



2026-27 STARS Tour Topics Catalog

Please select 6 of the topics listed below for your tour. Note the format and the restrictions/availability.

Pres= Presentation Lab = Lab/Facility visit Act = Hands-on Activity

Category	Tour Topic	Format	Description	Restrictions & Availability
Health Professions				
	Clinical Nutritionist	Pres	Meet a clinical nutritionist and learn what it's like to use nutrition science as part of patient care. Hear about careers, explore real-world experiences, and can ask questions during Q&A session.	
	Genetic Counseling	Pres	Meet a genetic counselor and discover how genetics can influence patient care and family health. Learn about the career through real-world experiences and gain	

			insight into the field during an interactive Q&A.	
	Lab Techs	Pres or Lab	Go behind the scenes with a laboratory professional to discover how lab testing supports patient diagnosis and care. Learn about the career, hear about experiences in the laboratory, and ask questions during a Q&A.	
	Medical School	Pres or Act	Get an inside look at the journey to becoming a physician. Learn what medical school is really like, hear about the experiences of medical professionals and students, and get your questions answered during a Q&A.	
	Nursing	Pres	Meet a nursing professional and discover what it's like to care for patients in a fast-paced healthcare environment. Hear about the career and personal experiences in nursing, followed by an opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A.	
	Occupational Therapist	Pres or Lab	Students will learn how occupational therapists help people of all ages regain skills, increase independence, and participate in everyday activities. The presentation will highlight the OT career, education, and real-world applications, followed by an opportunity for students to ask questions during a Q&A.	
	Pharmacy	Pres or Act	Meet a pharmacist or pharmacy tech and explore what happens beyond the pharmacy counter. Learn about the career, hear how pharmacists contribute to patient care, and gain firsthand insight through a Q&A with the professional.	
	Physical Therapy	Pres & Act	Meet a physical therapy professional and discover how they help patients recover movement and strength. Learn about the career, hear about real-world experiences,	

			and participate in a Q&A to learn more about the profession.	
	Physician Associate	Pres	Meet a physician associate and discover what it's like to work as part of a healthcare team. Learn about the education, responsibilities, and real-world experiences of the profession, followed by an opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A.	Limited to 25 students.
	Prosthetics & Orthotics	Pres & Act	Meet professionals who combine healthcare, science, and technology to help patients move and function more independently. Learn about careers in prosthetics and orthotics, experience aspects of the field, and ask questions during an interactive Q&A.	
	Public Health	Pres	Explore how public health professionals work to protect and improve the health of entire communities. Learn about career opportunities, hear about real-world experiences, and discover how public health makes an impact through a Q&A with a professional.	
Health Topics				
	Alcohol Abuse	Pres/Act	Students will explore how alcohol affects the brain and body and the potential short- and long-term health consequences of misuse. The presentation will include fun, interactive activities to engage students while learning about risk factors, prevention, and treatment, followed by an opportunity for student Q&A.	
	Cancer	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will learn how cancer develops, how it is diagnosed, and how healthcare professionals work together to treat it. The experience may include a visit to a research lab to explore cutting-edge advances in cancer research and care, or an interactive activity followed by an opportunity for student Q&A.	

	Depression	Pres or Lab	Students will learn about depression, its signs and symptoms, and how it can affect a person's daily life and overall health. The presentation will explore treatment options and the importance of seeking help, followed by a student Q&A.	
	Diabetes	Pres & Act	Students will explore the different types of diabetes, how the disease affects the body, common risk factors, and cutting-edge research at UTSW. The presentation will highlight prevention, treatment, and management strategies, followed by Q&A.	
	Drug Abuse	Pres	Students will learn how drug misuse can affect the brain, body, and overall health, as well as the factors that can contribute to substance use. The presentation will discuss prevention, treatment, and the role of healthcare professionals, followed by a student Q&A.	
	Genetic Disorders	Pres	Students will explore how changes in genes can contribute to inherited and genetic disorders, including how these conditions are diagnosed and treated. The presentation will highlight cutting-edge genetic research and advances at UTSW, followed by an opportunity for student Q&A.	
	Hypertension	Pres & Act	Students will learn what high blood pressure is, what causes it, how it can affect the body, and overall health and cutting-edge research at UTSW. The presentation will explore prevention, treatment, and healthy lifestyle choices, followed by an opportunity to learn to use equipment and student Q&A.	
	Infection Control	Pres & Lab	Students will learn how infections spread and the important role healthcare professionals play in preventing and controlling them. The presentation will introduce real-world infection control practices, case scenarios and a glimpse into	

			cutting-edge research at UTSW followed by a student Q&A session.	
	Nutrition & Exercise	Pres & Act	Students will explore how nutrition and physical activity work together to support overall health and prevent disease. The presentation will highlight practical strategies for healthy living, followed by a student Q&A.	
	Pulmonary Disease	Pres	Students will explore how the lungs function and how diseases can affect breathing and overall health. The presentation will highlight common pulmonary conditions, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, followed by a student Q&A.	
	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Pres or Act	Students will explore how alcohol affects the brain and body and the potential short- and long-term health consequences of misuse. Through fun, interactive activities, case studies, and fictional scenarios, students will explore risk factors, prevention, and treatment, followed by an opportunity for student Q&A.	
	Trauma	Pres	Students will learn how healthcare professionals respond to traumatic injuries and the importance of rapid assessment and treatment. The presentation will provide insight into trauma care and the many healthcare professionals involved, followed by a student Q&A.	
	Tropical Diseases	Pres & Lab	Students will learn about diseases commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions, such as malaria and bilharzia, including how they are transmitted, diagnosed, and treated. The presentation will highlight prevention strategies and cutting-edge research and advances at	

			UTSW, followed by an opportunity for student Q&A.	
Medical Specialties				
	Anesthesiology	Pres	Students will explore the role of anesthesiologists in keeping patients safe and comfortable before, during, and after surgery. They will learn about anesthesia, patient monitoring, and the importance of teamwork, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Cardiology	Pres	Students will learn how the heart and circulatory system work and how healthcare professionals diagnose and treat heart conditions. The presentation will explore cardiovascular health and advances in cardiology, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Dermatology	Pres	Students will explore the science of skin, hair, and nails and learn how dermatologists diagnose and treat a variety of conditions. They will gain a glimpse into the field of dermatology and advances in skin health, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Emergency Medicine	Pres	Students will explore the fast-paced world of emergency medicine and learn how healthcare professionals assess and treat patients with urgent medical needs. They will learn about triage, teamwork, and critical decision-making in emergency care, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Epidemiology	Pres & Lab	Students will become disease detectives and explore how epidemiologists track the spread of diseases and identify factors that affect community health. They will also visit a UTSW research lab to learn about cutting-edge research in disease prevention and public health, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	

	Forensics	Pres	Students will explore how science and medicine can help investigate unexpected deaths, injuries, and other forensic cases. They will learn how healthcare professionals and scientists use evidence to help answer important questions, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Internal Medicine	Pres	Students will learn how internal medicine physicians diagnose and treat complex health conditions affecting adults. They will explore the role of medical history, physical examinations, and diagnostic testing in patient care, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Neonatology	Pres or Act	Students will explore the specialized care provided to newborns, particularly babies who are premature or critically ill. They will learn about neonatal medicine, advanced technology, and the healthcare professionals who care for these patients, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Obstetrics & Gynecology	Pres	Students will explore how healthcare professionals care for patients through pregnancy, childbirth, and throughout their reproductive years. They will learn about maternal and reproductive health and advances in care, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Ophthalmology	Pres	Students will discover how the eyes work and how ophthalmologists diagnose and treat conditions that affect vision and eye health. They will explore eye anatomy, vision, and advances in ophthalmic care, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Pathology	Pres & Lab	Students will discover how pathologists use laboratory testing, tissue samples, and other evidence to help diagnose disease and guide patient care. The experience may include a visit to the Pathology Lab at Clements	

			University Hospital (CUH), followed by a hands-on exploration of cancerous organs and an opportunity for student Q&A.	
	Pediatrics	Pres	Students will explore the unique healthcare needs of infants, children, and adolescents and learn how pediatric healthcare professionals diagnose and treat young patients. They will discover the challenges and rewards of caring for children and advances in pediatric medicine, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Psychiatry	Pres	Students will explore how psychiatrists and other mental health professionals understand, diagnose, and treat conditions that affect the brain, thoughts, emotions, and behavior. They will learn about mental health, treatment approaches, and the importance of reducing stigma, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Public Health	Pres	Students will explore how public health professionals work to prevent disease and improve the health of entire communities. They will learn how environment, behavior, access to healthcare, and other factors influence health outcomes, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Surgery	Pres	Students will explore the world of surgery and learn how surgical teams work together to diagnose and treat conditions requiring surgical care. They will discover the science, technology, and teamwork behind the operating room, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	Transplants	Pres	Students will learn how tissue and organ transplantation can give patients a second chance at life and explore the complex process involved in transplant care. They will learn about organ matching, surgical procedures, ethical considerations, and the	

			specialized transplant team, followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
Facility Tours				
	Animal Research Center	Pres & Lab	Students will discover the important role animals play in advancing medical research and improving human health. They'll hear from our Animal Research Care Center staff about how animals contribute to scientific discovery, tour the facility for an inside look at the people and practices that support this important work, and can ask questions and engage with our experts.	25-30 students
	Cath Lab	Lab	Students will explore how the Cath Lab at Clements University Hospital uses advanced technology to diagnose and treat heart conditions. They'll tour the facility, learn from healthcare professionals, and can ask questions about cardiovascular medicine and careers in healthcare.	Limited to 25 students
	Cryo EM Microscopy	Lab	Students will discover how cutting-edge cryo-electron microscopy helps scientists visualize biological structures at the molecular level. They'll tour the Core Cryo-EM facility, learn from experts about this powerful technology, and can ask questions about its role in biomedical research.	Not available on Wednesdays
	DNA Sequencing	Lab	Students will discover how DNA sequencing helps scientists explore genes and understand biological processes. They'll tour the Core DNA Sequencing facility, learn from experts about this powerful technology, and can ask questions about its role in biomedical research.	Limited to 25 students
	Gamma knife	Lab	Students will discover how Gamma Knife technology uses precisely focused radiation to treat brain conditions. They'll tour the Gamma Knife facility at Clements University Hospital, learn from the Chief Radiation	1:00pm-2:00pm Availability

			Therapist and Radiation Oncologists about this innovative treatment, and can ask questions about its role in patient care and careers in healthcare.	Limited to 25 students
	Light Microscopy	Lab	Students will discover how advanced light microscopy allows scientists to visualize cells, tissues, and biological processes. They'll tour the Core Light Microscopy facility, learn from experts about these powerful imaging technologies, and can ask questions about their role in biomedical research.	
	Morgue	Lab	Students will explore the role of pathology in understanding diseases and advancing patient care. They'll tour the morgue at Clements University Hospital, learn from an experienced medical embalmer and pathology experts, and can ask questions about their work and careers in the field.	Limited to 20 students
	MRI	Lab	Students will discover how MRI technology creates detailed images to help diagnose and guide the treatment of disease. They'll tour the MRI facility in Radiation Oncology, learn from experts about its role in patient care, and can ask questions about this advanced technology and careers in healthcare.	Limited to 25 students
	Pathology Lab	Lab & Act	Students will discover how pathology helps diagnose disease and guide patient care through the study of tissues, cells, and specimens. They'll tour the Pathology Lab at Clements University Hospital, learn from pathology experts, and participate in a hands-on exploration of pathology specimens. Students will also be able to ask questions about the science and careers behind this essential field.	Limited to 20 students
	Physical Therapy	Lab	Students will explore how physical therapy helps patients recover mobility, strength,	

			and independence. They'll tour the Physical Therapy patient facility at Zale Lipshy Pavilion, learn from physical therapists about patient care and rehabilitation, and can ask questions about physical therapy and careers in healthcare.	
	Radiation Oncology	Lab	Students will explore how Radiation Oncology combines patient care, research, and cutting-edge technology to advance cancer treatment. They'll tour the patient facility, learn about innovative non-invasive equipment and therapies, and can ask questions about cancer care, research, and careers in healthcare.	
	Willed Body Lab	Lab & Act	Students will explore the important role of anatomical donors in medical education and healthcare. They'll tour the Willed Body Lab, examine healthy and diseased organs through a hands-on anatomy experience, and learn from experts about how anatomical donations support the education and training of future healthcare professionals. Students will also be able to ask questions about anatomy, medical education, and careers in healthcare.	Limited availability
	Simulation Center	Lab & Act	Students will discover how healthcare professionals train for real-world patient care in a state-of-the-art Simulation Center. They'll tour the facility, participate in hands-on activities using medical simulation technology, and learn how simulation helps prepare healthcare teams for a variety of clinical situations. Students will also be able to ask questions about healthcare training and careers.	Coming Soon
	Stroke Center	Lab	Students will learn how medical teams diagnose, treat, and care for patients experiencing a stroke. They'll tour the Stroke Center at Clements University Hospital,	Coming soon! Limited to 25 students.

			learn from healthcare professionals about advanced stroke care, and can ask questions about patient care, emergency medicine, and careers in healthcare.	
Research				
	Biochemistry	Lab	Students will explore how chemistry drives discoveries in biomedical research and medicine. They'll tour the Chemistry Research Labs, learn from scientists about their research and techniques, and can ask questions about chemistry, scientific discovery, and careers in research.	Limited to 20 students
	Biomedical Engineering	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will discover how biomedical engineering combines science, technology, and medicine to develop innovative solutions for healthcare. They'll hear from experts about exciting research and applications, with the possibility of touring a biomedical engineering lab, and can ask questions about the field and careers in biomedical engineering research.	Limited availability
	Biophysics	Pres or Lab	Students will explore how the principles of physics help scientists understand biological systems and advance biomedical research. They'll tour a Biophysics Lab, learn from researchers about their work and cutting-edge techniques, and can ask questions about biophysics, scientific discovery, and careers in research.	
	Cancer	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will explore how scientists study cancer to better understand, diagnose, and treat the disease. They'll learn from researchers about cutting-edge discoveries and techniques, with the possibility of touring a Cancer Research Lab, and can ask questions about cancer research, scientific discovery, and careers in biomedical research.	

	Cardiac Rehabilitation	Pres & Act	Students will explore how research in cardiac rehabilitation helps advance our understanding of heart health and improve patient care. They'll tour the Cardiac Rehabilitation Lab, learn from researchers about current studies and innovative approaches, with the possibility of touring a research lab, and can ask questions about cardiovascular research and careers in research.	
	Cell Biology	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will explore how scientists study cells to better understand health and disease. They'll tour a Cell Biology Research Lab, learn from researchers about current studies and innovative techniques, with the possibility of touring a research lab, and can ask questions about cell biology, biomedical research, and careers in research.	
	Genetic Disorders	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will explore how scientists' study genetic disorders to understand their causes and develop new treatments, including the emerging role of CRISPR gene-editing technology. They'll learn from researchers about current discoveries and innovative approaches to genetic medicine, with the possibility of touring a research lab, and ask questions about genetics, treatments, and careers in biomedical research.	
	Genetics	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will explore how genetics research helps scientists better understand health, disease, and human biology. They'll learn from researchers about current studies and innovative techniques, with the possibility of touring a Genetics Research Lab, and can ask questions about genetics, biomedical research, and careers in science.	
	Graduate School	Pres & Lab	Students will hear from graduate students across a variety of departments and explore the diverse research taking place at UT	

			Southwestern. They'll learn about cutting-edge discoveries, research experiences, and career paths in biomedical science, with the possibility of touring their lab and/or participating in an interactive activity. Students will also be able to ask questions and engage directly with the next generation of scientists.	
	Immunology	Pres & Lab	Students will explore how the immune system protects the body and responds to disease. They'll learn from immunology researchers about current discoveries and innovative approaches, with the possibility of touring a research lab. Students will also be able to ask questions about immunology, biomedical research, and careers in science.	
Pharmacology	The Gist about Schistosomes!	Pres & Lab	Students learn about the human parasite, <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i> , its impact on the world, complicated lifecycle, and what it takes to study and maintain it in a lab setting.	
Radiation Oncology	High-Tech Healthcare: Imaging, Radiation, and the Science of Discovery	Pres & Virtual Lab tour	Explore the amazing technologies that allow researchers to visualize tiny details inside living organisms and deliver radiation with pinpoint accuracy, advancing treatments for cancer and other diseases.	
	Stem Cells	Pres, Lab, or Act	Students will explore how stem cell research is advancing our understanding of human health and disease. They'll learn from researchers about current discoveries and innovative approaches in regenerative medicine, with the possibility of touring a Stem Cell Research Lab. Students will also can ask questions about stem cell research, biomedical science, and careers in research.	
	Virology	Pres & Lab	Students will explore how scientists study viruses to better understand infection, disease, and potential treatments. They'll	

			learn from virology researchers about current discoveries and innovative research, with the possibility of touring a Virology Research Lab. Students will also be able to ask questions about virology, biomedical research, and careers in science.	
Interactive Activities				
	Cardiovascular Care	Act	Students may get hands-on with tools used in cardiovascular care as they explore how the heart works and how healthcare professionals assess heart health.	
	Medical Case Studies	Act	Students will become medical detectives as they work through a patient case, examine clues and test results, and use their critical-thinking skills to determine a possible diagnosis.	
	Medical Triage	Act	Students will step into the role of healthcare professionals as they learn how patients are assessed and prioritized based on the urgency of their medical needs.	
	Microscopy	Act	Students will use microscopes to explore cells, tissues, or other biological specimens and discover details that cannot be seen with the naked eye.	
	Organ Dissection	Act	Students may have the opportunity to examine and dissect organs, exploring their structures and functions while gaining a closer look at the anatomy behind human health and disease.	
	Physical Therapy	Pres & Act	Students will experience how physical therapists evaluate movement and function through hands-on activities that demonstrate rehabilitation techniques and patient care.	
	Simulation Center	Pres/Act	Students will step into the shoes of healthcare professionals through hands-on medical simulations, practicing skills and responding to realistic clinical scenarios using advanced simulation technology.	Coming Soon!

Suturing Lab	Suture for the Future	Act	Students will learn from experienced plastic surgery researchers and practice a variety of hands-on suturing techniques.	Limited to 25 students
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