

UMass Amherst Medical Scholars Program (Phase I) and Baccalaureate MD Pathway Program with UMass Medical School (Phase II).

Introduction:

This program will begin on each of the 4 UMass campuses with the incoming class of 2011. The program is intended to provide students at each of the 4 undergraduate campuses who plan a career in medicine an enriched curriculum and advising system designed to improve their chances at securing acceptance to a school of medicine and to assure their success in medical careers. This program is designed to form a cohesive learning environment among all such students in the 4 undergraduate campuses and to provide them with opportunities for intercampus activities.

The goal of the Baccalaureate MD Pathway is to support the educational mission of the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine and is designed to preselect those highly qualified undergraduate students who show particular promise for a career in medicine and for serving the health care needs of the Commonwealth, with particular focus on primary care in rural, inner city or other underserved areas; as well as those students with competencies and experiences that will enable them to care for the culturally diverse populations within the state of Massachusetts.

On the UMass Amherst campus the Program will consist of two phases:

Phase I (Pre-Medical Scholars Program) will occur during the first 2 years for all students enrolled in the required premedical courses. At the end of the second year 3 students who have completed a specific set of requirements (see below) will be chosen and identified as *” assured admission” to UMass Medical School and will enter Phase II of the Program.

Phase II (Baccalaureate MD Pathway) will consist of continuous monitoring of the academic progress and health care related activities of the 3 assured admission undergraduates and will prepare them for applying to UMass Medical School under the Early Decision Program.

*Assured admission means the student will be accepted into UMass School of Medicine if the student maintains a strong academic standing and fulfills all standard early admission requirements described below.

Description of Phase I and Phase II

Phase I-UMass Amherst Pre-Medical Scholars Program

All students interested in completing the required premedical courses and eventually applying to medical school are invited to join the Pre-Medical Scholars Program-the undergraduate component of the UMass Medical School Baccalaureate MD Program. An introductory meeting will be held in early September and will be announced in key introductory classes. Interested students will be advised to visit the Pre-Med Office in Shade Tree Labs to register for the program. These students will be advised concerning the required pre-med curriculum and will be encouraged to gain experience in a research laboratory and also to gain some volunteer experience in a health related field, e.g. hospital, nursing home etc. Emails will be sent the Scholars just prior to the Registration Period each semester and students will be encouraged to visit the Premed Office at least once or twice a semester. All students will be encouraged to declare an official major as soon as possible. (Pre-med is NOT an official major).

All students in the Pre-Medical Scholars Program will be monitored according to their academic performance and potential and will be advised on the second phase of this program-the Baccalaureate MD Pathway. This pathway is designed to support the educational mission of the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine and is designed to preselect those highly qualified undergraduate Pre-Medical Scholars who show particular promise for a career in medicine and for serving the health care needs of the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on primary care in rural, inner-city or other underserved areas; as well as those students with competencies and experiences that will enable them to care for the culturally diverse populations within the state of Massachusetts.

Phase II-Baccalaureate MD Pathway

Pre-Medical Scholars who meet the Massachusetts residency requirements of the UMass School of Medicine and who have an interest in the Baccalaureate MD Program will be invited to apply. A selection process will be held to determine 3 students who are candidates for assured admission during or at the end of their 4th semester. All applicants must spend a minimum of 4 semesters in their respective undergraduate programs and only students in the Pre-Medical Scholar Program will be considered for the Baccalaureate MD Pathway. Exceptions, e.g. transfer students, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The UMass Amherst campus will submit candidates for the Baccalaureate MD Pathway to the School of Medicine. These candidates will be interviewed and a joint selection Committee comprised of members from the Medical School and the Amherst campus will select one to three candidates for the Baccalaureate MD Pathway each year. All candidates for the Pathway must have completed the following courses:-

- English 112 and 1 AL/AT General Education course
- Chemistry 111 and 112 or 121 and 122 w/lab
- At least one semester of Organic Chemistry (Chemistry 261 or 265)
- Introductory Biology (Biology 100 and 101 w/lab)
- additional courses may be required
- Calculus (Math 127 or 131) is strongly recommended.

Candidates who have completed a year of Organic Chemistry (Chemistry 261,262 and 269 or 265,266 and 269), a semester of Biochemistry (Biochemistry 285 or 420) and/or a year of Physics with labs (Physics 131 and 132 or 151 and 152) will be given higher priority. The GPA must be at least a 3.2 with no grade lower than B in any of the aforementioned courses.

Criteria for assured admission are as follows:

1. Students accepted to the Baccalaureate MD Pathway will be required to participate in:
 - Non-academic enrichment programs as a “core curriculum” required for all Baccalaureate MD Pathway at the Amherst campus
 - A summer program at the Medical School post sophomore and post junior years
 - UMass Medical School sponsored pre-matriculation program
2. Students accepted into the Baccalaureate MD Pathway will be expected to participate in enrichment activities in clinical care settings and as such, acceptance in the Baccalaureate MD Pathway is conditional upon a satisfactory Massachusetts criminal record check ((CORI). The process and procedures for CORI review for conditionally accepted Baccalaureate MD Pathway students will be determined under the oversight of the School of Medicine admissions office and subject to administrative approval and once approved, will be published separately. Subsequent

acceptance into the School of Medicine is conditional upon satisfactory criminal background check (CBC).

3. Students accepted into the Baccalaureate MD Pathway who are prepared to apply to medical school in the summer before their senior year will be required to sit for the MCAT exam and achieve a combined score of at least 25 and no individual score of less than 7. A writing sample may be required.
4. At the time of the appropriate Baccalaureate MD candidates submission of their application to AMCAS the Directors of the Premed Program will supply the usual packet of supporting letters of recommendation and appropriate documentation of their candidates. Applicants will be required to be interviewed again at UMass Medical School of Medicine.
5. Baccalaureate MD students must apply to the UMass School of Medicine for the Early Decision Program to be assured admission. Should they elect to apply to the UMass School of Medicine as a regular pool applicant, thereby being eligible to apply to other medical schools, they will not be assured admission to the UMass School of Medicine.
6. Acceptance to the UMass School of Medicine will be conditional upon successful completion of the baccalaureate degree requirements and again upon passing a criminal background check (CBC).
7. Applicants who successfully complete the Baccalaureate MD Pathway may participate in a gap year following undergraduate school but are expected to remain engaged in education or a service-related endeavor.

For additional questions please contact W. Brian O'Connor or Karen F. O'Connor, Directors of the Premed Program at UMass Amherst

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