ADMISSIONS POLICY - UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

I. Introduction

A thriving medical school is critical for Arkansas's continuing development and success in medical education, biomedical research, and healthcare. The College of Medicine is dedicated to being a leader and advancing the limits in each of these areas. To accomplish these goals, the primary duty of the College of Medicine is to train individuals to become superbly competent physicians, as judged by their knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Certain characteristics are desirable in all individuals entering the profession of medicine. A student must have the intellectual capacity to absorb, integrate, and use a voluminous body of knowledge at a rate rarely required in his or her previous experience. Compassion, integrity, stamina, good judgment under pressure, and dedication to the service of mankind should be fundamental personal attributes; curiosity and a sustained ability to learn are uniformly desirable. Finally, the student body should be drawn from all groups of society, rather than favoring one over the other.

II. The Admissions Committee

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-64-406, the composition and responsibilities of the College of Medicine Admissions Committee are as follows:

[The Admissions Committee] shall be composed of fifteen (15) members to be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas. Six of the members shall be members of the faculty of the University of Arkansas College of Medicine. Eight of the members shall be appointed from each of the four congressional districts. One member shall be appointed from the state at large. The Board shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations as necessary to the fair and competitive selection of freshmen medical students with due consideration being given scholastic standings, recommendations of the premedical advisory committees of the various schools where the applicants pursue their premedical studies, their performance on the Medical College Admissions Test, and any other procedures that can be developed that would deal fairly with the applicant group as a whole.

Additionally, as modified through Act 313 of 2013, in order to comply with the accreditation standards of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the composition of the Admissions Committee shall be composed of the following:

Eight of the members, at least four of whom shall have faculty appointments in the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, shall be appointed from each of the four congressional districts and shall be apportioned on the basis of two members from each congressional district.

The minimum number of Admissions Committee members necessary to constitute a quorum is eight (8) of the total (15) fifteen members. Faculty members must constitute the majority of voting members in all meetings in compliance with LCME standards.

The final authority for selecting the entering freshmen class rests with the College of Medicine Admissions Committee.

III. Requirements for the Applicant

The College of Medicine participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) which is a centralized application service sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Only applications submitted through AMCAS and received between July 1 and November 1 each year will be considered.

Each applicant must sit for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) not later than September preceding the anticipated enrollment date. Test scores taken more than three years prior to application cannot be accepted.

At least 90 semester hours of acceptable academic work are required for admission, and a baccalaureate degree is required.

Accepted applicants must successfully complete the following courses prior to matriculation in the College of Medicine:

3 semesters of Biology (to include 1 semester of Genetics)
3 semesters of Chemistry (to include Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry)
2 semesters of Physics
2 semesters of English
1 semester of Statistics
2 semesters of Social Sciences*

*Psychology and Sociology are strongly recommended. Courses listed in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) Course Classification Guide for Behavioral Sciences (Anthropology, Economics, and Family Studies) and Philosophy and Religion (Ethics, Logic, Philosophy, Religion, and Theology) are acceptable.

Applicants who have not been enrolled in an academic program for some time prior to application may be advised to enroll for refresher work prior to applying.

IV. Admission for Residents and Non-Residents

Arkansas law mandates that preference be given to Arkansas residents. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-64-406 requires that 25 positions in the freshman class must be allocated for residents from each of the four federal congressional districts. If there are not 25 applicants from a congressional district who meet published admissions standards and accept an offer of

admission, the remaining positions for that particular congressional district shall be filled by qualified applicants who are Arkansas residents, and then by applicants that are most likely to complete the program and reside in Arkansas after graduation.

An additional 25 positions shall be allocated to applicants who are Arkansas residents without respect to congressional district of residency. If there are not 25 applicants who are Arkansas residents who meet published admissions standards and accept an offer of acceptance, the remaining positions shall first be filled by qualified applicants who have ties to Arkansas, and then by applicants who are most likely to complete the program and reside in Arkansas.

Positions in excess of the first and second groups of applicants (125 positions) may be filled by applicants at large.

Applicants who identify their legal state of residence as Arkansas on the AMCAS application will be sent an Arkansas Resident Status Initial Classification form. The Office of Admissions will use the information submitted by the applicant on this form to verify Arkansas residency and verify one's congressional district.

Applicants who designate a state other than Arkansas on their AMCAS application as of December 1 of the admissions cycle will be classified as non-Arkansas residents for the entire admissions cycle. No exceptions will be made.

Non-Arkansas residents who have met the requirements and criteria provided by Ark. Code Ann. 6-64-406(b)(2)(B) demonstrating "ties" to Arkansas are instructed to submit a letter advocating their ties to the state. Those determined to have established "ties" will be given preference over non-Arkansas residents who have no ties to Arkansas. Typically, "~~strong~~ ties" means the applicant has lived in Arkansas, attends school in the state, has close relatives living in Arkansas, or other information clearly demonstrating the applicant has roots in the state. The ultimate goal of determining if a non-Arkansas resident has ties in the state is to assess the likelihood, although there are no guarantees, the applicant may someday practice medicine in Arkansas.

Applicants who falsify information submitted in their application with regard to establishing Arkansas residency and/or congressional district, or applications with conflicting information, will be brought to the attention of the Admissions Committee.

V. <u>The Selection Factors</u>

Selection is based on the consensus of the Admissions Committee's evaluation of the following items:

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT):
The MCAT, a nationally standardized exam, has been a tool used by admissions committees since 1928 to help assess an applicant's preparation for medical school and predict an applicant's success in handling the rigors of the medical school curriculum.

Grade Point Averages (GPA)

1. Undergraduate cumulative and science GPA, and if applicable
2. Graduate School GPA, and if applicable
3. Post-baccalaureate courses GPA
4. Breakdown of GPA for BCPM: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math

Applicant's Personal Comments
The applicant's personal comments describing his/her motivation to become a physician is a critical component of the applicant's admissions application. This is an opportunity for the applicant to clearly convey his/her passion for medicine and compassion for people.

Biographical / Academic Profile
This is an overview of the applicant's credentials listing a breakdown of the applicant's GPA, MCAT scores, results of the premedical advisory committee's composite evaluation letter and College of Medicine faculty interviews.

Socio-Economic Status (SES) Index
AAMC Goal: To establish summary measures of an applicant's socio-economic status that will enable medical schools to clearly understand the nature and extent of SES diversity among our medical student applicants and meet the necessary challenge of expanding the definition of diversity to socio-economic status to meet the needs of holistic review.

Premedical Advisory Committee Composite Evaluation Letter
If it has been two years or less since an applicant last attended or graduated from a college, he/she must request a letter from the school's Premedical Advisory Committee. However, if it has been more than two years, or if the college does not have a Premedical Advisory Committee, the applicant must request three faculty members to submit letters of recommendation. In addition (optional), the applicant may include three "personal" letters of recommendation in his/her file, letters that attest to the student's performance outside the classroom, i.e., integrity, empathy, work ethic, leadership abilities, team player, distance traveled, etc. from individuals who know the applicant well.

VI. The Selection Process

When the material from the above factors has been completed for each candidate, the members of the Admissions Committee rate each applicant on a scale of 1 through 7, where 1 is poor, 4 is average, and 7 is superior. The Board members complete all ratings independently and each member's rating shall be weighted equally. The individual scores are recorded, and the mean scores are used to rank-order the applicants. The scores will determine which applicants are to be granted admission, in accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-64-406 concerning allocation of admissions among Arkansas Congressional

Districts. The Admission Committee has the final responsibility for accepting students into the College of Medicine. The list of admitted applicants is sent to the Dean of the College of Medicine (or his/her designee), and the Assistant Dean of Admissions, who notifies the admitted applicants.

VII. Notification of Applicants

The College of Medicine notifies applicants of their acceptance once the admissions committee makes the decision. This takes the form of a letter stating that the application has been approved and requesting that acceptance of the proffered position be submitted in writing to the Dean within two weeks.

After the Admissions Committee determines which applicants will be accepted, the Committee places the next highest-ranking applicants on the "Alternate List." Pursuant to Act 1058 of 2007, alternates who sign Rural Practice Student Loan/Scholarship Program contracts are able to advance to the top of the Alternate List. Each alternate must be interviewed and approved by the Arkansas Rural Medical Practice Board before they can be advanced on the Alternate List.

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