

## **Pre-Medical Scholars Program Description (St. Louis University School of Medicine)**

### **Director**

- The directors of the Pre-Med Scholars Program are Dr. Annie Lee of the chemistry department and Dr. Laura Salem of the biology department. They can be reached at [annie.lee@rockhurst.edu](mailto:annie.lee@rockhurst.edu) or 816-501-4071, and [laura.salem@rockhurst.edu](mailto:laura.salem@rockhurst.edu) or 816-501-3239, respectively. Dr. Lee's office is SCI 320 F and Dr. Salem's is SCI 220D.

### **General Academic Guidelines**

- Application to SLU Med for conditional acceptance is made during the spring semester of the sophomore year; April 1 is the deadline for application.
- Admission into this Rockhurst University program does not guarantee an early conditional acceptance to SLU Med. Admission into SLU Med is made by the Admissions Committee at SLU Med.
- Pre-Med Scholar candidates must earn a GPA in science courses (BL, CH, MT and PH) and an overall GPA of 3.65 every semester with a minimum of 30 credits earned per academic year. Research credits do not count as part of the science GPA.
- Scholars should have a minimum of 60 hours of shadowing prior to their interview at SLU Med. Scholars are strongly encouraged to keep a journal of their experiences.
- All math and science courses must be taken at Rockhurst University during the regular academic year. However, AP Calculus credit is acceptable.
- Scholars are not permitted to withdraw from a course after the drop/add period at the beginning of the semester. They are not permitted to take an Incomplete in a course. Earning a D or F in any course disqualifies a candidate from continuing with the program.
- Scholars are not permitted to audit courses.
- Scholars must earn at least 30 credit hours each during the freshman and sophomore years and must complete at least 14 hours each semester.
- Scholars who desire to study abroad during the academic year should save it for their junior year. Scholars who study abroad are required to take a science course at Rockhurst University the summer prior to departure.
- Scholars are not permitted to graduate in December. However, they may graduate one year early. This eventuality must be discussed with the Pre-Med Scholars Program Director at the time of application to SLU Med.
- At the time the application is submitted, scholars must submit documentation of longitudinal service that could be in the form of a project, along with a written critical reflection on that service.

## Advising

- Freshmen are advised by their assigned academic advisor AND by the Pre-Med Scholars Program Directors, Dr. Lee or Dr. Salem. Scholars should refer to the FIS Advising Handbook and this document for basic information.

## Scholar Activities Timeline

### *Freshman Year*

- Scholars take General Chemistry I and II (Honors General Chemistry may substitute for Gen Chem I & II, in which case scholars must take at least one more upper-division chemistry class at some time– e.g. – Analytical Chemistry or Biochemistry ); General Biology I and II; and Calculus I (as a pre-requisite for Physics). Scholars must earn at least 14 credit hours per semester and 30 credit hours per academic year. A minimum of 3.65 overall and science GPA must be maintained every semester.
- Scholars should be actively pursuing shadowing experiences, service and accruing clinical hours.
- Scholars should write first draft of personal statement entitled: Why I Want to be a Physician.

### *Sophomore Year*

- Scholars will enroll in Organic Chemistry I and II; Physics I and II. Scholars must earn at least 14 credit hours per semester and 30 credit hours per academic year. A minimum of 3.65 overall and science GPA must be maintained every semester.
- Scholars are invited to participate in a practice interview with the Pre-Health committee in the fall semester (have your personal statement prepared for this interview).
- Scholars pick up interview applications in October. Interviews with the Pre-Health committee occur in early spring. Applications due to SLU Med by April 1.
- The SLU School of Medicine Admissions Committee evaluates each Scholar and decides whether to offer a conditional acceptance. **There is no guarantee that a student will be accepted, even if all of the aforementioned GPA requirements are met. All decisions are made by the SLU School of Medicine.** Scholars will be notified of the SLU Med decision in the summer between the sophomore and junior year. Scholars receiving a conditional acceptance must follow all guidelines as outlined by SLU Med in their conditional acceptance letter.

### *Junior Year*

- Scholars must take at least one upper division science course each semester.
- Scholars must follow the curriculum submitted to SLU Med during the sophomore year. Any deviation from this curriculum must be approved by the Pre-Med Scholars Program Director, following these steps:
  - e-mail the Program Director the curriculum you listed in your SLU Med application
  - include the proposed course substitutions, including credit hours

- Scholars are encouraged to prepare for the MCAT to be taken during the summer (April through September) after the junior year. Scholars do not have to make a minimum score on the MCAT. However, scholars are expected to put forth their best effort.
- Scholars will file their formal application to SLU Med by completing the AMCAS application in the summer after the junior year. When completing the AMCAS application, contact the Admissions Department at SLU Med ([slumd@slu.edu](mailto:slumd@slu.edu)) and give them your AAMC ID#. This will enable you to mark “Early Assurance” under applicant type on the AMCAS application. You do not need to have your committee letter sent again. Those letters are kept on file.

### *Senior Year*

- Scholars must take at least one upper division science course each semester and follow the curriculum submitted to SLU Med.
- You will be contacted by the SLU Med Admissions to fill out a secondary application.
- SLU Med will review coursework and GPA in December of the senior year. They will send a final acceptance letter in the beginning of the spring semester of the senior year. Scholars deemed “on the borderline” should not expect to receive a final acceptance letter until after the spring semester grades are posted.

### **“Applying Out” to other Medical Schools**

- If a student applies to other medical schools, his or her conditional or final acceptance at SLU Med is forfeited. The student may re-apply to SLU Med and will be placed in the pool of regular applicants. There is no guarantee that a student will be accepted again as a regular applicant.
- If a student applies to other medical schools, they must notify SLU Med and the Pre-Med Scholars Program Directors.

### **Professionalism**

- Scholars are expected to prepare for a professional life as a physician by taking responsibility for one’s own actions and learning, striking a balance between study and play, and treating others with respect and compassion.

### **Coursework**

- Scholars may choose any major offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. Scholars who desire to major in something outside of the College must consult with the Pre-Med Scholars Program Director.
- Scholars not majoring in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, engineering or physics must minor in biology, physics or physics of medicine.
- If a science major is selected, scholars must select an academic minor in a subject that is not in the category of science. Suggested areas of emphasis include History, English, Art History,

Philosophy, Theology, but others areas in the humanities and behavioral sciences could be appropriate as well.

- Below is suggested a curriculum Scholars should consider taking during their first two years at Rockhurst University. Note that **bold** courses are **required**.

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**Table 1:** *A sample curriculum for the first two academic years for Scholars in the Pre-Med Scholars Program. After this, Scholars will take courses appropriate for their major(s) and perhaps a minor.*

### Year 1

<b>CH 2610 General Chemistry I</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>CH 2630 General Chemistry II</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BL 1250/1251 General Biology I</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>BL 1300/1301 General Biology II</b>	<b>4</b>
MT 1800 Calculus I	4	MT 1810 Calculus II	4
TH 1000 Christianity I	3	PY 1000 Intro. to Psychology	3
NS 1000 Fresh. in Sci. Seminar	1	PL 1100 Reality & Human Existence	3
Total	16	Total	18

### Year 2

<b>CH 2710/2720 Organic Chemistry I</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>CH 2730/2740 Organic Chemistry II</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PH 2800/2810 Physics I</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>PH 2900/2910 Physics II</b>	<b>4</b>
TH 3000 Christianity II	3	PY 2100 Intro Stats	3
CT 2000 Fund. Of Communication	3	BL 3610/3611 Genetics	4
EN 1140 English Comp.	3	PL 3100 Ethical Theory	3
Total	17	Total	18