

Freshmen Committee

Mission Statement: To provide incoming freshmen with the knowledge needed to be successful in a collegiate environment and properly guide them throughout the process of their education in order to help them attain the professional career of their choosing.

Example of Timeline (Pre-Medical Curriculum)

If you are pursuing a different profession, consult Dr. Felgenhauer for advice on the timeline dealing with your endeavors.

Freshmen and Sophomore Year

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above
- 2) Start a consistent volunteer activity that you will continue throughout your college career. Keep track of these activities through the years, as it is sometimes difficult to recall what you were involved in when filling out your medical school application during your senior year.
- 3) Get involved in organizations that interest you. If possible, try to hold some type of office within these clubs to show that you have leadership qualities, as this is something medical schools consider during the admissions process. They want a leader, not just someone who is a member of every club on campus. Groups to consider are PPS, SAACS, Biology Club, Psi Chi, etc.
- 4) Develop good study habits now! Go to class, introduce yourself to your teachers, and take advantage of their office hours. Professors like to see student seeking help and show interest in their subjects.
- 5) Read your textbooks and do assigned homework. Even if some tests come directly from the notes, reading the text will help reaffirm what you have learned in class. Many old tests are available to you in our test bank. These will be very useful in helping you see what types of questions to expect and where to focus your study.
- 6) Become a master in all Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, and Genetics classes. The more fluent you are in these subjects, the more prepared you will be for the MCAT.
- 7) Tutoring is available on the second floor of Lee Hall and is free to all students. This is a very useful tool at your disposal if you are having trouble in a class or just want to bounce ideas off other students.
- 8) Make friends with people in your class. Study groups will evolve from these friendships.
- 9) Get to know all the members of the Pre-Professional Committee. These people will be very influential in determining what type of person you are. The members are Drs. Bruce Felgenhauer (Chair), Lewis Deaton, August Gallo, Jeffrey Spring, and Pegge Alciatore.
- 10) Your spare time would be best-spent reviewing MCAT books. These books are available in the test bank along with actual MCATs. By looking over and understanding how questions on the MCAT are asked, you will be better prepared

when you take this test. Also, there are resources available for MCAT preparation at www.princetonreview.com and www.kaplan.com

Junior Year (Fall Semester)

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- 2) Take part in some type of research. These are available with many professors and will give you lab experience. The best types are those that have some medical basis to them. You can also take up to 6 hours of Biology 410. This is individual research that allows you to earn credit towards the 45 hours of 300 and 400 level Biology courses which you need in order to graduate as a Biology major.
- 3) If interested, take the Princeton Review or Kaplan Review to help you prepare for the MCAT.

Junior Year (Spring Semester)

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- 2) Take the MCAT.
- 3) Begin filling out your medical school application at www.amcas.org.
- 4) Prepare your personal statement.

Senior Year (Fall Semester)

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above
- 2) Take classes that will help you in medical school. These are Genetics, General Physiology, Anatomy and Physiology, Histology, Immunology, Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, etc.
- 3) Once you receive your secondary application in the mail, it is time to apply for a letter of recommendation from the Pre-Professional Committee.

Procedure for Obtaining a Recommendation Letter from the Pre-Professional Committee

In a large brown envelope with your name please include the following items:

- 1) A current photo of yourself
- 2) A current transcript from all of your undergraduate institutions (a copy is fine)
- 3) Copies of your MCAT, DAT, GRE or other exam scores
- 4) A curriculum vitae or resume
- 5) Any required forms that must be submitted with the recommendation
- 6) A list of schools with their addresses that you would like copies of the letter sent
- 7) Place the envelope with your name clearly printed on it in Dr. Felgenhauer's mailbox, located in the Biology Department Office
- 8) Do not ask for a copy of your letter or which member of the Pre-Professional Committee is writing your letter!

Senior Year (Spring Semester)

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- 2) Continue taking courses that will aid you in medical school.
- 3) If accepted, Congratulations!
- 4) If not, consult with Dr. Felgenhauer and devise a plan for your next attempt.