Experiential Learning: We observed a Health Assessment Class where students were learning how to measure blood pressure and pulse rates. Students at the School of Nursing must be able to quickly apply what they are learning.

Advanced Simulations: A fully-equipped hospital simulation room can simulate a variety of emergent medical situations. This allows students to learn from high stakes simulated scenarios before they experience the real thing.
Summer Science School: We had the opportunity to observe students in the summer science program who sat in on nursing school classes, interacted with med students, shadowed physicians, and learned about skills needed to succeed in med school like study habits and time management.

The Evolution of Nursing: The field of nursing is undergoing an evolution of sorts. Many medical facilities are moving away from hiring R.N.’s with two year degrees and instead hiring almost exclusively nurses with a B.S. The LSU School of Nursing offers students opportunities to pursue a wide array of nursing careers including nurse practitioners and clinical nurse leaders.

A Rigorous Curriculum: The LSU School of Nursing, rated 4th among public nursing schools, requires 37 credit hours of prerequisites and a 3.0 college GPA. Many of the courses in the school of nursing and medicine are requiring students to apply what they learn instead of just repeat it due to the changing nature of the professional medical exams. This change mimics some of the changes happening in math and science at the middle and high school level.
Bringing Back What We Learned:
During our visit to the LSUHSC, we learned a lot about what is required to be successful in the field of medicine. We also generated a lot of ideas about how to give our students experiences to best prepare them to have the opportunity to pursue careers in medicine.

- Organize a field trip to LSUHSC for those interested in medicine
- Develop a unit on anatomy to add to the biology curriculum
- Reach out to LSUHSC about collaborating on potential cross-curricular projects potentially involving public/community health issues
- Reach out individually to students who would be good candidates for the SSP program
- Develop soft skills rubric to give students feedback on strengths/areas of growth

Creating a Pipeline:
The LSUHSC Office of Diversity and Community Engagement offers a host of K-12 activities for partner schools including school career fairs, hosting field trips, and the 5 week Summer Science Program (SSP). Students who participate in the SSP are significantly more likely to pursue careers in STEM fields.

- Create "Future Healthcare Providers" club to expose students to the variety of health careers and bring in outside professionals to share their experiences.
- Host information sessions for students interested in Future Nurses and Summer Science Institutes and facilitate workshops to help them with the application process.
- Organize field trips to the LSUHSC Nursing and Medical schools
- Discuss variety of medical profession paths students can take
- Inform students of entrance requirements
- Conduct “Soft Skills” workshops