



## EARLY SELECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINE GWU Second Semester Sophomores

### I. PURPOSE

The Early Selection Program of The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences gives talented and committed students who have achieved academic distinction the ability to pursue the humanities in more depth, as well as provisional early assurance of admissions to our MD program. We require that students who are chosen for Early Selection creatively modify the traditional premedical curriculum during their last two years of college. Students interested in science can take more difficult courses, and include majors/minors in the humanities. **We require those majoring in a science to minor in liberal arts.** Students already intent on a liberal arts major will have the freedom to pursue a rigorous, liberal education, while completing the minimal premedical requirements. This program is focused on Columbian College students. Students from other schools within GWU will be evaluated on a case by case basis and must provide a liberal arts minor (or significant humanities coursework) in their academic plan. There is a program for the School of Engineering with information at <http://smhs.gwumc.edu/mdprograms/jointprograms/earlyselection>. We hope that undergraduates at GW will find these less-typical premedical curricula exciting and beneficial to them long after they have completed medical school.

### II. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

- A. Residence: Applicants must be in the second semester of their sophomore year. Applicants are required to have spent two years (four semesters) in an undergraduate college of The George Washington University and to have completed roughly 60 semester hours of course work by the end of the semester during which they apply. Coursework at other universities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, as will AP credit. Students transferring into their sophomore year at The George Washington University are ineligible. Those with less than 60 hours at GW will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students are required to have two more years of undergraduate academics to complete at GWU. Only students who are U.S. or Canadian Citizens or hold U.S. Permanent Residency at the time of application are eligible to apply.
- B. Courses: During the first two years of college, students are encouraged to independently pursue their educational goals, while meeting the curricular requirements of the school. We require that applicants have completed a minimum of two semesters of chemistry **and** of biology or physics by the end of the semester during which they apply to the Early Selection Program. Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA to apply.
- C. College Entrance Exam Scores: Students must self-report SAT or ACT scores on the application and submit high school transcripts. If SATs are not on the high school transcript, official scores must be sent from the College Board directly to you and you should deliver the sealed envelope to the Medical School Admissions Office. These are the only test scores that we expect to receive. SATs must be competitive. The minimum acceptable score is 1250 on combined critical reading and math.
- D. Application: In addition to the application, the student will be required to submit a description of academic goals for the last two years of college. Please include a two-year projection of specific coursework. Students must explain how their coursework and academic plans will change if they are accepted. An honest and complete statement of planned courses (including course names and numbers) and projects will be expected. The application, three letters of recommendation (at least one letter should be from a GWU science professor) and other materials must be received by **March 25**. Applicants are requested not to submit materials before

February 1. Those applicants chosen for interview will be invited in late April. The School of Medicine's Committee on Admissions will review applications and make final decisions by July. Accepted students are required to meet with Diane P. McQuail, Assistant Dean Admissions and Coordinator of the Early Selection Program, to finalize any program changes.

### III. SELECTION

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences is committed to selecting gifted and altruistic students who can be expected to have distinguished careers as physicians. The Committee is looking for students who will take advantage of the opportunities in this program, as well as the unique opportunities in the M.D. program. Criteria will include high school performance, grades in the first two undergraduate years, performance on the SAT or ACT, extracurricular activities, health, service, or research experience, letters of recommendation, and content and presentation of the application.

Please note this is a very competitive program. Selected applicants will be those academically gifted students who appear to have, in addition to the maturity necessary to make a career decision at this stage, the ability to make the best use of the broad range of undergraduate educational opportunities that selection for this program will encourage. An important consideration for selection will be the student's planned educational program during the remainder of the undergraduate years. We require continued academic rigor. **We regret that due to the large numbers of well-qualified students, not all can be chosen.**

### IV. PREPARATION FOR MATRICULATION IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

It is our intent to matriculate all students selected under this program. However, to ensure that our medical students are of the highest caliber, both academically and personally, acceptance into the MD program is provisional. All stated requirements on the M.D. Admissions website must be met. Early Selection students must complete an AMCAS and secondary application. Students will be required to have a criminal background check before matriculation into the M.D. program.

Each semester the Assistant Dean of Admissions will review semester grades. In addition, the students **must submit** their course schedules for review by the Assistant Dean of Admissions. Completion of planned courses; completion of degree; meeting all requirements for admission to medical school (MCAT scores are not required for Early Selection students); maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.6; and having had no substantiated allegations of inappropriate academic or personal comportment will be expected. If questions arise suggesting that a student may not be acceptable to the medical school, the student will be warned in writing of a review of the student's file.

Students will be invited to attend seminars and socials with their fellow program members. Students must maintain their relationship with their undergraduate academic advisors.

A grade below a B-, a grade of Incomplete, or a semester GPA below 3.6 will be grounds for review and can be grounds for the student being dismissed from the program. All study abroad coursework must have grade equivalents reported. If there is a concern, the student will be reviewed by the Early Selection committee before a decision about his/her suitability for medical school is made. An Early Selection student who is admitted to the program is expected to have a strong interest in attending The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The University asks that the student solidify his commitment by applying to The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences via the AMCAS Early Selection Program during the summer following the junior year. Assuming that all remaining conditions are met, an acceptance will be tendered. While The University hopes that the student accepted into the program will want to attend The George Washington University School of Medicine, the student will be free to give up the seat during the summer following the junior year. Students are responsible for notifying, in writing, the Dean of Admissions of The George Washington University School of Medicine of their intention to continue

in the program or withdraw from the program during the summer following the junior year. Students in the Early Selection Program do not take the MCATs. Students must inform the Dean of Admissions of their intention to take the MCATs and withdraw from the Early Selection Program.