WELCOME!

My name is Mary Beth Davis, and I am the Prehealth Advisor at Drexel University.

Based in the Steinbright Career Development Center, I advise all undergraduates and alumni who are interested in pursuing careers in the health professions.

Prior to joining Drexel in 2015, I spent 15 years as an Assistant Dean at Bryn Mawr College where I advised undergraduate premedical students and was on the staff of Bryn Mawr’s Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program.

My Ph.D. is in Genetics and Developmental Biology. Earlier in my career I was a research scientist, and I also spent a few years teaching at the college level; these experiences provide me with many perspectives for advising premedical students.
The Drexel Difference – Preparation for Medical School

The following slides will highlight aspects of the Drexel experience that help students acquire a solid foundation for entering medical school.

- Renowned Co-op Program
- Rigorous academics
- Extensive Research Opportunities
- Access to Clinical Experiences
- Commitment to Civic Engagement
- Academic and Professional Advising and Support
- Presentations by Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) faculty and staff
- Student-organizations
Co-op, short for cooperative education, is a program that balances classroom theory with periods of practical, hands-on experience prior to graduation.

Drexel University has been a pioneer in cooperative education since 1919 – operating one of the largest cooperative education programs in the nation. Over 1650 business, industrial, governmental, and other institutions "cooperate" with Drexel in offering students the opportunity to acquire practical experience in employment related to college studies.
Sample co-op employers for premed students

Johnson & Johnson

MERCK
INVENTING FOR LIFE

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Research Institute

gsk

Penn Medicine

Main Line Health
Lankenau Medical Center
What do premed students do on co-op? Here are a few examples.

**Clinical research assistants at hospitals**
- Recruit patients for clinical trials and obtain informed consent
- Use electronic medical records and databases for analyses of clinical studies and assist in preparing research reports

**Pharmaceutical and Biotech Companies**
- Conduct laboratory research on drug discovery or testing
- Participate in analysis of clinical trial data reported from hospitals and medical centers worldwide

**Medical Device Companies**
- Assess mechanical and chemical properties of biomaterials intended for use in prosthetics or surgical implants
- Develop computer programs to enhance image capture and analysis of MRI scans
In-depth coursework is aimed at providing a conceptual and skill-based framework for learning science.

Inquiry-based lab sections and engineering-design courses promote collaborative problem-solving.

The quarter term academic calendar helps students to develop the organizational and time management skills required for the fast-pace of medical school education.
Premed Course Requirements:
Time of change from a ‘traditional list of premed courses’ to a competency-based approach to admissions requirements

While there is no official “premed major or track” at Drexel, academic departments offer the traditional premed science courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and math.

In response to the MCAT revision in 2015 and to an AAMC/HHMI report on premedical and medical education, many medical schools have been making changes to their admissions prerequisites.

In place of specific course requirements, more than 35 medical schools across the US have adopted a “competency-based set of admissions recommendations.” These medical schools have outlined conceptual content areas of knowledge in science and social sciences as well as quantitative reasoning skills that students must demonstrate mastery of prior to applying to medical school.

The Health Professions Advising section of the Steinbright Career Development Center website lists the Drexel courses that will meet admissions requirements at medical schools and provide content coverage for the MCAT.

https://drexel.edu/scdc/career-services/health-profession/Medicine/

The Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) has adopted this competency-based approach, and their admissions website provides a good overview of the competency-based admissions process.

https://drexel.edu/medicine/Academics/MD-Program/MD-Program-Admissions/Admissions-Recommendations/

In fact, many medical schools in Philadelphia and the mid-Atlantic region now have a competency-based set of admission recommendations instead of a list of specific course requirements.
Research Opportunities

Exploratory and Experimental Research Based Courses

- Provide opportunities for students to experience authentic laboratory investigation in the context of a course which runs like a research group.
- Projects progress from term to term so students are welcome to continue in subsequent terms to further progress their projects or switch to other ongoing projects.

Independent Research with Faculty

- Students may do independent research in faculty labs on the undergraduate campus or at the medical school.

STAR Program

- Faculty mentored summer research program for first year students

Learn more about the many research opportunities at Drexel sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research - [https://drexel.edu/undergraduate-research/](https://drexel.edu/undergraduate-research/)
Supporting your success through a rigorous academic program

**Academic Advisors**
Assist students with course selection, plans of study, and adhering to graduation requirements in their majors

**Faculty, Teaching Assistants, STEM Peer Mentors and the Center for Learning and Academic Success (CLASS)**
Range of support to help students develop effective study strategies and enhance learning through office hours, peer tutoring and advising, and academic coaching and mentorship

**Co-op 101 Faculty and Co-op Advisors**
Students in the Co-op Program will take Co-op 101, a one-credit course that introduces them to resume writing, interviewing, and job search strategies. Co-op advisors will assist students as they go through the actual co-op job search process.

**Career Services Team**
The Career Counselor for First Year Students can be a sounding board for students as they think about their long term career plans. Other career counselors advise students and alumni with searching for post-Drexel employment, including “gap year jobs.”

**Prehealth Advising**
The Prehealth Advisor works with all undergraduates as they plan their academic courses to make sure that they are meeting medical school admissions requirements. The Prehealth Advisor also provides guidance through all stages of the medical school application process.

Learn more about the Center for Learning and Academic Success at https://drexel.edu/studentlife/student_family_resources/class/
**Exploring Medicine and Serving the Community**

**Clinical Experience:**
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
- VA Hospital
- Drexel Emergency Medical Services – Student Run First Response Team

**Civic Engagement:**
- Lindy Scholars Academic Mentoring Program
- Back on My Feet
- MANNA
- Soup Kitchens and Homeless Shelters

**Common places to volunteer -**
Student-Led Career and Professional Organizations

- **Professional Societies**
- **Academic Honor Societies**
- **Career-Interest Groups**
  - American Medical Women’s Association
  - Minority Association of Premedical Students
  - Phi Delta Epsilon, Premed Co-ed Fraternity
  - Organizations for Pre-Dental, Pre-Vet and Other Health Professions

Many of these undergraduate organizations have affiliations with similar organizations at DUCOM, which facilitates networking opportunities, visits to DUCOM, and medical student panels and presentations at undergraduate chapter meetings.
Prehealth Advising Available to Current Students and Alumni

Premedical Advising begins with programming during Welcome Week, and all Drexel Career Services are available to all students and alumni.

There are workshops for first and second year students who are thinking about careers in the health care field and workshops about becoming a competitive medical school applicant.

The Career Counselor for First Year Students also offers programming that is relevant to interests of premedical students.
Support for the medical school application process

Workshops given by the Prehealth Advisor

- Series of Medical School Application Workshops following the timeline of preparing to apply to medical school and extending through the year-long medical school application process
- Workshops include: Completing the primary common application, Writing personal statements, Strategically choosing where to apply, Interview preparation (including MMI), and Financing medical school.
- Students can schedule individual application review meetings with the Prehealth Advisor.
- One-on-one mock interviews can be scheduled with the Prehealth Advisor.

Information Sessions with Medical School Admissions Representatives and Other Outside programs

- Medical School Admissions Directors
- Military and Other Scholarship Representatives
Life Beyond the Classroom

- Travel to exotic locales. *(Study Abroad)*
- Athletics and intramural sports
- Play in the orchestra or concert band
- Student organizations!!
- Explore Philadelphia

Premed students come to college with a lot of energy and motivation. It is important to channel that motivation productively and make a good transition during the first term at college. I recommend that Drexel students spend the fall term getting used to the academic system and settled into a new community before starting to volunteer in clinical settings or getting over-extended in other extracurricular activities.
Medical School Admissions by the Numbers

Admission to medical school is highly competitive. For 2019 admission, nationally, there were more than 53,000 applicants to allopathic (MD) medical schools, and the average science GPA of accepted applicants was 3.66.

www.aamc.org/facts

2019 National Acceptance Average to Allopathic Medical School: **41%** Accepted

2019 Drexel Medical School Admissions Statistics:

- For all applicants with a Bachelor’s Degree from Drexel: **60%** Accepted*

- For applicants with a Drexel undergraduate science GPA > 3.50: **73%** accepted

*This Drexel statistic includes **all** applicants, regardless of graduation year, who are alumni of the undergraduate college and who submitted an application to a US allopathic or osteopathic medical school. This admission statistic does not include acceptance to foreign medical schools.
Where are Drexel students accepted to medical school?

The following slides list medical schools, MD-PhD programs, and dental schools that have accepted Drexel applicants from 2015 to present.

Notes:

While most alumni tend to matriculate in Mid-Atlantic/East Coast medical schools, Drexel applicants from other regions of the USA have been accepted to medical schools in their home states.

Approximately 25% of Drexel applicants matriculate in osteopathic medical schools (DO), which is similar to the national percentage of medical students enrolled in osteopathic schools.*

A few of the top applicants each year have been accepted to highly selective medical schools.

Schools that offered acceptances to Drexel students and alumni:
Includes 2015-2019 Medical School and as of March 26, 2020, offers of acceptance from the current 2020 application cycle

Allopathic and Osteopathic Medical Schools

- Alabama COM
- Albany
- Albert Einstein
- Arizona - AT Still
- Arizona (Midwestern)
- Arkansas COM
- Boston Univ
- Brown
- Burrell COM
- California Northstate
- Campbell SOM
- Carle Illinois
- Case Western
- Central Michigan
- Chicago COM
- Cincinnati
- Connecticut
- Cooper Rowan
- Dartmouth
- Eastern VA
- Edward Via COM (VA, AL)
- Florida Atlantic
- Florida International
- Geisinger Commonwealth
- George Washington
- Georgetown
- Harvard
- Hofstra
- Howard
- Jefferson (SKMC)
- Johns Hopkins
- Kansas City COM
- Lake Erie COM (PA/FL)
- Liberty COM
- Lincoln COM
- Loma Linda
- Louisiana St Shrev.
- Loyola
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Mayo Clinic
- Medical College GA
- Miami
- Michigan State COM
- Morehouse
- NYIT COM
- New York Medical Col.
- New York Univ
- Northwestern
- Nova Southeastern MD and DO
- Ohio COM
- Oklahoma State COM
- Phila. PCOM
- PCOM - GA
- Penn State
- Pikeville COM
- Pittsburgh
- Ponce
- Quinnipiac
- Rochester
- Rocky Vista COM -Utah
- Rowan SOM
- Rush
- Rutgers New Jersey
- Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson
- San Juan Bautista
- Seton Hall
- St. Louis
- Stony Brook
- SUNY Buffalo
- SUNY Downstate
- SUNY Upstate
- Temple
- Texas A&M
- Toledo
- Touro (CA, NY & NV)
- Tufts
- UCLA Drew
- Univ CA San Diego
- Univ Central FL
- Univ Chicago Pritzker
- Univ Incarnate Word COM
- Univ Illinois
- Univ New England COM
- Univ. Penn Perelman
- Univ South Florida Select
- Univ TX San Antonio
- Univ TX Houston
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth
- Wayne State
- Western COM
- Western Michigan
- West Virginia SOM
- Wright State
Schools that offered acceptances to Drexel students and alumni:
Includes 2015-2019 MD-PHd programs and 2016-19 Dental School Acceptances and as of March 26, 2020, offers of acceptance from the current 2020 application cycle.

**MD-PhD Programs**
- Baylor MSTP
- Boston Univ
- Cincinnati MSTP
- Connecticut
- Drexel
- Illinois MSTP
- Jefferson (Sidney Kimmel)
- Maryland MSTP
- Massachusetts MSTP
- NYU MSTP
- Ohio State MSTP
- Penn State MSTP
- Pittsburgh MSTP
- South Carolina MSTP
- Stony Brook MSTP
- Univ CA Irvine (MSTP)
- Univ CA San Diego MSTP
- Univ TX Southwestern MSTP
- Virginia Commonwealth

**Dental Schools**
- Boston University
- Case Western
- Detroit Mercy
- Howard
- LECOM
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nova Southeastern
- NYU
- Penn
- Pittsburgh
- Roseman
- Rutgers
- SUNY Buffalo
- Temple
- Touro NY
- Tufts
- Univ NV Las Vegas
- Univ New England
- Virginia Commonwealth
- Western

**MSTP = Medical Scientist Training Program**
The National Institutes of Health provides grants to 50 medical institutions to support the training of physician-scientists. MSTP program trainees receive a fellowship that covers tuition for medical and graduate school and a stipend for fees and other expenses.

Do you want to go to medical school directly from college or take a gap year?

Applying to medical school after graduation has become very common in recent years. In 2017, 63% of entering allopathic (MD) medical students took one gap year or more.*

From the perspective of a medical school admissions committee, an applicant who has graduated and is taking a gap year presents a more informative application with a full college record, as opposed to the student who applies at the end of junior year.

Most medical schools start reviewing applications in July/August to invite applicants for interviews, and many medical schools do not accept updated information from applicants.

For students who apply to go to medical school directly from college, their senior year grades and accomplishments, therefore, would not be included in their medical school application. Students are encouraged to discuss these options with the Prehealth Advisor as they plan their premed path.

* [https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/what-do-during-gap-years/](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/what-do-during-gap-years/)
Miscellaneous final comments

• Most premed students participate in the co-op program. The percentage of 4 year / 1 co-op versus 5 year / 3 co-ops varies from year to year.

• At Drexel the most common major of premed students is biology, followed by biomedical engineering and health sciences. Among recent premed students, there have been students who majored in psychology, chemistry, physics, and chemical and mechanical engineering.

• Excluding the BS-MD program, Drexel alumni generally represent 2-4% of the medical students in each entering class at DUCOM.

• Most of the Drexel medical school applicants matriculate at medical schools other than DUCOM.

• There is a Resource Page for Parents on the Prehealth Section of the Steinbright web site

https://drexel.edu/scdc/career-services/health-profession/Medicine/parent-resources/
Questions?

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