

## Proposal for the Creation of a Premedical Post Baccalaureate Undergraduate Certificate Program

**Degree:** Undergraduate Certificate

**Title:** Premedical Post Baccalaureate Undergraduate Certificate Program (PMPB)

**Sponsors:** College of Arts & Sciences Medical Scholars Program (MSP)  
Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies (CPHPS)  
Office of the Deputy Provost

**Responsible Administrative Unit:**  
Medical Scholars Program (MSP)/Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies

### Program Description:

The proposed Premedical Post Baccalaureate Certificate Program (PMPB) is designed for those qualified students who have previously completed a bachelor's degree in a non-science related field but now want to fulfill the requirements for admission to medical/other health profession schools (<http://naahp.org/PublicResources/PostBaccalaureateOptions.aspx>). Typically these students lack all or most of the core premedical science and perhaps even non-science requirements (biology, chemistry, physics, organic chemistry, biochemistry, psychology, mathematics, and humanities).

Accepted students will work closely with the Medical Scholars Program and the Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies to develop a structured individualized program of study that addresses the requirements for admission to medical or other health profession schools. Besides regular course work, students will be provided extensive individualized advisement, elective course recommendations, faculty mentoring, seminars by health professionals, opportunities for medical practica, career guidance, professional school selection advice, resume preparation guidance, essay writing recommendations, discounted on campus MCAT preparation courses, area medical school field trips, and mock interview training.

The program will require up to a total of 41 undergraduate core prerequisite credit hours which may include courses from departments involving the Biological Sciences, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Physics & Astronomy, Sociology & Criminal Justice, Mathematical Sciences, Philosophy, and Psychology Departments. Additional elective courses will be recommended and may come from History, Women's Studies, Business Administration, Behavioral Health and Nutrition, Medical Laboratory Science, Human Development & Family Studies, and others.

Students who complete at least 26 hours of the program at the University of Delaware and maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 with no grade less than a "B" will be awarded a *Certificate of Excellence in Pre-Medical/Health Profession Studies*. Earning the Certificate of Excellence in Premedical/Health Profession Studies is meant to enhance students'

standing as an applicant to a healthcare professional school based on the high quality of work accomplished throughout the program.

Depending upon the undergraduate background, the PMPB is designed so that students have the potential for completing the program in one to two academic years. For students needing additional coursework or who may need additional time to complete the program, an alternative schedule may be designed in consultation with a Health Professions Advisor.

### **Application Requirements and Procedures:**

Students wishing to apply to the Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Certificate 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 PMPB study at Delaware
- ❖  Transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate study programs

### **Program Rationale:**

The rationale for the addition of the Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Program to the University of Delaware involves the following:  
The Medical Scholars Program, Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies, Admissions Office, and Natural Science academic unit advisors receive inquiries from prospective students regarding the availability of courses for pre-medical education. Without any structured program or marketing, it is estimated that as many as ten to fifteen post baccalaureate students enrolled in our courses (CEND) in the past academic year alone. In addition, an examination of the institutional affiliations with the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) indicate that there are a total of 32 programs located in nearby Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey while no such programs exist in Delaware. In the Philadelphia area alone there are a total of 9 such programs (<https://services.aamc.org/postbac/>).

### **Mission:**

It is felt that the proposed program reflects one of the university's core values of responding to the demographic, economic and social demands for quality healthcare in the State of Delaware. 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 Delaware.

**Quality:** The University of Delaware is recognized throughout the State as having high quality science faculty, academic programs, and exceptional facilities. While many of our undergraduate and even post baccalaureate students following self-prescribed programs of study have been successful in achieving their goal, the degree of success could be significantly enhanced as

demonstrated by the highly successful Philadelphia area PMPB programs. Note many of these institutions report medical school admissions rates for their post baccalaureate students to range from 60-90%.

### **Marketing:**

Taking what we are already capable of providing students on an informal and largely unsupervised basis for the preparation for admission to medical/health profession schools, and “packaging” it as a certificate program would serve as a recruiting strategy to increase enrollment in core courses essential for meeting professional school admission requirements. Offering prospective post baccalaureate 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 nearby states.

### **Enrollment:**

As stated above, marketing a program in premedical studies for “Career Changers” has the potential for increasing undergraduate enrollment which would mostly involve the Natural Sciences and Medical Humanities. It is anticipated that these post baccalaureate students enrolling in higher level undergraduate courses will be paying full undergraduate tuition as a result.

### **Program Assessment:**

The quality and success of the proposed post-baccalaureate certificate program in premedical 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 the Director of the Medical Scholars Program and the Advisory Board of the Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies.

### **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 previously demonstrated success in completing a baccalaureate degree at a high level of achievement. Enrollment of such students would be limited to a maximum of 25 post baccalaureate students. Initial enrollment estimates are expected to range from 5 to 10 students until the PMPB program becomes well known.

### **Available Resources/Requirements:**

Administrative and professional support services of the Medical Scholars Program and the Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies presently provide pre-professional advisement and mentoring on an informal basis to self-prescribed post baccalaureate students. The creation of this proposed PMPB program would simply serve to formalize and “package” this service providing a coherent plan for addressing medical/health profession program admission requirements. Furthermore, a PMPB at the University of Delaware would encourage medical school affiliations/MOU’s that would significantly increase admission opportunities for both post baccalaureate and undergraduate students alike.

Existing courses, faculty, and classroom/laboratory facilities would experience an almost imperceptible increase in the level of demand already caused by the handful of CEND students enrolling in the core prerequisite courses. These courses include:

- BISC 207 - Introductory Biology I
- BISC 208 - Introductory Biology II
- CHEM 103 - General Chemistry
- CHEM 104 - General Chemistry
- CHEM 321 - Organic Chemistry & Lab
- CHEM 322 - Organic Chemistry & Lab
- CHEM 527 – Introduction to Biochemistry
- PHYS 201 - Introductory Physics I (Requires a math background in Calculus)
- PHYS 202 - Introductory Physics II
- PSYC 100 - General Psychology

With recommendations for two of the following:

- BISC 305 - Cell Physiology
- BISC 306 - General Physiology
- BISC 401 - Molecular Biology of the Cell
- BISC 403 - Genetic and Evolutionary Biology

**Note:** Appropriate course work for those individuals lacking prior work in the Medical Humanities, Mathematics, Medical Practica, Bioethics, Behavioral Health and Nutrition, and formalized MCAT preparation may round out this PMPB.

Electronic and hardcopy **library resources** regarding the nature, characteristics, and requirements of all major Health Profession programs are provided and maintained by the CAS MSP, the Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies, and the Career Services Center (<http://www.udel.edu/premed/HealthProfessionLinks.html>). No additional library resources are required to support PMPB students or support staff.

### **Budgetary Requirements:**

Budgetary resources necessary to support the PMPB already exist within the CAS MSP and the Center for Premedical/Health Profession Studies. Additional budgetary resources are not required.

**CAS Medical Scholars Program/Center for Premedical and Health Profession Studies  
Support Staff:**

David A. Barlow, PhD, Director

Laura J. Pawlowski, Administrative Assistant/Coordinator

Health Professions Advisor (S-contracted professional position, Fall/Spring Semesters)

**PMPB Location:**



401 Academy Street  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716