



Victoria O Flores

Respiratory Care, Class of 2023
Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

SPOTLIGHT QUESTIONS

What advice do you have to someone who is interested in this program or someone who is just starting out in this program?

Always ask questions! I know it can be intimidating at first but everyone around you is here to help. This is your education so make the most out of it. Advocate for yourself and when things start to feel difficult just know that everything will be okay.

What has been the most impactful course you have taken? If you cannot identify one--what is a lesson or message that has stuck with you?

Cardiopulmonary & Renal Physiology has been one of the most impactful courses I have taken during my time at UTMB. This class allowed me to challenge my time management skills, knowledge, and diligence. The rigorous course load allowed me to develop efficient study strategies that I have been able to carry on to my other courses. Through these challenges I have learned that self-doubt is my biggest enemy. With determination and hard work, I can overcome any obstacle I may encounter.

What has been your favorite/most memorable moment in the program?

My most memorable moment in the program has been the support system that has been formed with my classmates. My classmates always cheer each other on and work together to overcome obstacles we experience throughout our education. Not only are they supportive educationally but also personally. They are always ready to lend each other a hand.

What first prompted your interest in your chosen academic program and future health care profession?

As an individual who has personally been on the other end as a family member, I have had the opportunity to experience the difference a health care team can make with their dedication, compassion, and teamwork. I have also had the opportunity to experience situations that families should not have to go through when receiving medical care. As such I want to provide quality care for patients suffering from critical conditions, cardiac and pulmonary diseases. Throughout my life I have had family members become ventilator dependent. My family member's conditions are what have influenced my interest in the respiratory care field. I have dedicated myself to the health care profession to the advance patient care, in communities and give families an opportunity to feel the sense of guidance to the next steps in recovery of their family members.

Why did you choose to attend the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)?

In my pursuit to becoming a respiratory therapist I found that UTMB was the place in which I could further expand my path of knowledge. The staff was very supportive and attentive throughout my application process and always assured I had all the tools I needed. The sense of community from staff and school influenced my attendance to UTMB. As a future health care worker, I believe that a strong community is essential to set a foundation for quality care, and integrity.
