. The DIS trips are great because they have a good mix of medical seminars and speakers and cultural tours complete with excellent food. Each part of the experience was unforgettable.

I hope you have found this information helpful. I would recommend DIS to EVERYONE, especially pre-med students. I could not imagine a better way to be so exposed to medicine and culture simultaneously.