

Student profiles

Maxine Hong, a first-year student at SMU School of Law

Since young, I have had a growing appreciation and interest in Law. The law intertwines with and underlies all aspects of our lives, and seeks to establish and bring to life the beliefs and goals of society by setting out fundamental rules and principles - This truly enthralled me. Prior to joining SMU, I delved deep into mathematics and the sciences and completed an internship at a medicolegal law firm. These, together with other life experiences, helped me realize that in addition to Law, I have a passion for Medicine as well.

Understanding the relationship between the two fields is crucial to ensure a healthcare ecosystem of the future that is able to meet the evolving needs of society. This pathway is thus a valuable opportunity for me to pursue both interests, each complementing the other. I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to study and work towards understanding this relationship and solving the problems of today and tomorrow.

SMU's distinct interactive pedagogy constantly challenges me to speak up and think critically. Every day, I find myself growing in different ways, asking new questions and thinking about new possibilities and what they mean for me and society. In line with Duke-NUS's vision of nurturing clinicians who contribute to medicine and humanity in new and innovative ways, I wish to graduate from the pathway and contribute to the society beyond the typical role of a clinician, possibly in ways that are beyond our imagination now. Some studies have reported that up to 85% of the jobs in 2030 have not even been invented yet. I look forward with excitement and wonder to all the new possibilities this pathway will prepare me for.

Geraldine Lee, a first-year student at SMU School of Information Systems

I decided to pursue the SMU-Duke-NUS Medicine Pathway as I was very interested in both Computing and Medicine, and found it difficult to decide between the two. I became interested in computing as I have observed that technology will continue to play a big role in our society, and would like to gain relevant skills in this field. As for Medicine, I have always enjoyed learning about the human physiology and assisting others. This pathway allows me to pursue my interests in both fields.

I feel that the SMU-Duke-NUS education would differentiate me from others. Firstly, SMU provides a holistic education, encompassing internships, global exposure and community service, allowing me to gain relevant "real world" experiences. Additionally, the seminar-style pedagogy, class participation and Finishing Touch Workshops help to build one's communication skills, which is vital in the working world. I believe these skills, in addition to the rigorous curriculum, would put me in good stead to become a better doctor.

After completing this Pathway, I hope to have built up significant competencies in both fields, such that I could use one to supplement the other. For example, perhaps I could help implement a new information system in hospitals to improve patient care; or I could use the management skills learnt from SMU to help improve the business processes in hospitals so as to make them more efficient, thereby providing patients with better quality of care. The possibilities are

endless. And I think that is the best thing about this pathway – it puts me in a great position to leverage my skills to better society.