Boston College Pre-Health Program: The TEAM

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Introduction

Pre-Health Program at Boston College

• Program of Study -- Not a Major
• “Open” Program free to major in any discipline
• Provide advice, information and support
Requirements for Most Medical, Dental & Veterinary Schools

1 year of Biology with lab
1 year of General Chemistry with lab
1 year of Organic Chemistry with lab
1 year of Physics with lab
1 year of Mathematics (Recommended)
1 year of English (Highly Recommended)
1 semester of Statistics (Highly Recommended)
1 semester of Biochemistry (Highly Recommended)

*Some Health Profession Graduate Schools have additional requirements
Almost All Health Professional Schools Require Standardized Tests

The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems (59 Q)
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems (59 Q)
- Psychological, Social and Biological Foundation of Behavior (59 Q)
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills (53 Q)

Median Score is 511       Range: 472-528

The Dental Admission Test (DAT)

- Survey of Natural Sciences: Biology, General Chem, Organic Chem
- Perceptual Ability Test, Reading Comprehension Test, Quantitative Reasoning Test

Median score for admissions is 19       Range 1-30

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

General Test required for Veterinary Medicine and Physician Assistant (and other Allied Health)

Verbal and Quantitative Scores (similar to SAT)
All Health Profession Schools Require Health Related Experience

Types of Health Care Experience:

- Shadowing Practitioners
- Volunteering in Hospitals and Clinics
- Clinical Research
- Biomedical laboratory research
- EMT, CNA, Medical Assistant, Scribing
- Health Related Internships
Gaining Health Related Experience

Pre-Health office:
• Website posts links to opportunities
• Email new opportunities to entire pre-health listserv
• Link to “EagleDocs” for shadowing

Career Center (Internship Office)
• Eagle Exchange (Alumni Database)

Volunteer and Service Learning Center

Campus Ministry- 4Boston

BC Neighborhood Center

Many Hospital Opportunities in Greater Boston
• Teaching Hospitals
• Formalized program: BWH Medical Exploration Programs

BC EMS for trained EMTs

Mendel Society Database
Many facets of Pre-Health Program

Advising Center
- course selection
- major selection

Student Organizations
- Mendel (Biology) Club
- Pre-Dental Society
- Pre-PA Chapter
- Timmy Global Health

Career Center
- Allied Health
- internships
- interview workshops
- other career paths

Student Support Programs
- Connors Learning Ctr.
- Writing Fellows Prog.
- AHANA Intercult. Ctr.
- Gateways Program

Integrative Sciences
- research
- classwork

Medical Humanities
Minor and Global Public Health Minor
- shared resources e.g. blog
Pre-Health Advising at Boston College

Director of Pre-Health Office
2 Assistant Directors
Pre-Health Faculty Committee
   (16 faculty and 2 Deans)

Students (Mendel Society)
• Medical School Admissions Night
• Peer Advising

Pre-Physician Assistant, Pre-Dental and Pre-Veterinary Student Organizations
Pre-Health Advising Meetings/ Materials

Advising Meetings and Packets

• Freshman Meeting / Packet
• Sophomore Meeting / Packet
• Application Meeting / Packet and Checklist Calendar
• Final Application Meeting
• Interviewing Packet

Web Sites (www.bc.edu/premed)

Medical
Dental
Veterinary Medicine
Physician Assistant
Optometry
Podiatric Medicine
Application Support

Strategic Advice
• Example: 3 (Junior) vs 4+ year Cycle (approx. 75% apply as senior or alum)

Checklist Calendar
The Premedical Committee (1:1)
Personal Statement Workshops
Strategic Targeting of Graduate Schools
The Application Process
MCAT/DAT/GRE Test Prep Courses
BC Committee Letter
Interview Preparation

- Simulated Mock Interviews
- Interview Reports (from alumni)
- Alumni Resource Book
  Addresses
  Phone Numbers
  Email Addresses
Boston College Placement Statistics

- Open Policy
- Goal is to Produce Informed Applicants
- High Placement Rate
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Physician Assistant School
## Overall Admission Statistics

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<th>National (matriculated)</th>
<th>BC Comm. Letter (Acceptances)</th>
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<td>Veterinary</td>
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Admissions chart for students with no post-graduate coursework going through the BC
Gap Years:
Creating a holistic and competitive

Across race and gender, average age of a first-year medical student in the US is 24 – 25 years old.
# Gap Years: Creating a holistic and competitive application

The table below displays the self-identified racial and ethnic characteristics of applicants to U.S. medical schools from 2014-2015 through 2017-2018. The "Multiple Race/Ethnicity" category includes those who selected more than one race/ethnicity response. Please email datarequest@aamc.org if you need further assistance or have additional inquiries.

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Source: AAMC EAMC 2017-2018
Gap Years:
Soaring application numbers, same # seats


The graph below displays the number of applicants, first-time applicants, and repeat applicants to U.S. medical schools from academic year 1980-1981 through 2021-2022.

- 2017: 37K applicants from 2020-2021 cycle
- 2021: 62.5K applicants, 18% more applicants from 2020-2021 cycle

Source: AAMC 11/8/2021

BOSTON COLLEGE
Take-Aways

• Structured and Supportive Advising Program
  → Leads to well informed choices
• Extensive Resources Available
  - Boston College
  - Metropolitan Boston
• Receive an excellent, well-rounded education
• Discover and fulfill your unique purpose!
Thank You

Questions?

PREMED@BC.EDU