

Proposed Program: **Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program**
College of Arts and Sciences
Graduate Studies

Program Description

The Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program is designed for students who have completed a bachelor's degree and now want to fulfill the requirements for admission to medical school or other professional health care schools.

The program will require a minimum of 34 undergraduate credit hours which includes already existing courses in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments (see the document that follows for specific courses). Additional elective courses will be strongly encouraged and may come from mathematics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, religious studies and political science.

Students who complete at least 26 hours of the program at John Carroll and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 with no grade less than a B in courses taken at JCU will be awarded a *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical Health Studies*. Earning the *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical Studies* is meant to enhance students' standing as an applicant to a healthcare professional school based on the high quality of work throughout the program.

The program is designed so that students have the potential for completing the program in one academic year (see document that follows). For students needing additional coursework or who may need additional time to complete the program, an alternative schedule will be designed in consultation with an advisor.

Students wishing to apply to the Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program must meet the following criteria:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
- A minimum 3.0 overall undergraduate grade point average
- Two letters of recommendation
- A completed on-line application for Graduate Studies at John Carroll University
- Official transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate study.

Rationale for the Program

The rationale for the addition of the Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program to the College of Arts and Sciences' sponsored graduate programs rests on the following five factors:

Need: The Offices of Graduate Studies, Continuing Education and Admissions frequently receive inquiries from prospective students regarding the availability of courses for pre-medical education. Without any structured program or marketing, we can have as many as ten or more post-baccalaureate students enrolled in our courses in any given year. In addition, research examining the availability for other similar programs in Ohio resulted in one offered by The Ohio

State University. This research also found that five Jesuit institutions (Creighton, Georgetown, Loyola Marymount, Rockhurst and Seattle) offer a post-baccalaureate program in pre-medical studies with the same purpose as our proposed program.

Mission: The proposed program reflects one of the university's core values of responding to the demographic, economic and social challenges of our community. Students who have majored in disciplines other than those related to medicine and related fields, and who have decided to pursue a medical career, will benefit from this program. Given the shortage of medical professionals, particularly in primary care medicine, this program provides an organized and quality approach to address this need in Northeast Ohio.

Quality: JCU is recognized in the community and among medical schools, particularly those in Ohio, as having high quality science faculty, programs, and facilities. Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who prepare for medical school admission have traditionally been very successful in achieving their goal. For example, in 2007, 13 JCU undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students (out of 34) were accepted to medical schools with an additional 2 students placed on a waiting list.

Marketing: Taking what we already provide students preparing for admission to medical school, and "packaging" it as a certificate program will serve as a recruiting strategy to increase enrollment in graduate studies. Offering prospective students a coherent plan for completing the necessary coursework in a timely manner should be attractive for students considering the various higher education options available to them in the area.

Enrollment: As stated above, marketing a program in pre-medical studies has the potential for increasing our graduate enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences. As these students will be paying full graduate per credit tuition, the program has the potential for increasing tuition revenue as well.

Assessment Plan

The quality and success of the proposed post-baccalaureate program in pre-medical studies will be assessed in the following ways:

1. Percentage of students who apply and are accepted to the program
2. Percentage of students who meet the criteria for earning a certificate
3. Percentage of students who are accepted to medical school and other health profession programs
4. A qualitative analysis of student evaluations of the program
5. On-going review of the program conducted by an advisory board comprised of JCU faculty, program completers, and representatives from the local medical community.

Program Development

Initially the program was proposed by Dr. Gwen Kinebrew to John Carroll University's Graduate School. Given Dr. Kinebrew's experience with the undergraduate pre-health programs, she believed that creating a post-baccalaureate program would be viable. In summer 2008, Dr. Mark Storz and Dr. Beth Martin met with Dr. Kinebrew to follow up on the proposed program. During the early part of the

fall 2008 semester, Kinebrew, Martin and Storz, along with Vivienne Porter in the Graduate Studies Office, worked to create a draft proposal outlining the program's description, highlights, course of study, and admission criteria.

This working draft was then shared with Drs. Eisenmann, Day, Johansen, and Mascotti through email and a subsequent meeting. Input and support from the three science chairs was essential to the quality of the planning process and outcome. The three science chairpersons supported moving the program forward and provided additional suggestions for the program, most notably the enhanced criteria for awarding the certificate.

The program was also shared with Dr. Clint Snyder, Associate Dean for Health Professions Education at Northeast Ohio Universities and Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM). Dr. Snyder stated that the required courses listed in the program were in fact the appropriate courses that medical schools would expect prospective students to have had. He complimented us on including formal MCAT preparation as part of the program, since along with overall grade point average and grade point averages in biology, chemistry, physics and math courses, a student's performance on the MCAT is a key indicator in the admission process. He suggested that we require, at minimum, a calculus course in the program if a student did not have calculus in his/her undergraduate program. There is potential for establishing a formal partnership with NEOUCOM that would involve an agreement to guarantee successful students in our program an interview for NEOUCOM medical programs.

Resource Allocation

No additional needs in supplies or library resources are anticipated since the courses included in this program already exist. Monies available for part time or full time instructors for summer courses will be available.

Enrollment Projections

This program has the potential of attracting additional students for a series of courses related to preparation for medical school. Given the admission criteria, these will be students who have demonstrated success in completing a baccalaureate degree at a high level of achievement.

Letters of support from Dean Eisenmann and Dr. David Mascotti, chair of the Chemistry department have been submitted.

Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program
Program Description

The Program

The John Carroll University’s Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program is designed for students who want to fulfill the requirements for admission to medical school, dental school, and other professional health care schools. The program is an excellent way to fulfill undergraduate science prerequisites needed to apply to these schools and improve scores on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

Is This Program For You?

The Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program is designed for students interested in a career in medicine who have completed an undergraduate degree in something other than biology or chemistry. It is particularly popular with students who wish to change their career path to a health profession.

Application advice is available for students who majored in biology or chemistry as an undergraduate. Some coursework may need to be retaken if more than five years have passed since the courses were completed.

Course of Study

The Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program requires a minimum of 34 semester credit hours. The courses listed below fulfill the very minimum requirements for admission to most medical schools in the United States. Additional coursework that will enhance your educational background and preparation for the MCAT is strongly encouraged. A list of the recommended courses is available from the program advisor.

The program is designed so that it can be completed in 12 months. A sample plan for completing the program in 12 months follows: (CH= chemistry BL=biology PH= Physics)

Fall		Spring	
CH 141	4 cr	CH 142	4 cr
CH 143	1 cr	CH 144	1 cr
BL 155	3 cr	BL 156	3 cr
BL157	1 cr	BL 158	1 cr
PH 125	3 cr	PH 126	3 cr
PH 125 lab	1 cr	PH 126 lab	1 cr
	13 credits total		13 credits total
Summer Session I		Summer Session II	
CH 221	3 cr	CH 222	3 cr
CH 223	1 cr	CH 224	1 cr
	4 credits total		4 credits total

Alternative plans that meet the individual needs of students can be developed in consultation with an academic advisor.

Program Notes

- A college level calculus course is required if not already completed as an undergraduate.
- Depending on a student's prior coursework, alternative plans for a course of study may be developed in consultation with the program advisor.
- Additional course electives are strongly encouraged and may be taken in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, philosophy, religion, and political science as a way to enhance your educational background and preparation for the MCAT and medical school.
- If pursuing dentistry, pharmacology, or nursing, check the prerequisites of the schools to which you plan to apply, as some schools have very specific requirements.
- Students are encouraged to complete all of the required coursework before taking the MCAT.

Highlights of the Program

- Exceptional faculty who have earned the highest degrees in their fields and who strive for excellence in teaching and research and who have experience with working with pre-medical students
- State of the art science facility and labs
- Established record of successful medical school applicants for students enrolled in the Pre-Health Professions Program
- Tutoring opportunities with graduate teaching assistants in biology and mathematics. Tutors are also available in physics and chemistry.
- Personal attention is a program hallmark. Small class sizes are key. Caring faculty and staff help you stay on track in class and as you apply to medical and professional schools.
- Internships are strongly encouraged as part of the certificate program. Assistance in obtaining internships is available through the Center for Career Development at John Carroll University.
- A *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical Studies* is awarded to students who meet specific criteria documenting exemplary performance in their academic program.
- MCAT preparatory classes are available on campus each spring sponsored by the Pre-Health professions honor society.

Application and Admission

Candidates are accepted for the fall semester. Applications are processed on the basis of rolling admission and there is no specific deadline.

Application Criteria

- An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- A minimum 3.0 overall undergraduate grade point average
- Two letters of recommendation
- A completed on-line application for Graduate Studies which can be found at www.jcu.edu/graduate
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions, and any graduate institutions attended.

Certificate of Excellence

Students may earn a *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical Studies* if they meet the following criteria:

- Complete a minimum of 26 credits hours of the 34 required for the program at John Carroll University;
- Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 with no grade less than a B in courses taken at JCU.

Earning the *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical Studies* will confirm that the student completed a significant number of credits at John Carroll University and performed at an exemplary level.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Students enrolled in the Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program pay graduate tuition rates.

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 216.397.4248 or www.jcu.edu/graduate to inquire about financial assistance.

John Carroll University and Beyond

Where do our graduates go from here? Students advance to a wide range of medical school programs, including:

Albany Medical College
Case Western Reserve University College of Medicine
[Creighton University School of Medicine](http://www.creighton.edu/medicine)
Georgetown University College of Medicine
Joan & Sanford I Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Lake Erie College of Medicine University of Cincinnati
Mayo Medical School
NEOUCOM

New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
[New York University School of Medicine](#)
Northwestern University – The Feinberg School of Medicine
Ohio State University
Ohio University College of Medicine
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Louisville College of Medicine
University of Toledo College of Medicine
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Wright State University