

UC Riverside Postbaccalaureate Program 2008-09

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California Postbaccalaureate Consortium

- UC Davis
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California Postbaccalaureate Consortium

“The mission of the California Postbaccalaureate Consortium is to increase the number of physicians who practice in shortage areas of California, by assisting capable and dedicated students from disadvantaged backgrounds in gaining admission to medical school.”

UC Riverside 2008-09 Postbac Program

- a one-year, comprehensive postbaccalaureate study program designed to assist educationally and/or socio-economically disadvantaged applicants in gaining acceptance to medical school
- the ultimate goal of this program is to increase the number of physicians who practice in underserved areas
- funding support from The California Endowment and the UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences

UC Riverside 2008-09 Postbac Program

I. Study Skills and MCAT Prep Curriculum (6 weeks)

Beginning in late June, this session consists of interactive instruction in learning skills and an intensive MCAT review course in preparation for the August or September MCAT.

Learning skills workshops address verbal reasoning, time and stress management, note taking, studying techniques, and test taking strategies.

In addition, students participate in weekly seminars on health care issues, to improve their awareness of current and enduring concerns, and to improve their interviewing skills.

Students will be housed as a cohort in the dorms forming a collaborative learning community.

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II. Medical School Application Assistance

A critical factor in the success of applicants to medical school is the manner in which their applications are judged. Thus, from the beginning of the program we work closely with students on the AMCAS and secondary applications.

The summer component includes workshops on personal statements, experience descriptions, school selection, secondary questions and interviews. In addition to workshops, individual advising is provided throughout the application process.

A detailed committee letter of evaluation/recommendation is provided for each student who successfully completes the program.

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III. Academic Curriculum

During the fall, winter and spring quarters, students enroll full-time at UC Riverside in rigorous upper-division science coursework, specifically designed to magnify the strengths of each participant's profile.

Attention is placed on addressing weaknesses in a student's preparatory background and in demonstrating success in a challenging academic environment.

Each participant, in close consultation with program advisors, selects the course load. It is expected that students will maintain a GPA of 3.5 or better in their selected courses.

Additionally, throughout the academic year students continue to attend seminars on health care issues.

Eligibility

- Be both a legal resident of California and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- Have completed all or most (minus one or two courses) of the prerequisite coursework for medical school;
- Have a minimum undergraduate science GPA of 2.7;
- If you have taken the MCAT, have a minimum MCAT composite score of 18 (MCAT not required for first-time applicants);
- Note: the program is open to either first-time applicants to medical school or re-applicants

Eligibility continued

- Be considered an educationally and/or socio-economically disadvantaged* student, and/or show evidence of a commitment to practice in a medically underserved community;
- NOTE: only students who have completed or will complete their undergraduate degree from UC Riverside are eligible for this program.

**Our definition of socio-economically disadvantaged corresponds with that suggested by AMCAS: from an early age, you resided in a low-income community or experienced enduring family and/or societal hardship that significantly compromised your educational opportunities.*

Applications

- Application materials are available for both first-time and re-applicants at <https://meded-postbac.ucsd.edu>.
- One application for all seven UC medical school postbaccalaureate programs.
- Deadline for the UC Riverside Postbaccalaureate Program April 18, 2008
- For 2008-09, we expect of a cohort of 6-8 students; in subsequent years, we anticipate accepting 10-12 students
- Rolling Admissions

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT ARE THE GPA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM?

There is some flexibility in our GPA requirements. We believe that to be successful, a student must demonstrate some success in their undergraduate coursework and believe that a cumulative science GPA of 2.70 to be the minimum acceptable GPA. There may be exceptions to these guidelines — the deciding factor is whether or not the program administrators feel that an applicant will be in a position to be a competitive medical school applicant at the end of the program. Students with lower cumulative science GPAs but who have demonstrated significant improvement in upper division science courses in their junior/senior years will also be considered.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT IF I HAVE A HIGH GPA BUT A LOW MCAT SCORE?

If you have achieved success in your undergraduate courses but scored poorly on the MCAT exam, you are not advised to participate in a year-long postbaccalaureate program – you should instead focus on attending a MCAT preparatory program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT IF I HAVE A HIGH MCAT SCORE BUT LOW GPA?

Since you do not need to participate in our intensive MCAT preparatory summer program, we advise you not to apply to this postbaccalaureate program. Instead, you would be better served by participating in a science master's degree program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. CAN I RETAKE COURSES IN WHICH I PREVIOUSLY DID POORLY?

We generally do not recommend this. For most courses in which you have done poorly it is usually a better strategy to do well in another course in the same department/field, one which builds on this area of science. This shows that not only have you mastered the new material well enough to be successful, but you have also mastered the old material necessary for the new material. The exception to this is a medical school pre-requisite course. It may be advisable to retake these courses if you have failed them.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT IF I AM NOT DISADVANTAGED? CAN I STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

The primary mission of our program is to assist students who have a strong commitment to return to medically underserved communities as physicians. Our focus on disadvantaged students reflects, in part, the fact that people who come from these communities are often a) disadvantaged, and b) tend to go home to these communities as medical professionals. However, we also recognize that people who do not come from a disadvantaged background may also have a strong commitment to practicing medicine in these communities. If you are not disadvantaged, we will carefully consider your volunteer and other extracurricular activities to assess your commitment to practicing in shortage care areas.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. CAN I TAKE ONLY THE SUMMER OR ONLY THE ACADEMIC COMPONENTS? CAN I JOIN THE PROGRAM MID-YEAR?

The answer to both of these questions is no. The only time that students may join our program is once yearly, in June. We expect our students to complete all components of the program.

Contact us

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