Moravian College Office of Health Professions

Pre-Medicine Information Packet

2012-2013
Office of Health Professions

Faculty Advisor:

Stephen U. Dunham, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry

Location:

Hamilton Hall Rooms 203

Office Hours:

Check the Health Professions Website for updated hours

Contact:

Email: healthprofessions@moravian.edu
Phone: 610.625.7815

In order to make an advising appointment with Prof. Dunham, please call our office during regular office hours or email us at the address listed above.
Dear Student,

Welcome to the Office of Health Professions at Moravian College! We’re looking forward to working with you during your undergraduate years at Moravian.

The decision to pursue a career in the Health Professions field takes commitment, dedication, and planning. Our office is here to help throughout all stages of the advising and application process. From choosing courses to investigating schools and filling out applications, we have a number of resources to guide you and to help you to successfully achieve your goals.

In this packet, you’ll find valuable information such as a timeline of important dates and information, course requirements for medical school, MCAT information, as well forms for letters of recommendation and a list of resources to provide additional information.

We encourage all students who are interested in a career in Health Professions to set up an advising appointment as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you for your interest in the Office of Health Professions at Moravian College.

Best wishes,

Stephen U. Dunham
Requirements for Admission to Medical School and Osteopathic Medical School

While there are specific prerequisites for each school, the typical curriculum for admission to medical school has been as follows:

- One year of Biology
- One year of Physics
- One year of English
- Two years of Chemistry (through Organic Chemistry)

In 2015, the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is changing format to include curriculum in Psychology, Sociology, Biochemistry, and Statistics. It is anticipated that medical schools will soon also change their admission criteria to include these courses to the ones already listed

- One semester of Biochemistry
- One semester of Psychology
- One semester of Sociology
- One semester of Statistics

When it comes time to research schools or specific programs, be sure to look at the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) for a list of specific course requirements on a college’s website. Most colleges list all required courses that are necessary for admission.

The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) recommends that students also participate in extracurricular activities or work experience (both related and unrelated to medicine) to build their application.

Stop by the Health Professions Office to browse through our books of medical colleges, and review course requirements, cost, and other important details!

Timeline

Preparation and Application Timeline

While there are many paths to medical school, the following is a typical outline for students who would like to start medical school immediately after finishing undergraduate coursework:

- The right time to enter professional school is when you are the best candidate! **Your timeline will be unique**, so please meet with us early so that we can create a timeline that builds your strength as an applicant and works to achieve your goals.

As a freshman:

- Contact the Health Professions Office and set up an appointment with an advisor
• Take introductory courses in chemistry and biology and one course from sociology or psychology
• Start to collect Letters of Recommendation from professors of freshman year courses
• Join the Pre-Health Club and actively participate in meetings and community service initiatives
• Start to build your application with a track record of involvement; look into summer internships, shadowing experiences, etc.

As a sophomore:
• Continue to meet with the Health Professions Advisor
• Take organic chemistry and courses in biology or physics or math
• Continue to collect Letters of Recommendation from professors
• Continue to be actively involved in the Pre-Health Club
• Look into MCAT preparation and MCAT review
• Continue to build your application with community service, health-care related experiences and internships

As a junior:
• Continue to meet with the Health Professions Advisor
• Take biochemistry and complete other required science courses, see below
• Study for and take the MCAT
• Consider both the Temple/St. Luke's Shadowing program and applying to early assurance program with Temple/St. Luke's Medical School
• Meet with the Health Professions Committee
• Start on 1st drafts of applications to medical schools
• Continue activities with the Pre-Health Club
• By spring semester of junior year students preparing for the 2015 MCAT should at a minimum have completed the following courses:
  - 2 semesters of General Chemistry
  - 2 semesters of Biology
  - 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry and 2 semesters of Physics
  - 1 semester of Biochemistry
  - 1 semester of Calculus and Statistics
  - 1 semester of Sociology and 1 semester of Psychology

Summer between junior and senior year:
• Complete AMCAS application and any school-specific supplemental applications
• Retake the MCAT if necessary
As a senior:

- Medical schools interviews
- Finish up prerequisite courses
- Meet with Pre-Health Advisor
- Continue activities with Pre-Health Club

American Medical College Application Service

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) is a non-profit centralized application process for students entering their 1st year of medical school. AMCAS allows students to submit one application via the web to participating medical colleges throughout the United States. Currently, many medical colleges rely on AMCAS as a way of processing the high volume of applications.

AMCAS assembles the student’s application file, verifies the information, and then forwards the application to the medical schools of the student’s choice. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact medical schools that they’ve applied to through AMCAS to see if there are any supplements or additional materials needed.

Application deadlines are set by individual medical schools and not by AMCAS. Applicants should check the websites of the schools they applied to for application deadlines.

For more information about AMCAS please visit: [http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/](http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/)

MCAT Information

MCAT

Most medical schools require that students take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). For 2013-2014, the MCAT will be a three part, multiple choice exam that is used by admissions committees as a future indicator of your performance in medical school. The test is designed to measure your ability in: problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of prerequisite courses in medicine.

The MCAT through 2014 will contain the following sections:

Section 1: Physical Sciences

- Topics covered: General Chemistry, Physics, Analytical Thinking

Section 2: Verbal Reasoning
Topics covered: Critical reading skills

Section 3: Biological Sciences

Topics covered: Biology, Organic Chemistry

Section 4: Voluntary Section

This includes 32 new questions in either: biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and physics or in psychology, sociology and biology. These questions will be used to develop and test the new sections of the MCAT for 2015. If you take the section it doesn’t become part of your MCAT score, and you will receive a $30 Amazon certificate.

In 2015, the MCAT will change to include

Section 1: Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems

Section 2: Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems

Section 3: Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior

Section 4: Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

The Health Professions Office has information about test strategies and preparation. On site seminars about the exams are offered during the semester. The Office of Health Professions has practice exam books that students may look through in order to become more familiar with the material and types of questions that are asked. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to enroll in a preparation course if they feel that it is necessary.

For a comprehensive guide to taking the MCAT please visit:
https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/
Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation provide admissions committees with qualitative information about you as a prospective healthcare professional. Recommendations can be accumulated throughout your college career. For example, a chemistry professor that you worked closely with freshman year may provide an excellent recommendation for entrance to professional school. It is important to ask for the recommendation while the experience is still fresh. The person writing your recommendation will be able to draw upon specific examples of your experience and give the most accurate testament to your character and abilities.

Letters of recommendation may come from college science faculty, individuals who have supervised you in health-related work, mentors, and other individuals who know you well. Approximately 3-5 letters will be sent with your application.

You can find recommendation forms for both non-faculty and faculty at the end of this packet as well as on our website. You may also stop by the Health Professions Office for copies.

Pre-Health Club

The Pre-Health Club is an engaging and motivating on campus organization which encourages students from all areas of health professions to join in their activities. The Pre-Health Club typically meets every other week and participates in a variety of activities throughout the year, some of which include: guest speakers (including health practitioners), group discussion topics, field trips to museums and exhibits, visits to professional schools, test prep sessions and more. The Pre-Health Club also integrates community service projects both on and off campus as a way of giving back to the college and surrounding community.

The meetings are guided by our Health Professions Advisor, but are primarily student led and organized.
# Resources

## Websites

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