

THE DECISION TO PURSUE A CAREER IN MEDICINE

Having career aspirations for one of the health professions is a challenging and exciting choice. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be a key element in your overall comprehensive master plan for success (i.e., ACCEPTANCE). You should be aware that competition for admission to medical schools is very intense. Currently, only about one-half of those who now apply gain admission - even though the majority of those rejected would, by common agreement, be able to successfully complete medical school, and could make competent and dedicated physicians. Each year, the number of applicants increases while the number of positions remains relatively constant. Thus, competition for admission is becoming even more intense.

Many young people enter college expecting to become doctors. But with little real knowledge of what is involved in the practice of medicine, dentistry, or other health-related professions. Often students have little real understanding of the trade-offs that are made when choosing medicine as a career goal, particularly concerning the pressure and demands made by the profession. Hopefully, the Health Professions Advisory Office can be a valuable source of information as you make your "choices and trade-offs" in preparation for a career in the health professions.

We look forward to working with you as you embark on a career pathway that will make heavy demands on your mental, physical, and emotional well-being. It is essential that you maximize your awareness, make informed judgements, pay attention to details, minimize errors, and excel academically. The Health Professions Advisory Office exists to help you enjoy a positive undergraduate preparation. However, YOUR academic performance, YOUR admission test (MCAT) scores, and YOUR overall credentials will determine YOUR success. We want to help you and we wish you all the best as you prepare to join the health care delivery team.

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