

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
EARLY ASSURANCE PROGRAM WITH  
ALBRIGHT COLLEGE**  
*(updated: 08/27/03)*

The Early Assurance Program between The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine and Albright College provides exceptional second year college students with a career interest in primary care medicine with the opportunity to apply for a provisional early acceptance to medical school.

Academic criteria for applying to the program is the achievement of an SAT score of at least 1250, a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.5 at the end of the sophomore year, and completion of eight of ten required math/science courses [inorganic chemistry - 2 semesters, organic chemistry - 2 semesters, biology - 2 semesters, physics, - 2 semesters, mathematics (calculus recommended) - 2 semesters]. Competitive students for the program must demonstrate high academic achievement in both science and non-science curriculum.

Extra-curricular activities and student involvement in human service experiences is also considered in determining admission to the program.

**APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM**

Students applying to the program submit a completed application to the Premedical Committee of Albright College for review. The application must include a typed statement of 300 to 500 words describing significant past experiences, interest, and motivation for pursuing a career in medicine, and plans for the future. Three letters of recommendation from faculty members must support the application. Evaluation by the Premedical Committee involves review of the criteria above and a personal interview. The Premedical Committee forwards application materials and a letter of support for competitive applicants to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

The Admissions Committee of The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine reviews completed applications and selects students for personal interview. The most competitive students are offered a provisional acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine through the Early Assurance Program. Final acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine is contingent upon satisfactory fulfillment of annual criteria listed below.

## **CRITERIA FOR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**

Following acceptance of the provisional offer for admission to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, the applicant must maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 and complete all remaining requirements for the undergraduate degree. In consultation with the Premedical Advisor, students are encouraged to select a broad-based curriculum and participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular programs including volunteer activities for the remainder of their college career. The premedical committee is encouraged to assist students in identifying experiences with local hospitals, clinics, or community physicians.

The Premedical Committee of Albright College follows each student admitted to the Program and submits an annual progress report to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

Students admitted to the program must take the Medical School Admissions Test (MCAT) during the spring semester of their junior year. During registration for the examination, the student must indicate the release of scores to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, but also must report their score results to the College of Medicine as soon as they are available. Completion of the examination is a formal requirement for admission to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. Although a specific score is not required, students are expected to perform at or above the mean score in each section when compared with the previous College of Medicine entering class. Students having one or more scores below this level receive individualized counseling from the Premedical Advisor (in discussion with The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine) as to additional courses or other academic work that would be beneficial during the final year of college.

## **FORMAL ACCEPTANCE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Formal acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine is contingent upon fulfillment of annual criteria listed above, successful completion of academic requirements for the undergraduate degree, continued demonstration of personal integrity, and submission of a final transcript.

## **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE**

1. The Premedical Committee identifies and informs eligible students of the program following the end of their third semester.
2. The Premedical Committee reviews the program with interested students and assists with the application process including identifying three faculty members for letters of recommendation.
3. The Premedical Committee reviews the completed application in May or June following the sophomore year. It must include a transcript with fourth semester grades and three faculty letters of recommendation.
4. The Premedical Committee prepares a summary letter similar to those prepared for traditional students who apply to medical school. This letter is included with all application materials and forwarded to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.
5. The Admissions Committee of The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine reviews the application. Selected candidates are invited for interview during the summer following the second year.
6. A decision is made and written notification sent to the applicant and the chair of the Premedical Committee within 4 - 6 weeks of the interview.
7. The Premedical Committee tracks each student admitted to the program and submits an annual report to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine by the end of each June following the school year. The report should indicate yearly progress in the program including scholastic achievement, non-academic and volunteer activities, personal growth, and continued dedication to a career in medicine. An official transcript must accompany the report.
8. The Premedical Advisor assists students with the application process for the MCAT examination during the spring semester of the junior year. Examination results are forwarded to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine and the Premedical Advisor as soon as they become available.
9. During the junior year, the student completes an online AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service) application, indicating the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine as the school to which they are applying. The information collected on this form is for statistical purposes only.
10. Students meet with the Assistant Dean for Admissions of The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine during the fall semester of the fourth year to review progress in the program.

## TERMS OF AGREEMENT

### 1. Statement of good faith:

Students who are offered and accept a position in the program are encouraged and expected to honor their commitment and matriculate to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

### 2. Statement of formal acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine:

Formal acceptance to The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine becomes final when the student has met all program standards, completed the undergraduate degree requirements, and submitted a final transcript.

### 3. Statement clarifying general terms of the agreement:

The terms of this agreement are subject to periodic review and change. Changes are contingent on agreement by both The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine and Albright College and will not affect students previously accepted into the program. The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine or Albright College may cancel this agreement by giving at least six months written notification.

Representing The Pennsylvania State  
University College of Medicine

Representing Albright College

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Signature

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Signature

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Dwight Davis, M.D.

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Karen Campbell, Ph. D.

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Associate Dean for Admissions &  
Student Affairs

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Chair, Health Science Advisory  
Committee

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