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Pre-Medical Enrichment Program Outline

Commission for Blacks

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PRE-MEDICAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
College of Liberal Arts
University of Tennessee

1985 Program Outline

I. Introduction

The Pre-Medical Enrichment Program, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a comprehensive summer institute for pre-medical students from minority and or low-income backgrounds. The goals of the program are:

1. To identify undergraduate students from minority and/or low-income backgrounds who have the interest in and aptitude for pursuing a career in medicine.
2. To increase the retention of these students in the undergraduate pre-medical curriculum, thereby increasing the applicant pool of minority and low-income students for admission to medical school.
3. To increase the visibility of program participants to the admissions committees of area medical schools, and vice versa.
4. To enable the students to be more competitive in their attempts to be admitted to medical school and to be successful in the medical school curriculum.
5. To help students explore alternative careers in the health professions.
6. To increase the number of physicians from minority and low-income backgrounds in areas where there is a shortage of minority physicians.

The Pre-Medical Enrichment Program is an intensive academic program designed to reinforce the traditional undergraduate pre-medical curriculum. The academic program is combined with a series of clinical experiences developed to give students a closer look at medicine as a career. The program serves as a source of motivation for the participants and a means of confirming their interest in a health career. There are three levels of course work and clinical experiences. The placement of students into Levels I, II or III is based upon what courses the students have completed in the pre-medical curriculum. The students in Level I, usually post-freshmen and post-sophomores, are in the beginning stages of the pre-medical curriculum and are getting ready to take organic chemistry, physics and advanced biology. Their academic and clinical program is designed to increase their motivation to pursue a medical career. The students in Level II are a combination of post-sophomores and post-juniors who have successfully completed most of the minimum academic course requirements for admission to medical school. Their academic and clinical

experiences are designed to confirm their motivation of pursuing a career in medicine as well as to increase their chances of being successful in their application to medical school and in their tenure as medical students. Level III is primarily a research experience designed for those students who have successfully completed level II of the program or who are in the final stages of their pre-medical curriculum.

II. Academic Program

The academic component supplements and reinforces the traditional undergraduate pre-medical curriculum without duplicating it. All participants in the program are enrolled as full-time students at UT, Knoxville for the summer quarter and receive 10-12 quarter hours of credit for the experience. The academic experience for each level is discussed separately below.

Level I

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Description</u>
Chemical Concepts and Calculations	0	A review of general chemistry and preparation course for organic chemistry. Emphasis is placed on mathematical calculations to strengthen the students' problem solving skills.
Human Physiology	4	Fundamentals of biology, principles of human physiology and anatomy.
Decision Making and Problem Solving in Medicine	4	A course designed to focus on mathematical and logical problem solving skills using issues in medical ethics as topics for discussion, debate, papers, etc.
Communications Lab	0	A course designed to emphasize oral and written communication skills.
Efficient Reading & Study Skills	3	A course designed to improve vocabulary, reading, and study skills.
Educational Psychology 4551	1	A course designed to improve students self-awareness as well as to introduce students to techniques of goal setting, stress reduction, time management and career planning.

Level II

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Description</u>
Basic Science Review Seminar	0	A course designed to increase the students' understanding of the basic science courses that are the foundation for the courses taught during the first two years of medical school and that are covered on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)
Decision Making and Problem Solving in Medicine	4	A course designed to focus on mathematical and logical problem solving skills using issues in medical ethics as topics for discussion, debate, papers, etc.
Communications Lab	0	A course designed to emphasize oral and written communication skills.
Student Leadership Workshop	1	A course designed to emphasize application to professional school, sources of financial aid, and skill of interviewing.
Efficient Reading and Study Skills	3	A course taught in conjunction with the Basic Science Review to improve vocabulary, reading and study skills and to introduce students to medical terminology.
Histology	4	The functional organization of tissues and organs of the human body. Control of the development of human tissues and organs.

Level III

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Description</u>
Medical Issues in Literature	4	A course designed to identify medical issues in literature, to examine the treatment of and responses to these issues, and to improve oral and written communication skills through discussions and critical papers.
Research Experience	6	Experience in active research projects under supervision of zoology faculty members.

III. Medical Correlations

The major goal of the medical correlations component of the program is to give the students a closer look at a career in medicine. The three aspects of this component that are designed to meet this goal are weekly clinical experiences, speakers who give both formal and informal presentations, and medical school tours. Some of the specific activities included are: tours of local hospitals, clinical and research laboratories; discussion sessions with local physicians and other health professionals; cardiopulmonary resuscitation training; in-depth tours of three area medical schools; and discussion sessions with regional medical school admission committees.

Additional information and details about the Pre-Medical Enrichment Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville may be obtained by either calling (615) 974-4161 or by writing:

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