Pre-Health Programs

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has a long history of working with students who intend to pursue advanced degrees in medicine or other health professions after graduating. While many students are interested in medicine, some are interested in dentistry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, physical therapy, nursing, and other areas. Begin your studies at Rensselaer in any degree program and after four years, you could end up attending Dartmouth School of Medicine, Baylor University School of Dental Medicine, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program (M.D./Ph.D.), Simmons College Physical Therapy Program, University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, Illinois College of Optometry, or other prestigious medical schools or health professional schools. These schools are just some of the 74 programs that Rensselaer students have been accepted to in the last seven years.

The Rensselaer Pre-Health Professions Committee, part of the Advising and Learning Assistance Center, is composed of faculty and staff members with specialized training and knowledge of premedical curricula. The committee advises students as they progress through their curriculum, assists them in making their best application to medical or other health professional schools, and provides the mechanism for submitting letters of recommendation to health professional schools.

PLAN OF STUDY
Students from any major may apply to any health professional school as long as they meet basic prerequisites. With your adviser, you will develop a plan of study that allows you to fulfill professional school prerequisites while earning a B.S. degree.

You choose your major. Academic advisers within schools and departments, or through the Advising and Learning Assistance Center, will help you plan your curriculum so you can graduate within four years and apply for acceptance to medical school (both allopathic and osteopathic), dental school, veterinary medical school, physician assistant programs, physical therapy programs, optometry school, or many other programs in the health field.

MAJORS AND MINORS
Students interested in health professions typically major in one of the life sciences curricula (Biology, Biochemistry & Biophysics, or Bioinformatics & Molecular Biology) or Biomedical Engineering. However, students majoring in Chemistry, Math, IT & Web Science, Chemical Engineering, Applied Physics, and Psychology also have made successful applications to medical school.

There is a growing need in the United States and throughout the world for more health professionals. Rensselaer faculty and staff are able to provide advice, encouragement, and the best academic preparation to make you successful in your graduate health programs.
Rensselaer also offers a number of dual degree options to prepare students for medical studies. These include dual majors with Economics, Psychology, Computer Science, Electronic Media and Communications, and many other combinations. Many students will pursue a minor in one of these areas to enhance the breadth of their studies.

With recent changes to the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), we recommend that students enhance their science and engineering curricula by adding from a number of minors available through our School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, or by majoring in humanities or social sciences with a dual degree or minor in the sciences. All of these degree options can make you a viable candidate for medical school.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES**

**Jessica DeMicco, Class of 2012**
**Biology major**
Accepted at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

"Thank you very much for all of your help… I am all done with my vet school applications. I just found out that I got accepted to Cornell and that is where I will be attending next year. Thanks for your help with the process!"

**Michael Stark, Class of 2013**
**Psychology major**
Currently attending Nova Southeastern University, College of Osteopathic Medicine

"After attending eight interviews, I have been lucky enough to have been granted acceptance to my top choices, Nova Southeastern University and Des Moines University Medical Schools. However, it now seems as though I have arrived at the most difficult part of this process, which is deciding where to go! I want to thank you for all of the guidance you have provided through this process. Without you, I wouldn’t have been introduced to osteopathic schools and I wouldn’t have been provided with this tremendous opportunity to make my dream of becoming a physician true."

**Nicholas Zaccor, Class of 2013**
**Biomedical Engineering major**
Accepted at the Medical Scientist Training Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

"I am writing this email to inform you that I have formally accepted a position in the MSTP program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. It is a fully funded M.D./Ph.D. program where I will pursue my next seven to eight years of training. Your help through the process has been invaluable, both in terms of the pre-health committee process and in terms of general advice and support. Before the pre-health committee meeting I was only partially considering the M.D./Ph.D. approach to medical school, but after this whole interview process I have found that it was the right choice. Thank you for that. I don’t know if you remember, but I visited your office in the second week of my freshman year and I asked you what I needed to do to get into a Top 10 medical school. I want you to know that I followed your advice, and apparently it worked."

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