Medical Scholars Program
Saint Louis University
Program Requirements and Technical Standards

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WELCOME TO THE MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM!

The Medical Scholars program at Saint Louis University provides students with an opportunity to apply to gain conditional early acceptance to the SLU School of Medicine. Incoming freshmen who are interested in pre-medical studies may still be deciding whether medicine is the right career path. Our program will provide students with the opportunity to gain further knowledge about the field of medicine, gain medically related experience, and help to determine whether medicine is the student’s true calling.

All Medical Scholars are required to follow the Program Requirements and satisfy the SLU School of Medicine’s Technical Standards as outlined below. Please retain this hand-out, as it will be useful for the four years of study.

Advising

Freshman Medical Scholars are advised in the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies. After the freshman year, students will be advised in the college that houses their major. Medical Scholars continue to work with Pre-Professional Health Studies staff throughout their undergraduate studies, and must have any changes to the schedule submitted to the School of Medicine their schedules approved each semester by the Director.

Medical Scholars should contact the staff in Pre-Professional Health Studies if there are questions or concerns about their progress in the program. The Director serves as the liaison to the SLU School of Medicine.

Coursework

At this time, the following majors are approved for Medical Scholars: Any major in the College of Arts & Sciences (excluding Communication Sciences and Disorders); Investigative Medical Science, Exercise Science-Athletic Training track only, Health Sciences and Health Information Management in the Doisy College of Health Sciences; Biomedical Engineering and the Bioelectronics track of Electrical Engineering in Parks College; Health Management and Public Health in the School of Public Health. If a student wants to choose a major outside of these options the student must discuss this with the Director of Pre-Professional Health Studies.

Students not majoring in biology, chemistry, physics, biochemistry, or engineering must take a minor in biology.

General Coursework Guidelines

Scholars are not permitted to withdraw from courses after the drop/add period at the beginning of the semester, nor are they permitted to take an incomplete (I) in a course.
Scholars are not permitted to audit courses.

Scholars may not receive a D or F in any course.

Students must complete their math course and ENG 190 by the end of their sophomore year. Students may complete the ENG 190 requirement with AP credit, transfer credit, or take it at SLU. The MATH class, and all MATH classes, must be taken at SLU.

**AP or dual credit:** These credits can apply to the curriculum of the first two years, but a strict substitution policy will be followed – math for math, social science for social science, humanities for humanities, etc. Only credits that are accepted to SLU as determined by the Registrar’s office will be applied. **NOTE: AP/ACC credit for Principles of Biology, General Chemistry, and Physics are not acceptable for the Scholars Program.**

A minimum of 30 credits must be taken in the freshman year and 30 credits must be taken in the sophomore year with a minimum of 14 credits each semester. The 30 credits do not include course work taken in summer school, credit by examination, or dual and AP credit.

In the junior and senior years, a minimum of 14 credit hours must be taken each semester, including study abroad. The total credits need not sum to 30 in the junior and senior years.

All math and science courses must be taken at Saint Louis University at the main campus. Organic chemistry and physics will be taken during the academic year, unless approved by the Director. Study abroad requires students to take a science course at SLU, as determined by the Director, during the summer before they travel.

Medical Scholars are required to take one math course at Saint Louis University, appropriate to their academic credentials; the particular course will be specified by Pre-Professional Health Studies Advisors. Students must take math through the Calculus I level. The only transferable credit permitted is AP math coursework from high school.

Transfer credits earned elsewhere will not be considered part of grade point averages for the Medical Scholars Program.

Medical Scholars are not permitted to graduate in December. They may graduate one year early if all requirements are met. This must be discussed with and approved by the, in concert with the dean of admissions of the School of Medicine, at the time application to the School of Medicine is made.

**Level of achievement:**

At the end of the first year, students must have completed a minimum of 30 credits with an overall GPA of 3.65 or higher, and a math/science GPA of 3.65 or higher.

Only courses with a prefix of MATH, BIOL, CHEM, and PHYS count in the calculation of math/science GPA. Courses that are Independent Studies or Research from these departments are not included in the calculation into the math/science GPA.
At the end of the second year, students must have completed a minimum of 60 credits with a year-end GPA of 3.65 or higher and a year-end math/science GPA of 3.65 or higher.

Grade point averages are calculated after the spring semester, and students will be dismissed from the program if those GPAs are not met.

Students must achieve the 3.65/3.65 averages for each year of study through completion of the undergraduate degree. It is important to note that the GPA calculations are annual, and not cumulative.

**Required science courses and timeline for Scholar activities:**

**Freshman year:**

Students take General Chemistry I and II; Principles of Biology I and II. Students are required to take Freshman Medical Scholar Seminar in the spring term. At the end of the spring term students must have a 3.65 GPA in math/science course work and 3.65 overall GPA for that year of study.

Students are encouraged to enroll in Foundations of Medicine.

Students will learn about the Pre-Health Committee and receive HIPAA training in the Seminar course.

Scholars should focus on their studies in the first year, striving for high grades, but balancing coursework with appropriate extracurricular activities. It is highly recommended students become active in the Pre-Health Club.

Over the summer, Scholars should be composing their "Why I Want to be a Physician" essay as part of the Pre-Health Committee process.

Students will be sent a letter notifying them of their status in the program over the summer.

**Sophomore year:**

Students will enroll in Organic Chemistry I and II; Molecular Cell Biology I: Cellular Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I and II, unless they are majoring in Biochemistry, Engineering, or Physics. Those students will follow their curriculum plans. Chemistry majors in the BS track take Analytical Chemistry I with lab in place of BIOL 302 and Engineering Physics I and lab in place of BIOL 304 in the second term. B.A. Chemistry students take Analytical Chemistry and lab in the first term in place of BIOL 302 and Engineering Physics I and lab in place of BIOL 304 in the second term.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Medical Scholar Shadowing Program with physicians at the SLU School of Medicine, and take the Introduction to Medical Research courses. Medical Scholars should have a minimum of 60 hours of shadowing completed by
the time of their interview with the School of Medicine, and are encouraged to keep a journal of their experiences.

Medical Scholars work with the Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations during their sophomore year to prepare their application to SLU School of Medicine.

In putting together the application, students who are non-science majors and who are minoring in biology may choose from among any 300 or 400 level biology class or the following chemistry courses:
CHEM 333 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I
CHEM 334 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY II
CHEM 445 PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY (Organic Chemistry I & II are pre-requisites for this class.)

Exceptions to the upper level science courses above must be approved by the Director.

Applications are forwarded to the Medical School on April 1. Each Scholar will be interviewed by a member of the SLU School of Medicine Admissions Committee. Scholars may also tour the SLU School of Medicine during regularly scheduled tours on Mondays and Tuesdays from September through April; contact slumd@slu.edu for reservations.

The SLU School of Medicine Admissions Committee evaluates each Scholar and decides if the student will receive a conditional acceptance. There is no guarantee that a student will be accepted, even if the student has maintained the GPA requirements to this point. All decisions are made by the School of Medicine.

All students will be notified of the School of Medicine’s decision over the summer between the sophomore and junior years of study. Students receiving a conditional acceptance must follow all guidelines as outlined by the Medical School in their conditional acceptance letter.

**Junior year:**

A conditional acceptance to the School of Medicine means that a place in the freshman class has been reserved for the student for the fall following graduation from the undergraduate program in May, provided all requirements outlined in the acceptance letter have been met.

Students must maintain an overall and math/science GPA of a minimum 3.65 for the academic year.

Students will take Physics I and II, and courses toward their major and core requirements, during the fall and spring semesters, unless they are majoring in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering, or Physics. Those students will follow their curriculum plans.

Students must follow the curriculum submitted to the School of Medicine as part of the application sophomore year. Any deviation from this curriculum must be approved by the Director of Pre-Professional Health Studies.
If a student decides to deviate from the plan submitted to the School of Medicine, he or she must submit via e-mail to the Director the following information before registering for classes:

- The list of courses, including prefixes, numbers, title and credit hours listed on the application that the student will NOT be taking and
- The same for the courses that will replace them.

If prior approval is not gained from the Director, the student risks dismissal from the program per the conditional acceptance letter from the School of Medicine.

Students are encouraged to take the MCAT preparation course offered by AED/Pre-Health Club. The course begins in January and runs through April.

Scholars take the MCAT between April of Junior year through September. Scholars do not need to make a minimum score on the MCAT; however, students are expected to put forth their best effort.

Students should plan to attend the AMCAS application workshop sponsored by the Pre-Health Office in April.

**Senior year:**

Students must maintain an overall and math/science GPA of a minimum 3.65 for the academic year.

Students must take at least one upper division science course fall and spring semester from the approved list and as designated on the application to the School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine will review GPAs overall and the math/science coursework in December of the senior year. They will then send a final acceptance letter in the early part of the spring semester of the senior year. Borderline students may not receive a final acceptance letter until after the senior spring grades are posted in May.

Scholars will file their formal application to SLU School of Medicine by completing the AMCAS application over the summer before senior year, or into the fall semester. This may be done in the early fall of the senior year, but students are encouraged to do this as soon as possible so that the School of Medicine knows they are still planning to attend.

When completing the AMCAS application: contact the Admissions Office in the School of Medicine at slumd@slu.edu and give them your AAMC ID number. This will enable you to mark “Special Programs” under Applicant Type on the AMCAS application.

The Admissions office in the School of Medicine will send you an e-mail with a link to fill out the secondary application.

The Committee letter does not need to be sent again. The Admissions Office has it on file from the sophomore year.
“Applying Out” to other medical schools

If a student decides to apply to other medical schools, the student will no longer be a Medical Scholar, and will not have a spot reserved at SLU School of Medicine. The student may re-apply to SLU and will be placed in the pool of regular applicants. There is no guarantee the student will be accepted again as a regular applicant.

If a student decides to apply to other medical schools, he or she must notify the Director and the School of Medicine. The Committee letter will be updated and sent to the other schools the student indicates. The student should provide the Director with any information that will help update and strengthen the letter, and include any additional shadowing, volunteer, work, leadership, research or other relevant experiences.
Professionalism

All students are expected to maintain professionalism both in and out of the classroom. This includes but is not limited to:

- Being polite and respectful to faculty and staff.
- Keeping appointments and showing up on time. If an appointment must be missed, notify the person that you cannot attend as soon as possible and re-schedule.
- Showing up for class on time and prepared for the activity.
- Paying full attention in class, and not working on homework or other assignments during class.
- Taking responsibility for your performance in a class; this is best done by preparing well and not blaming instructors for their teaching techniques.
- Following directions given by faculty and staff.
- Maintaining a lifestyle that balances study time, social and service activities, and a healthful lifestyle.

If problems arise, seek help from instructors, advisors, mentors, peers, and the Pre-Professional Health Office staff.

Our Goal

The goal of the Pre-Professional Health Office is to assist students to find their right path and be a success in whatever they choose to do. We are here to help in any way we can, and find it rewarding to see students reach their goals. Please let us know how we can assist.