SUNY Downstate Medical School Linkage Program for Polytechnic Institute of NYU Undergraduate Students

General Information

The SUNY Downstate Medical School has created a special opportunity for Polytechnic Institute of NYU (NYU-Poly) undergraduate students to be admitted into their medical school provided the student satisfies the set of requirements put forth within the Premedical Linkage Program agreement in place between NYU-Poly and SUNY Downstate Medical School. The program will admit up to four NYU-Poly students per year and is restricted to undergraduate students who began NYU-Poly as freshmen and who have selected SUNY Downstate Medical School as their first choice medical school. Transfer students are not eligible for the program. The program is not open to students considering the SUNY Downstate MD-PhD degree. This linkage program is also restricted to those students who are already USA citizens or USA permanent residents. **NOTE: If more than four students qualify, the NYU-Poly Pre-Med Advisement Faculty Committee will identify the four best-qualified candidates.**

All undergraduate majors can, and are encouraged to, apply as medical schools seek applicants from a variety of academic backgrounds. Preference will be given to those who will complete their degree in four years rather than three years as life experiences enhance the patient-doctor relationship.

Pre-Med Academic Requirements

- A student in any degree program can apply for admissions into medical school and to the Linkage Program as long as they have completed all of the following required pre-med core courses at Poly (no AP credit):
  - Biology with labs - 1 academic year
  - General Chemistry with labs - 1 academic year
  - Organic Chemistry with labs - 1 academic year
  - Physics with labs - 1 academic year
  - English - 1 academic year (minimum of 6 semester hours)

Linkage Program

Specific Academic & Community Service Requirements:

- For admission into the Linkage Program no grade lower than a B is allowed in any of the pre-med core courses; repeating any of the core courses to remove a grade lower than a B disqualifies the student from the Linkage Program.
- The applicant's GPA in the five pre-med core courses must be 3.4 or higher and the cumulative GPA must be 3.4 or higher.
- A student must perform a minimum of 350 hours of volunteer service in a hospital that has a department that records volunteer hours. The student is also encouraged to volunteer for an additional 150 hours in a seniors or hospice nursing home or similar altruistic activity (e.g. homeless shelter, soup kitchen). At least 300 hours should be completed by the start of the spring semester of the student’s junior year. These experiences must be in the USA.

Application Procedure:

- A student must apply for consideration for the Linkage program in January of their junior year by submitting the following to the NYU-Poly Pre-Med Advisement Faculty Committee:
  - A letter of intent to apply
  - An unofficial transcript
  - Proof of completion of the 300 volunteer hours
- To be considered as a candidate for the Linkage program, a student must also have by the start of the second semester of their junior year:
  - A GPA of 3.4 or higher (both pre-med core course GPA and cumulative GPA)
Identified references from faculty who have served as course instructors and/or as research project mentors to the student.

Once requirements are confirmed, by February 1 the pre-med faculty committee will notify SUNY Downstate Medical College that the student is a Linkage candidate. SUNY Downstate will arrange for the student to make formal application for admission via the AMCAS online application system and then schedule interviews. They will make a determination from the application materials and interview if the student will be offered conditional acceptance contingent on the student’s performance on the MCAT exam to be taken during the spring semester.

MCAT Requirements:

- The MCAT exam does not need to have been taken at the time the student applies for the Linkage program.
- The minimum required MCAT score is 10 in each section of the exam. If a score of less than 10 is obtained in any section the student will not be granted full admission under the Linkage program.
- The MCAT scores are the last step in the process after the conditional acceptance decision is made, and not as part of the application process.
- If the MCAT scores are not obtained, within three attempts, by July of the application year (prior to the start of the senior year), then the conditional acceptance is rescinded and the student will be eligible to apply through the regular admissions process.

Questions about the Linkage Program and its requirements should be directed to the student’s Pre-Med Adviser:

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