

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PREMEDICAL STUDIES**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Graduate Certificate in Premedical Studies in the School of Medicine effective Fall 2024.

### **Background**

In 1969, Wayne State University School of Medicine established the first postbaccalaureate program for medical students, with the focus on African American students whose applications to medical school had been rejected. The ten-month program was designed to improve students' scientific knowledge, academic skills, and personal adjustment and thereby ultimately to increase the number of African Americans enrolled in the school. The criteria included the quality of the student's high school, employment workload, parents' ability to assist financially, and several other factors. The school covered expenses, provided a living stipend, and guaranteed admission for students who attained a B average in the program.

Consistent with the Bakke court decision, in 1979 the program eligibility was shifted to disadvantaged students irrespective of race or ethnicity; all other criteria remained unchanged. Until 1990 Wayne State University's program was the only one of its kind. From 1969 to 1992, 214 African American students who could have graduated by 1997 had been admitted to the program: 192 (90%) of them attained a B average in the program and matriculated in the medical school, and 160 (83%) graduated. From 1978 (when the program was opened to all racial and ethnic groups) to 1992, 58 non-African American students who could have graduated by 1997 were admitted to the program: 54 (93%) attained a B average and matriculated in the medical school, and 51 (94%) graduated. The program's success suggests that similar programs at more medical schools could have an immediate and substantial impact on the number of underrepresented-minority students who enter medical education and succeed.

Today there is a need to restructure the program from its existing state to a formal graduate certificate program located in an academic department within the School of Medicine. This will allow students to be regularly enrolled students and have access and benefits of enrolled students.

### **Program Description**

The curriculum is designed for individuals who wish to improve their educational background and training to prepare themselves for admission to a medical doctor program. This curriculum can greatly enhance the academic preparation of individuals seeking future entry into a medical doctor program.

This program is a didactic, human biology-oriented curriculum involving courses with content from several Basic Science Departments and Programs, each one representing a unique discipline, of the Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine (SoM).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for the Graduate Certificate in Premedical Studies, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident, Canadian citizen, or any student who has completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree at Wayne State University regardless of citizenship.
- Must be a Michigan resident.
- Preference will be given to first-generation college graduates.
- Have received a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution by June of the year for which admission is requested.
- A minimum MCAT score of 495 is required.
  - The MCAT must have been taken within the past 3 years at time of application and no more than 2 times in the last year.
  - Maximum of six (6) total attempts on the MCAT prior to applying.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation.
- Minimum undergraduate total cumulative GPA of 2.75.
- Completion of medical school prerequisites.
  - Have a combined biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics GPA of 2.5.
- A current, complete application with American Medical College Application Service® AMCAS.
- Must meet the Technical, Non-Academic Standards.

### **Curriculum Requirements**

Total credit hours required is 12 which will consist of the following courses:

PSL 5200	Embryology - Premedical Studies
PSL 5250	Biochemistry - Premedical Studies
PSL 5300	Physiology - Premedical Studies
PSL 5400	Histology - Premedical Studies
PSL 5450	Gross Anatomy - Premedical Studies
PSL 7350	Psychosocial Perspectives of Health Care - Premedical Studies

### **Graduation Requirements**

Candidates for the Graduate Certificate in Premedical Studies must earn a minimum of 12 credits and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Submitted by: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Program Administration**

The Graduate Certificate in Premedical Studies program will be overseen by the Department of Physiology. Additionally, there is an executive committee that consists of the Vice Dean of Medical Education, The Chair of the Department of Physiology, The Associate Dean of Admissions for the MD program and the Vice Dean of DEI that oversee the program and provide feedback.

**Budget and Resource Requirements**

Minimal additional resources are required. The Physiology Department will utilize existing advising and staff resources to conduct degree audits and degree certifications.

**Accreditation**

No additional accreditation is being sought for this program.

**Approvals**

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Physiology Department and the Dean of the Medical School, the New Programs Committee of the Graduate School, the Graduate Council, and the Provost.